

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners
and the
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
on
Sunday 22nd April 2018**

The Vicar, the Reverend Steve Newbold, welcomed everyone to the meetings and thanked them for coming.

With 59 people in attendance, the proceedings were opened at 6:35pm with a period of sung worship and prayer.

ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

This meeting opened at 6:48pm, chaired by Steve Newbold.

Steve began by thanking both Rosemary Beardow and Geoff Thomas for their friendship, support, encouragement and hard work as Churchwardens over the last year. Steve paid particular thanks to Rosemary who has decided to step down as Churchwarden. Rosemary has set up, with the assistance of Enid Barron, the Quiet Mornings including the Thy Kingdom Come initiative. She also worked hard to lead a new Pastoral Care team, start a new Connect group for young mothers and was successful in finally replacing our chairs. Steve said that he continues to value Geoff Thomas' support of him and their co-leadership in the church.

Those attending the meeting showed their appreciation to both Rosemary and Geoff.

ELECTION OF TWO CHURCHWARDENS

There were two nominations: Geoff Thomas and Caroline Jamieson

<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Seconder</u>
Geoff Thomas	Morgen Edwards	Audrey Ajose
Caroline Jamieson	Sophie Johnson	Jane Devereux

There being no other nominations, Caroline and Geoff were declared elected for a one year term.

This first meeting closed at 7:10pm.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Steve Newbold was Chair of this meeting which opened at 7:10pm.

1) Apologies

Apologies were received from the following members of the congregation: Mary Ann Auckland, Jane, Peter, Lucy and Claire Devereux, Andrew Dixon, Hal and Holly Harrigan, Qin Li, Mary Stratton, Ann Toley, Martyn Verity, Hongbin Wang, Andrew Whadcoat, Youwen Yang and Jon Yarrall.

2) Minutes of Meeting held on Sunday 23rd April 2017

Proposal to approve the minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2017

Proposed by Sanjay Joshi; Seconded by Dinos Horattides

The meeting agreed unanimously to take the minutes as read. They were signed by the Vicar as an accurate record of that meeting.

3) Matters Arising

None.

4) Report of Electoral Roll Officer

(verbal update provided by Morgen Edwards, Electoral Roll Officer)

The 2017 Electoral Roll stood at 203 members and after the revision before the 2018 meeting the number has increased to 206. In 2017 we had 11 removals from the list, 1 of whom died, 3 moved away and 7 either stopped attending church or moved to another church. We have had 14 additions to the electoral roll.

5) Written Annual Church Report

The Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) for the year ending 31st December 2017 was taken as read. The Annual Report had been approved at the last PCC meeting. Church members were encouraged to read the report. No questions or issues were raised.

6) Report on Church Fabric, Good and Ornaments

The Annual Report on the Church fabric, goods and ornaments, which had been approved at the last PCC meeting, was taken as read. Geoff Thomas gave a verbal overview, highlighting that the drains were fixed last year in preparation for the works this summer on the toilets. Repairs were also carried out on the Cottage roof, central heating pump, lock on the sliding doors in the foyer and the chairs were replaced.

Phase 2 of the works, the Toilet Block, will start in July and should end in November. Temporary toilets will be placed at the front of the building.

Question: Ben Harding-Anderson – “Will there be toilets with disabled access?” GT confirmed that there would be.

Steve offered grateful thanks to Geoff and all those involved in building work.

7) Election to the PCC

This year there were 3 full term vacancies. Steve thanked the Church Council, particularly those retiring: James Barron, Barbara Luland, Urmila Kurkalang (who filled a casual vacancy), Chris Nicholson (retiring early) and Weihua Zhang.

The following people were proposed as new members of the PCC for a three year term:

<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Secunder</u>
Lucy Harding-Anderson	David Gillingham	Jon Yarrall

Lily Ledwith
Kristina Yarall

Rosemary Beardow
Martyn Verity

Nigel Harniman
Caroline Jamieson

There being no other nominations, Lucy Harding-Anderson, Lily Ledwith and Kristina (Tina) Yarrall were declared elected.

8) Elections to the Deanery Synod

Matt Goodman had to stand down from his post early so there was only one place available to fill. No new candidates applied for the position so this was not filled at this meeting.

9) Appointment of Sides persons (Assistant Wardens)

Geoff Thomas read out the names of the current Assistant Wardens who he has proposed for re-election:

Noreen Barnes-Hoggett, David Gillingham, Simon Beards, Carol Travers, Mary Sandison, Mary Ridgeon, Murray Langton and Dele Fasanya.

The meeting concurred. Steve offered thanks to the Assistant Wardens for all that they do.

10) Finance Report

a) Independently examined accounts of the Council and statement of funds and property for the year ended 31st December 2017

Sanjay Joshi (SJ), Treasurer, reported that the accounts were approved by the Independent Examiner, Valerie Steward and approved by the PCC at a special meeting on the morning of Sunday 25th March 2018.

