

Minutes of the Annual Parish Church Meeting for St Mark's, Kensal Rise, London on Sunday May 21st 2023

The meeting started at 11.50am with 36 people present in the church. The meeting was chaired by Caroline Winterburn, who opened the meeting with a prayer.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

1) Election of the Church Wardens for St Mark's for 2023/24

Vivienne McKoy-Salt and Sue Bush were thanked for their work over the past year. Sue and Vivienne were both willing to stand again for a further year, to provide continuity as David Roberts takes up his post as our new vicar, but expressed a desire to stand down next year. There were no other nominations. Andrew Sturge proposed their re-election, Flora Dugbartey seconded and all were in favour.

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ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1) Acceptance of 2021 Annual Report (carried over from the 2022 APCM)

The 2021 accounts had now been fully audited and were tonally consistent with the numbers presented at the 2022 APCM. Sue Bush proposed their acceptance and Katie Barringer seconded.

2) Minutes of the APCM on 8th May 2022 for acceptance and matters arising

The minutes of the APCM held on 8th May 2022 had been published and placed on the church notice board for the previous two weeks and advertised in the notices each Sunday. Katie Barringer proposed acceptance and James Hill seconded.

Last year initial proposals had been aired around removing the church pews and carpeting the central area. These plans were currently on hold awaiting the arrival of David and available finance.

3) Report on the Electoral Roll

The electoral roll had been reset to zero in 2019 with members of the church being asked to re-join. It now stands at 178, with 2 people having come off the roll and 5 people joining. The next reset is in 2025.

4) The Election to the Church Council

To provide continuity during the interregnum through to Dave's arrival it was proposed that the current PCC would remain in place with no re-elections this year. Given her prior experience, Caroline Winterburn had been co-opted onto the PCC at the beginning of the interregnum in August 2022. Alistair Campbell had decided to stand down taking the PCC back to its full complement of 12 lay members. Alistair was thanked for all his help, particularly on the buildings working group and IT.

5) Church Warden's review of 2022/23

Instead of the usual vicar's report, Sue Bush gave a presentation which provided an overview of activities and events since the last APCM:

- This time last year we had a full complement staff but Anthea's Curacy came to an end in June and we said goodbye to her. She has remained in touch and helped us with various IT problems. Will and his family left in August and then Jenny, our children's pastor left us to train for ordination. A coach load of us went to Brighton to support Will at his licensing in his new Parish in Brighton.
- Life goes on and we celebrated Harvest Festival and gave the food collected to Brent Food Bank who were very grateful for our support.
- Thanks to the Team who ran a very successful Light Party for Halloween.
- We were very pleased to welcome Vanessa as our new Youth Pastor. She hit the ground running and seems to have been running ever since! She has organised many activities and regular meetings and recently formed a new group for younger youth.
- At Christmas we had our Carol services and were blessed by Father Ian's preaching. Sadly he died earlier this year but it was a privilege to have known him.
- For the second year running, Gillian Thompson and Katie Barringer coordinated Love Christmas - an amazing outpouring of generosity as 150 Christmas hampers were distributed to local families who were in financial need.
- Wednesday Fellowship have continued to meet throughout the year. Many thanks to Kellie for all her work in finding speakers and ensuring that all runs smoothly each Wednesday.
- Alistair organised the Night shelter from Jan 16th to the end of March. Thanks to him and all those who cooked, hosted and slept over during this time.
- We had a successful Church clean up – thanks to all who came and worked hard. Please can we continue to keep the church free of clutter!

- In January many of us went to support Anthea at her licensing as Vicar of St Catherine's
- At Candlemas we found a new role for our Youth Pastor and celebrated Christingle. We sent a good contribution to the Children's Society.
- Kenmont School approached us and asked for input into their RE teaching and Becky Lunt and Sue hosted their year 2 for an afternoon. The Head is keen to have regular input in future.
- We continue to support a hostel for women who have suffered domestic abuse through Project Stork and with contributions from Parents and Toddlers and members of the congregation and their neighbours we were able to send Christmas presents and gifts for Mothering Sunday as well as children's clothes.
- Despite the heating problems we were part of the Kensal Warm Space initiative organised by Laura Collignon. Thanks to her for organising this.
- Thanks to YWAM we were able to clear the garden ready for the summer.
- The bluebell walk took place this year and the bluebells obligingly bloomed thickly for us.
- We hosted a very enjoyable Coronation Celebration and particular thanks to Caroline for organising this and to all who helped her.
- Throughout the year we have been supported by a number of clergy. We heard from; Gareth of OM, Catherine Pickford the Arch Deacon, Bishop Lusa who took our Christmas day service, Phil and Di Stone, Bishop Graham Kings, Rachel Bedford, Tim's friend Francis Omondi, Alex Volossevich who took our Ash Wednesday, Holy week, Easter and Ascension day services and will be back for one last time in June plus Mutharaj Swamy, David Brammer, Carolyn Headley, Greg Prior and Andrew Cooper. We also had visits from Mark McKenzie of New Growth Ministries and Roger and Isha of Operation Restoration.

Sue thanked everyone who has volunteered for these events and to all those who have carried on keeping Kid's Church running.

