

The Catholic Parish of St Peter the Apostle, Gorleston

Annual General Meeting

Sunday 18th June 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Covering June 2019 to present.)

MINUTES

Opening prayer

Apologies: Dennis Joseph, June Thorn, Judy Burton and Tim Bushell

Twenty one parishioners including Janet Rust (JR), Moira Selvage (MR) Joan Donohoe (JD), Damian Eaton (DE), Julia Skoyles (JS), Irene Jamieson (IJ), Pat Welling (PW), Jeremy Gaskell (JG), Di Bushell (DB), Chris Whiting (CW), Pat Doherty and Mary-Ann Moodycliffe attended. Also present were Marie Grimes (MG) and her husband Matthew in addition to Fr. Anthony Nwanko and Fr. Alex Ibe

Report on the Parish

Fr Anthony, who chaired the Meeting, before focusing on the growth and well-being of the parish, paid tribute to Bishop Peter Collins who had been appointed on the retirement of Bishop Alan Hopes

The retired PPC members had continued in office since the Pandemic most recently under acting-chairmanship of Damian Eaton. Previously the PPC had been chaired by Julia Gibbs and minutes of meetings taken by Louise Williams-White

The meeting was reminded that Finance Committee members were nominated, not elected.

Gratitude was expressed for the fact that Marie Grimes (MG), wife of Matthew, who both attend St Mary's on a regular basis, had carried out the audit for St Peter's in an honorary capacity

Fr Anthony also expressed his gratitude in respect of Jo Kemp, the Parish Administrator at St Mary's and compiler of the weekly newsletter distributed in both parishes, for all the assistance she had given over the years prior to her retirement from the post.

Dennis Joseph had served as Treasurer at St Peter the Apostle for a time but regrettably had felt compelled to stand down owing to pressure of work.

The application for the 2020 Lottery Grant had been duly processed

An anonymous donation for CCTV had been gratefully received

A number of new parishioners had been welcomed to the parish since the previous AGM

Two Catechumens had been received into the Church at Easter

Fr Anthony thanked the Catechists of which there had been two drawn from the two parishes who co-operated in serving the two parishes

The Minutes from the previous AGM, May 2019

After due time for perusal, these were taken as read

Matters Arising from the 2019 Minutes:

JR pointed out that a number of administrative recommendations in para. 3, regarding minutes from previous AGM, had not been acted on in the lead up to this year's AGM but ought to be in future. Fr Anthony undertook to contact the person responsible for the website to ensure that the Minutes of the 2023 AGM would be available on the website early enough for parishioners to be apprised of their content in good time for the AGM in 2024

Parish Reports

A verbal report of the use of the Hall was received from Joseph Mathew:

Party bookings had resumed in January and prices raised from £15 to £18. Additional cleaners were needed: it was observed that many of those volunteering for cleaning duties were from the Indian community; a wider 'pool' might be desirable, it was felt. The rota was designed so that cleaners worked in pairs, but this arrangement inevitably failed to work if one person had to cancel due to pressures of work. Those who carried out this work deserved recognition and the occasional treat. JG reminded the meeting that in times past there had been a discretionary fund for small disbursements allowing appreciation to be shown in terms of the occasional gift of flowers or chocolates; for instance, a tin of Quality Street used to be given as a token of appreciation once a year by the parish priest to members of the choir. JD was of opinion that singling out individuals or groups for public recognition carried the risk that others who thought they should likewise be publicly acknowledged might feel under-appreciated; she added that it would be preferable if no individual or group received especial thanks. No vote was taken on this question by those present

With regard to alcoholic refreshment at the bar, the annual licence, costing £70, had lapsed. Fr. Anthony undertook to discuss future arrangements with Brian Lafferty and other Yarmouth based Knights of St Columba who had been responsible for the running of it in recent years. This arrangement meant that if none of the Yarmouth-based 'Knights' could be present, no alcoholic beverages could be purchased at the bar. JD pointed out that the situation seemed anomalous since it had not been the case in her late husband's lifetime. It was also pointed out by JG that as an alternative to renewing a bar licence, a separate licence for occasions on which it is appropriate to 'bring a bottle' had traditionally been made available by the authorities. This would mean that parishioners would not feel obliged to abstain were the bar to be closed for whatever reason, or to remain unlicensed. The meeting was reminded by Fr Alex of the severe financial penalties imposed for operating a bar without a licence

Other Parish Reports (see Appendices in folder for the filed originals) were received from JR in respect of:

- (i) First Holy Communion, (ii) Tea and Coffee, (iii) the Choir

Reports were received from MR in respect of:

- (i) Eucharistic Ministers (ii) Gardening

Bingo Club from JD

Children's Liturgy from JS

Faith Club from IJ

Greeting and Welcome Team from PW

Commission of New Readers from JG

Grants and Lottery from DE

St Vincent de Paul Society from DB

Fr. Anthony extended his thanks to the choir

With regard to Grant and Lottery funding, Fr Anthony paid tribute to the role of Bishop Alan in prioritising the needs of the cathedral, of St Mary's Yarmouth and of St Peter's Gorleston, all being places of worship of historic interest

The following are the names of nominees for Parish Pastoral Council who were duly elected:

Patricia Doherty

Damian Eaton

Mary-Ann Moodycliffe

JG reminded the meeting that PPC meetings were open sessions which parishioners were entitled to attend in a non-voting capacity. If the attendance of such persons became regular, it might be possible for the elected members to co-opt additional members without the need for separate nomination or electoral procedure

Financial Report and Statement for the period since 2019: this was delivered by MG and accepted by the meeting. In spite of the shortage of funds during the Pandemic, the current was balance to be healthier than in 2019

CW asked about the possibility of (a) tax relief on cash donations on Sundays; (b) whether a facility could be established for contactless payment by visitors to the church (supposing it to be left open during daylight hours). This use of contactless payment was now widespread in the Church of England. In response it was pointed out that tax relief would only be applicable in the case of those, irrespective of age, who actually paid income tax; the use of contactless payment was already under active consideration

Date of the next meeting: this was provisionally agreed for May 19th 2024

Before the final blessing by Fr. Anthony, Fr. Alex announced that his Superior General had intimated that the Order would like him to take up a new post at Bedford and that, in consequence, July was likely to be his final month in the parish.

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