- SJ started with an overview. We had a very small surplus on our unrestricted funds (£1,705), and a surplus (£13,134) on our Restricted funds.

Income

- Overall income for 2017 was £282,000, 60% of that was from Stewardship, Tax Refunds and Cash Collections on Sundays.
- Planned Giving was down almost 10% to £129,000, though partially offset by increased cash collections.
- Hall Lettings were similar to 2016.
- Quarterly payments to St Stephen's of £10,000 continue from the St Luke's Trust into The St Luke's Restricted Fund (SLRF), a very welcome addition to our income, which has enabled us to take on extra staff and support other initiatives.
- Special Mission Collections, such as Lent/Christmas were almost £5,500.

Expenditure

- Overall expenditure at £268,000, up 8.5% mainly due to a full year of Worship Minister costs, and 4 months of a Youth Worker and Intern (all funded from the SLRF).
- Expenditure – our largest expenditure was as usual the Diocesan Fund at £87,000. (As a relatively wealthy church the policy of the PCC is year on year to seek to increase our Common Fund payment).
- Missionary and Charitable Giving was almost £35,000 which makes up 13% of total expenditure. This includes the 10% of giving that we 'tithes' to our 6 mission partners, and other small mission donations.
- Reserve Funds – due to the generosity of the congregation we were again able to put money aside for future building work into the Maintenance Reserve Fund which stood at over £40,000

– this will be used towards the 2018 building project. The Special Project Fund (which recently covered the costs of the new chairs) stood at just under £9,000. The St Luke's fund started in mid-2016 and carried forward just over £30,000 into 2018, having been re-designated 'Restricted' in 2017.

- The General Fund, which is our day-to-day reserve, is now at just under £49,000.

There were no questions.

SJ offered thanks to the Standing Committee, the Finance Committee and to the two Churchwardens.

b) Appointment of the Independent Examiner

Because the income continues to grow and is projected to be over £290,000 in 2018 we have to ensure we comply with the evolving accounting practises including greater reporting oversight. Our Independent Examiner is a fully qualified and practising accountant, Valerie Steward who was recommended to the PCC by Martyn Verity.

Proposal that Valerie Steward is accepted to continue as our Independent Examiner

Proposed by Sanjay Joshi; Seconded by Urmila Kurkalang and agreed unanimously.

Sanjay offered thanks to Martyn Verity

Steve offered thanks to Geoffrey Nolan who is stepping down from the Finance Committee and thanked him for his wisdom, expertise and insight.

Steve thanked SJ for keeping our finances on track.

11) Vicar's Report

- Steve stated that 2017 had been a year when God's faithfulness had been very evident.
- Steve reminded the meeting that 2017 had been the 150th anniversary year and we had had a good year of celebrations.
- He explained that the history of planting continues as we invest in the new missional Community on Gurnell Grove.
- The More family had joined us when the Bishop asked Ajay to come here for a year's curacy.
- A year ago we were seeking a Youth Worker and appointed Chris Willis in October who has brought energy and a fresh vision to our work.
- In 2016 we had tried without success to recruit an Intern but last year were delighted to appoint Izzy Cole as part of the team here and on The Grove for a year.
- Sunday morning attendance has continued to increase - in 2009 we had on average 110 people attending on a Sunday morning. By 2013 when we took the decision to move to 2 Sunday (9 and 10.30) we had increased to an average of 136. Last year we had 170 – a 25% real terms in the last 4 years.
- Steve stated that 2017 had brought a number of financial challenges. The death of 7 church members and some others moving away significantly impacted our income and we foresaw a potential deficient of over £12k. However, our faithful God helped us through and we saw the year end with a balanced position. Further pledges for 2018 are at record levels. God is good.
- Teatimers our Friday afternoon drop in Café is well established and has a regular core attendance.
- The summer Holiday Club saw 43 attending (up from 36 in 2016).

- Alpha ran again in the autumn - one of the best courses we had ever held. 18 guests started and 14 stayed the course. Many encountered Jesus afresh or for the first time and others were filled with the Holy Spirit on our Away Day.
- Connect Groups have the highest numbers ever and continue to provide a place to connect with God and one another.
- Our sung worship has grown and flourished under Ash's leadership. There have been some wonderful times of worship when encounter with God has been most tangible.
- A group from St Stephen's have been attending the week long New Wine Christian Conference for 9 years now. New Wine continues to provide a very special time where we can relax with each other, spend time with our families and enjoy great worship, teaching and fun.
- In November 2017 our trip to the Holy Land was the wonderful experience we had hoped for. 30 of us walked in the footsteps of Jesus and bringing to life the words of Scripture. It was a memorable time and deepened the faith of many.