6) Report from the Brent Deanery Synod (Anglicans in Brent) for 2022 and acceptance by the meeting

Our Deanery Synod representatives are John Palmer and Alistair Campbell. John had prepared a note on their activity over the last year which was read out by Caroline. There had been 3 meetings. Topics included;

- Racial Justice
- Capital Vision 2030 and 6 key themes to be prioritised
 - Caring for God's Creation

- o Mental Health & Isolation
- o Refugees, Modern Slavery & Asylum Seekers
- o Debt & Financial Wellbeing
- o Housing & Homelessness
- o Serious Youth Violence
- Children and Youth Work in the Post Pandemic Church

Places on the Deanery Synod run for 3 years and, based upon our electoral roll, three new appointments need to be made for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2026. John and Alistair were both standing down. Representatives need to be PCC members and, given that there are no PCC elections this year, the APCM agreed that our new representatives could be agreed at the next PCC meeting.

7) Report on the Fabric, Goods & Ornaments for St. Mark's Church for 2021/22 and acceptance by the meeting

Sue presented the report on behalf of the Church Wardens. The working group members are Alistair Campbell, John Palmer and Sue Bush with advice from Glenn Ford as needed. Alistair, however, is standing down so any volunteers from within the congregation with building experience would be greatly appreciated. In summary;

- Necessary improvements to the IntoUniversity office including electrical works had been undertaken and the church hall doors had been renewed.
- Plans to reorder the Church were put on hold until we consider options for improving the heating. We had had significant problems with the boilers over the winter and the Church was often very cold. We are investigating options for improving this situation.
- The Quinquennial inspection of the Church had been undertaken by Ross Perkin on 16th March 2023. The Church is well cared for in his opinion. His main concern was the crack over the war memorial which could be the result of movement in the ground beneath or of subsidence. A surveyor would need to assess this. The roof leak over the hall door and the one in the organ loft should be easy to resolve. Heating options were discussed and he advised considering solar panels. The PCC will pursue this when the final report comes through.
- It has been a challenging year during which our Curate, Vicar and Children's Worker all left and the PCC, who had been meeting monthly, were thanked for all their extra work over the year.
- Sue gave especial thanks to Caroline who was co-opted onto the PCC. She has stepped up to take on the work of the Children's worker alongside many other tasks.
- We look forward to an exciting year ahead with David Roberts, our new Vicar, whose licensing will be on July 19th.

June Edwards proposed acceptance of the report and Douglas Morton seconded. All present were in favour.

8) Report for the Financial Affairs of St Mark's Church and acceptance by the meeting plus approval of auditors

Alan Meakin presented the report. The numbers were as yet unaudited and would need to come back to next year's meeting, but were a fair representation.

- Total income was £164,101. This was higher than last year as we had collected two years of Gift Aid (£36,136) and hall bookings had increased to £17,008 as we emerged from Covid. Regular giving had held up despite lower attendance.
- Expenditure also increased to £170,395, resulting in a net loss of £6,294. The largest element was the Common Fund at £80,000 (we are one of the higher contributors within Brent). Salary costs are increasing but this is a necessary investment for the delivery of our mission. Energy costs had increased significantly but were offset by a Diocesan grant. External giving to Mission Partners and through Love Christmas totalled £13,700.
- Longer term trends showed that our cash reserves are slowly diminishing and highlighted the importance of legacies in previous years.
- Looking forwards we had reduced our Common Fund offer for 2023 to £70,000 and we aim to collect Gift Aid for 2020 and 2021. There is also some extra income from the letting of 82 Herbert Gardens. Salary costs are expected to increase, especially as we aim to appoint a new Kids' Pastor. Energy costs will also have a large impact in 2023. While we are still likely to run at a loss we aim to maintain our giving to our Mission Partners.

Caroline asked if there were any questions;

Douglas asked whether there were opportunities to generate more income from the church hall. It was noted that it is already being used fairly intensively e.g. Dementia Café, Kids & Toddlers, Wednesday Fellowship and different youth groups.

Flora Dugbartey asked if the church could issue personalised thank you letters for financial giving during the year. Alan responded that it is something that he would like to initiate and it is a question of working through the mechanics.

Subject to approval of the accounts, Paul Kidner proposed acceptance of the financial report and Sue Bush seconded. The meeting also agreed that the PCC could review the auditors. Cansdales are the current incumbents but a quote had been sought from Stewardship, who also manage our payroll.

9) Final Questions. Caroline invited any final questions;

- Flora asked when we might have a curate again. Caroline said that the earliest that could happen would be June 2024. Sue added that there were only four curacies in Brent last year and the opportunities were limited by finances. We have however been a training parish in the past.
- Karen Doyle asked about the resumption of the live streaming of services. Sue responded that we have had technical issues recently. The intention is to stream

David Roberts' licensing service and he had indicated that he could source the necessary technical assistance.

- Esther O'Donovan thanked all those that had been involved in the selection process and securing our new vicar.
- Vanessa Richards thanked everyone for embracing her as our new Youth Pastor and the warm welcome that she had received.

Caroline summed up that it has been a challenging but great year. There is a lovely feel about our church family and a real sense of God's presence at work. We look forward to welcoming David and Rachel but this isn't a time to rest on our laurels!

10) Closing Prayer. Caroline closed in prayer and the meeting came to an end at 12.40pm.