

**Minutes of St Mary’s Vestry and Annual District Church Meetings
Held on Sunday 23rd May 2021 in St Mary’s Church & Via Zoom**

Fr Alistair opened the meetings with prayer.

Vestry Meeting

Election of District Churchwardens

There being no other nominations the following were duly elected (to be ratified at the APCM 6.6.21):

Jean Smith	proposed	Malcolm Stowell	2nd	Chris Tebbit
Derek White-Taylor	proposed	Malcolm Stowell	2nd	Chris Tebbit

Fr Alistair Stewart (Chair) thanked Jean and Derek for offering to stand for another year and for all their help over the past year whilst Fr Alistair, in the absence of a Rector, had to run St Mary’s. The meeting closed.

Annual District Church Meeting

2. **Apologies for Absence**

Present: Fr Alistair Stewart (Chair)
Ruth Ayling (minute secretary)
plus 11 parishioners in the Church and 2 joining on Zoom

Apologies: Jean Donovan, Leonie Adams

3. **Minutes of the meeting held on 20th September 2020** (copy in minute book)

The meeting accepted the minutes as a true record of last year’s ADCM.

4. **Presentation of a Copy of the District Electoral Roll**

The total is now 74 following Colin Dutton’s death RIP.

5. **Annual Report on the Proceedings of the DCC** (copy in minute book)

The Report was accepted by the meeting.

6. **Annual Report on Financial Affairs** (copy in minute book)

JS reported that St Mary’s is keeping its head above water, and there is not much we can do until normality returns due to Covid. The accounts were unanimously adopted by the meeting.

7. **Annual Report on Fabric** (copy in minute book)

Fr Alistair thanked the District Wardens for getting the heating working again! The Terrier and Log are available for inspection as required.

8. **Elections**

8.1 **DCC – 4 Vacancies**

Lynn Walker	proposed	Chris Tebbit	2nd	Ruth Ayling	elected
Henry Showers	proposed	Ruth Ayling	2nd	Chris Tebbit	elected
Leonie Adams	proposed	Jean Smith	2nd	Ruth Ayling	elected

There being no other nominations the above were duly elected and their appointments will be ratified at the Annual Parish Church Meeting on 6.6.21. There being one outstanding vacancy, Fr Alistair encouraged everyone to think of who would be able to fill it.

8.2 PCC – 2 Vacancies

Liz Bishop	proposed Ruth Ayling	2nd Chris Tebbit	elected
Chris Tebbit	proposed Lynn Walker	2nd Ruth Ayling	elected

There being no other nominations the above were duly elected and their appointments will be ratified at the Annual Parish Church Meeting on 6.6.21.

Fr Alistair said that the DCC are concerned with St Mary's life, and the PCC had to ensure conformity to Charity Law across the Parish. He thanked all those who continue to serve and work on the various committees.

9. Appointment of Sidesmen

It was proposed from the Chair that the Sidesmen list be appointed en bloc. Unanimously agreed. With Sunday services returning to all three churches from July extra help will be needed to assist with the workload of sidesmen etc.

10. Rector's Remarks

Fr Alistair said that although all churches had suffered because of Covid, St Mary's was hard hit because of the effect, not only on Sunday worship, but as it represented the Christian Faith in the town centre, on large services and events eg carol services, civic and Remembrance services and its busy letting programme.

The pandemic has helped us focus on what St Mary's is for and value it all the more. Two areas of focus for next year are the heating system and organ renovations.

Fr Alistair thanked Jean and Derek again, and for everyone else who serves the church and keeps it going to hand on to future generations.

11. General Questions on Church Matters

- i. Derek White-Taylor gave a vote of thanks on St Mary's congregation to Fr Alistair as acting Vicar during this interregnum, tremendous sense of humour and was appreciative of his sermons, and hoped that with all this hard work he had time to relax. Fr Alistair said it was a privilege to be ordained as a priest and serve those who work so hard for the church.

12. Date of next ADCM

Date set at 20.3.22.

The first DCC of this new year will be 6.7.21.

The meeting closed with the saying of The Grace at 11:35.