So what of the coming year? Steve stated that we want to continue to build in all sorts of ways:

- In July Sam Sanya will be ordained as a Deacon at St Paul's Cathedral on 30th June and start with us as our curate the following day. He comes to us with Rachael and their delightful daughter Hannah-Joy. They are coming to learn, grow and to help in our mission.
- Last autumn Phase 1 of the building works was completed with the external drainage. Phase 2 is the major work to remodel the toilets and create a small meeting room from the old choir vestry. The contract has been awarded to a local company Greendawn Build Ltd and work will commence in July.
- Apart from the new toilets and meeting room we will renew the roof over that part of the building, improve the natural light with sun tunnels and introduce various environmental features which will improve our eco credentials.
- Funding is in place through a combination of existing funds and loans from the Area and Diocese.
- We have also been gifted a very significant legacy from the estate of the late Sheila Bruce.
- Steve stated that buildings important as they are, are just the means to help our task.
- Our vision statement remains unchanged and everything we do seeks to further our ambition to: **Worship Jesus, grow together and reach others**
- Our task is Mission. Our task is to build not just a nice church but the Kingdom of God.
- 1 Peter 2 says that we are to be *like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*
- So as we look forward to this year we want to see more of God's Kingdom come in our community, in our relationships, in our prayer life and in our outreach.
- We want to equip one another and the emerging generation of young people so that we can together reach an unbelieving world.
- Steve added that every survey, statistic and new piece of research says the same thing. Increasing people are not going to church. A generation is growing up who know nothing of the Christian faith let alone knowing Jesus as their Saviour. Our job isn't to condemn people but to give them every opportunity to respond to the good news and come to a living faith in Jesus.
- In the last year the Church Council have reviewed and updated our Mission Action Plan (copies available).
- Steve then highlighted 3 particular initiatives:
- **Thy Kingdom Come** (10th May – 20th May). During this time there will be an inter church Prayer Walk along the Uxbridge Road. We will have a local Prayer Walk around the Parish and a Quiet

Morning here. There is also a London Beacon event at St Paul's Cathedral on Saturday 19th at 7.30pm.

- **Community Fete** will happen on 8th July. It's all about us making connections with the wider community and being able to witness to our faith wherever we have the opportunity.
- **Prayer** – we have introduced a pattern of regular quiet times on a Saturday morning so that people can come and simply be with God – next time on 19th May. Looking too at the possibility of facilitating Prayer Triplets to help us pray into some of the things in our lives.

Conclusion

- God has been faithful over this past year. God will be faithful in the year ahead. There will be challenges, there will be disappointments but let's hold on to his faithfulness in all things.
- Steve expressed his grateful thanks to all who have helped – especially Ajay who has been a faithful and supportive colleague.
- Also to the rest of the Leadership Team: Caroline, Enid, Rosemary, Geoff, Ash, Chris and Jane. And everyone else who serves in any way.

12) Any Other Business

- a) Statement – Dinos Horattides is excited for the new toilets to come.
- b) Statement – Izzy Cole is excited for the Community Fete on 8th July. She has been speaking to residents of The Grove who are also eager for the Fete to happen and Izzy looks forward to the communities coming together.
- c) Question – Liz Paice – Steve mentioned that service attendance was up over all but asked whether more indicative of the 9am or the 10:30am service.
Response – SN said that both services have seen a rise in attendance.
- d) Statement – Sanjay Joshi offered thanks to Steve and Caroline for all their hard work. Also stated that he is excited by Thy Kingdom Come and expressed how critical it is to pray for another person, no matter how long. Ranmi prayed for him for 35 years before he eventually came to Christ.
- e) Statement – Carol Travers expressed how excited she was about the youth in the church and that Sam Sanya, our new curate as of July 2018, has past experience with Youth Work and has a young family himself. CT said she enjoys the fresh energy the youth bring to the church.
- f) Questions - Audrey Ajose "Steve mentioned Prayer Triplets. Would there be people of different ages in each Prayer Triplet?"
Response – RB will probably facilitate the Prayer Triplets but could not guarantee the ages of the people in each group as people usually feel more comfortable choosing who they pray with themselves. Rosemary Beardow added to please speak to her if you would like to join a Triplet.
- g) Statement – Ash Abbott added his excitement for this year's Alpha Course.
- h) Statement – Urmila Kurkalang commented how great it is to see younger members of the church joining the PCC.
- i) Statement – Chris Willis expressed his excitement in the enthusiasm of the youth in the church and their growth.
- j) Statement – Simon Beards offered his thanks to Morgen Edwards for all the hard work she does in the office.

k) Question – Weihua Zhang – “I really enjoyed the Women’s Ministry particularly the breakfasts, will these be happening again?”

Response – SN responded to say that we need a team to organise this so if anyone would like to help organise this please speak to Caroline Newbold. SN also added that Ash Abbott would be organising some more Men’s Ministry activities.

l) Question – Xiaoe Li and Weihua Zhang “Will Growing Leaders be running again as I felt great benefit from it.”

Response – SN said that the course had been run three times and they felt that there were no more people who currently wanted to attend the course however if there are more people who would like to do the course then that could be looked into.

Meeting closed with sung worship and a prayer at 8:30pm

Signed as record..... Date.....