

Minutes of St **Botolph's** Annual Vestry Meeting
held in Church on Monday 24th April 2017

61 parishioners were in attendance. The meeting was chaired by Rev Mark Lucas.

1. Apologies: Rob Cowan, Judy Cowan, Helen Tilney, Graham Tilney, Derek Wade, Carol Jackson, Veronica Loo, Paul Loo, Paul Gosling, Ali Gosling, Nick Johnson, Claire Johnson, Rev Robert Bashford, Tina McMillan, June Eastwood, Harry Eastwood, Mary Haynes, Liz Pegg, Lindsey Burch, Debbie Palmer and Nick Evans.

The meeting opened with the hymn "How Great Thou Art".

Rev Lucas spoke on 2 John. He said that this letter showed that early on in the life of the church, people were inclined to drift away from God and go their own way. As an apostle John felt responsible for writing to them to tell them to stand firm in their faith. In v 5 & 6 he tells us that God wants us to love one another and then explains that love is walking in obedience to God's commands. In order to do this and to know what God requires we must look at the Bible which is central to the teaching at St Botolph's.

Rev Lucas went on to express concerns about the direction in which the Church of England is heading. The Church of England is based on Scripture, tradition and reason which are incorporated into the 39 Articles which are still the foundation stone of the Church of England. There are many within the church today who do not want to keep to these and Rev Lucas warned, as does the apostle John in this letter, that we must be wary of novel interpretations and adaptations which may not be in line with Scripture. He encouraged us all to pray for the Church of England and all the Bishops especially this year – to pray for unity and that the church would always act in love where love is to follow the commandments of God.

Prayers were said in small groups.

2. Minutes of the Vestry Meeting held 18th April 2016. The minutes of the meeting were approved as a true record.
3. Matters Arising. There were no matters arising.
4. Election of Churchwardens.
Rev Lucas spoke about the value of having a team of Church Wardens and that he was grateful for all their hard work.

Nominations had been received for Peter Jackson, proposed by Jim Roughton, seconded by Ken Ansdell and Ken Ansdell, proposed by Jim Roughton, seconded by Peter Jackson. Peter and Ken were unanimously elected to serve for the coming year.

5. Election of Deputy Churchwardens.
This is an internal decision and it was decided to leave this until the first PCC meeting.
6. Electoral Roll.
Tina Noble reported that at the end of the past year the number of parishioners on the electoral roll was 262. By April 2017, 7 new people had been added to the roll, and 6 people had come off it, so the total number on the roll was now 263.

The Vestry meeting ended at 8.12 p.m