

SKC Church, Saxmundham

(Draft) Minutes of:

1 Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish of Saxmundham held on Sunday 23rd April 2023 at 11.30am at the church of St John the Baptist.

2. Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish of Kelsale cum Carlton held on Sunday 30th April 2023 at 11.30am at the church of St Mary and St Peter.

3. Annual Parochial Church Meeting of the Parishes of Saxmundham and Kelsale cum Carlton held on Sunday 30th April 2023 at 11.45am at the church of St Mary and St Peter.

1. APM Saxmundham

Rev David Preece (Dave) opened the meeting following the service indicating that those on the Saxmundham Electoral Roll would be voting for the appointment of Carol Cotton and Roger Hedley-Lewis as Churchwardens for the Parish; there having been only the two applications received.

Dave thanked them for their hard work over the last year and continued dedication to the Parish and the Benefice.

The meeting elected both Churchwardens by a unanimous show of hands. Approximately 50 Parishioners attended the meeting.

2. APM Kelsale cum Carlton

Rev David Preece (Dave) opened the meeting following the service indicating that those on the Kelsale Electoral Roll would be voting for the appointment of Cheryl Payne and Nigel Pite as Churchwardens for the Parish; there having been only the two applications received.

He thanked Cheryl for her hard work over the last year and also thanked and acknowledged the major contribution Elizabeth Masterton-Smith, retiring Churchwarden) had made over many years.

The meeting elected both Churchwardens by a unanimous show of hands. Approximately 15 Parishioners attended the meeting.

3 Annual Parochial Church Meeting for Saxmundham and Kelsale cum Carlton

The Annual Report for the Benefice together with Financial reports for the two Parishes had been made available on the church website before the meeting and were available at the meeting. Minutes of the previous meeting had also been circulated. References to Kelsale below are for the combined parish of Kelsale cum Carlton with its 2 church buildings.

Rev David Preece (Dave) opened the meeting explaining that this was a Joint meeting since we now had a Joint Parochial Church Council for the Benefice. He reported that in the last year we had also set up the Parish Giving Scheme and following consultation and review, children were able to receive Communion.

1. **Minutes of previous APCM.** The previous APCM minutes were agreed and there were no matters arising.
2. **Electoral Roll.** Jacqui Studd reported that the Roll for Saxmundham stood at 105, down from 109 the previous year. Also, that Kelsale was 41 down from 43 the previous year. (Secretary's note: a few individuals are on both Electoral Rolls).
3. **Benefice Annual report.** Previously circulated with copies available at the meeting. Dave thanked all who had contributed to the report and to Hannah Millington who had compiled the Annual Report for the whole Benefice (with sections relating to the individual parishes where appropriate). He reported that our Mission to love God, love one another and love our community would also direct our Mission Giving in the coming year. Dave also thanked all who had worked for our churches through the years – those who have been involved for many years and also recent arrivals into our church community.
4. **Parish Financial Report.** Rev Nic Stuchfield as acting treasurer presented the accounts for both Saxmundham and Kelsale. He highlighted that the JCC came into being on 1st Jan 2023 and that the 2022 reports were the last for the individual parishes. The Kelsale report was produced by David May and examined by Joanna Pearce. The Saxmundham report was produced by Nic and examined by CRASL accountants of Saxmundham. Discussion around the accounts included:
Handbells – we have a fund and Dave confirmed the existence of the bells in the Church Hall. Roger HL requested that we minute the disappointing response of the DAC to a number of Faculty requests in part due to lack of resources on their side. Julia K asked for assurance that day to day running costs hadn't increased and this was confirmed. Nic thanked David May and Adrian Kinsey for their hard work through the year on the finance side and also their support with the transition to a Joint Council. Also Julia K who has taken on the book keeper role for the Benefice. Dave in turn thanked Nic for his major contribution to rationalizing the finances and setting up the structure for the Joint Council to operate. Nic reported that our attempts to get an 'in house' volunteer to take on the treasurer role had not been successful and the Standing Committee had reached the conclusion that an approach to external resource with some level of payment was necessary. A possible candidate had already been identified. The issue of giving was also raised by Nic highlighting that we had 65 regular givers using Parish Share (with a few retaining other paths). However he has concluded that we are critically dependent on a small number of individuals.
5. **Deanery Synod.** (Report from Fran R included in Benefice Annual Report).

Stephen Hart, Tony Gibbs and Fran Raven for Saxmundham and David May for Kelsale continue as Deanery Synod representatives. A vacancy exists for the second Kelsale appointment.

- 6. JCC membership.** The appointment of Cheryl Payne and Nigel Pite for Kelsale and Carol Cotton and Roger Hedley-Lewis for Saxmundham had been carried out at APMs already held. Dave advised that Tony Gibbs and David May had agreed with the other Synod representatives for them to be the members on the JCC.

Dave thanked those stepping down from PCC/JCC membership and had received nominations for Rob Aldred, Mandy Tucker and Julia Kinsey for the JCC while existing members Fran Raven and Anja Shaw would continue for a further 2 years of their tenure under the terms of the establishment of the JCC.

Rob Potter had agreed to be JCC secretary and thus a co opted member.

Sheila Hart had been a member and was co opted by unanimous vote.

Membership of the JCC was completed with Revs David Preece and Nic Stuchfield as the licenced ministers and Tom Boswell and lay pioneer.

- 7. Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2022.** Following difficulties with the Examiner used for the 2022 accounts the matter was left for the Standing Committee to choose an Examiner for 2023.

8. Any other business.

Dave advised that a framework of local, national and international had been proposed, the difficulty being the selection of actual bodies to support with so many good causes needing support. He asked for nominations to be put to the JCC and proposed to the meeting that selection of mission funding be delegated to the JCC. This was seconded by Tony G with a large majority in favour and 1 abstention.

Dave prayed for the successful appointment of a treasurer for the JCC and observed that it had been a joy to work for the Benefice with initiatives such as The Community Fridge, Busy Bees and CAP contributing to our growth as a Church.

Nigel P thanked Dave for his leadership and listening ; also Hannah and Nic and Jill, Tom and Lou for their contribution.

The meeting closed with prayer at approximately 12.30pm.

Rob Potter Secretary May 2023.