

# Annual Parish Church Meeting for St Mark's, Kensal Rise, London Sunday May 5th 2024 starting at 1145

\*occurring in celebration service

## Minutes:

The church service began at 1033. The service followed the order of service ([attached](#))

### ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

#### 1)\* **Any matters of Parochial interest - DR**

Dave brought up these matters during the celebration service. The congregation fed back on ~3 highlights seeing God at work in 2023, and ~1 challenge for the church to overcome.

First, it was shared (Flora) that God was here and really working when he gave us a brand new vicar - hallelujah! Second, (Yolitzza's daughter) shared that Easter Sunday 2024 was also a real celebration. Michael spoke that Christmas felt like a real celebration too - a village- including the craft fair where so many people came from the local area. As an extra Esther spoke of people helping each other in love and that each action is an act of work and worship towards God himself.

For one challenge, Miti spoke of us reaching our fundraising targets and our giving goals. Katie shared a hope to have some more members in the 18-30 category.

#### 2) **Election of the Church Wardens for St Mark's for 2024/25 - DR**

Dave thanked Sue and Viv, the Wardens for all their hard work, and their authority was recognised particularly during the interregnum when they practised deep sacrificial work and leadership and obedience to God. Dave presented Sue with a gift as a token of his and our appreciation.

Viv was thanked for her faithfulness and agreement to serve another year. Paul was nominated as our new church Warden. Dave thanked both Viv and Paul. Flora proposed and Andy Bush seconded, all were in favour, and the motion passed. Dave prayed for the wardens.

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### ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

The APCM started at 1208. 47 people were noted as present at the start

#### 1) **Acceptance of 2022 Annual Report (carried over from 2023) - MP**

The 2022 AR was already discussed and submitted to the charities commission but needs acceptance. Sue proposed acceptance, Rosie seconded, all were in favour.

## **2) Minutes of the APCM on May 21st 2023 for acceptance and matters arising - MP**

No amendments were suggested. Viv proposed acceptance of the minutes, Gillian seconded - all were in favour and the motion passed.

## **3) Report on the Electoral Roll - KJ**

Kellie presented the electoral roll. 178 were on the electoral roll previously. This year 27 added 6 were taken off - 199 members - therefore our Church is growing. Kellie was thanked by Dave and the congregation for her hard work over the year.

## **4) The Election to the Church Council - DR**

Dave led the election of the PCC. 10 people are being elected, with 2 people mid-term (Caroline and Maria). Dave thanked last year's PCC, and going forward re-election of the PCC is proposed for differing term lengths so that the whole PCC is not needed to be re-elected all in one year. The current PCC were asked to stand. Shantel and Gillian are stepping down and were thanked and given a gift for all their hard work. The remaining PCC stood, and new members were added: Siobhan Scott, Flora Dugbartey, Michael Mclean and Latham Noble.

Celia proposed acceptance of the new 2024 PCC, Alex seconded - all were in favour.

## **5)\* *Acceptance of the Ministry Report from 2023 Annual Report presented during celebration service)***

- ***a. Youth and Children - CW & VR***
- ***b. Community and partnerships - VR***
- ***c. Vicar's report - DR***
- ***d. Fabric Report - SB***
- ***e. Amendments - DR***

The 2023 Annual Report was discussed during the celebration service -[see attached 2023 Annual report for detailed content](#).

### **a) Youth and Children**

Caroline and Vanessa lead from the 2023 ministry review - Approx 100 children come through the church each Sunday. But the childrens' activities also includes parents and toddlers groups - 99% are not from the church - providing a safe space to document the ministry of God. Caroline particularly thanked the kids' church team including the parents and toddlers' team. Pete, Carmen, Helen, Fiona were thanked particularly for all their work with this as well as all volunteers in church kids teams, and the congregation were encouraged to think if they'd like to help by volunteering. Vanessa a shared a summary of the youth's activities. The name changed from Rise to Grounded - a time to go deeper. The group has grown on Sun am from 3-15 members, This has particularly included Fri eve activities and is flourishing. To help this, Vanessa encouraged parents to encourage their children to come - to be on fire for God and to learn the depth, width, breadth of the love of God. Ruby, Mary, Pam,

Mitty and all others named and unnamed were thanked for their huge help. The future goal is to go stronger, deeper, and wider into the local community. For this Vanessa requested more volunteers that are needed - one day per month even. The youth were also recognised.

#### **b) Community and partnerships**

Caroline & Vanessa also discussed festive events and community events that were led by STMKR. this included Coronation, Crib Service, Primary schools visit, Princess Fred's orchestra, the light party. Fernanda shared about Love Christmas - donations to families in need (family of Kenmont and Furness), including a nativity service leaflet. Tyrell also shared that STMKR also supported the running the night shelter on Friday nights and was a great success. Laura, Cece, and Libby about the Christmas fayre Dec 2023! This included 8 craft stations and 3 musical performances, and 350 visitors and raised £2000. Specific members were thanked for their contributions and "creating something wonderful"

#### **c) Vicars Report**

Rachel read 1John 5, 1:8. Dave shared a brief sermon. He spoke of the church's activities and "performance" - which is a section of the APCM. How do we judge his - how would God judge St Marks? Dave spoke of how we might need to be reminded that it is really what God cares about that should matter - faith, love and obedience. Dave encouraged the congregation to think - have these facets grown in our lives and in the life of the church over the last year. He reflected on the many ways we have loved each other this year and so have loved God - we have been a symphony of love and not just a clashing gong. Dave has really seen this - love towards him from us but also to each other. Faith → love → obedience: we are called to enjoy our obedience to God because it has come through love and faith - joy not just Jesus. Dave thanked everyone mentioned in this report for their obedience and giving, centred around the person of Jesus Christ. He prayed that in the year to come we would keep going deeper in our relationship with God.

#### **d) Fabric Report**

Sue shared from the fabric report. Dave has been successful in applying for several grants to help improve the church and garden. This has particularly improved the heating of the church. QQ inspection was carried out by Ross Perkin on 16th March. A crack in the wall was noted as concern, however now appears to be historical. Roof and floor repairs are still needed. the Hall continues to be a great space for many activities. PCC were thanked for help and support. D & R were applauded for their support and energy and strong leadership

During the APCM, questions were invited for the above Ministry Report from the 2023 Annual Report. No questions were asked. Dave highlighted the outstanding provision for the children at STMKR and his thanks for the volunteers, with a special thank you to Caroline who has led this. We would like to resource this in future, and in the year ahead have funds for this. Some of Vanessa's time is being directed towards the childrens' ministry, but will be praying for more resources for this over the next 2-3 years.

Acceptance: John proposed acceptance of the ministry report as shared so far, Caroline seconded, all in favour and carried.

### **6) Report from the Brent Deanery Synod for 2023/24 and acceptance by the meeting - PK**

Paul reported on the deanery synod, on behalf on himself, Alan and Dave. The diocesan vision until 2030 was shared and was of particular note. 3 visions were shared. Growing younger, becoming safer, being more racially just. The PCC are incorporating aspects of the . WG racial justice, survey. Some aspects in place already, need to be grown.

Sue proposed acceptance of this report, Katie seconded, all in favour and motion passed.

## **7) Report for the Financial Affairs of St Mark's Church and acceptance by the meeting subject to independent examiner's approval - AM**

Alan shared the church's financial report - referring to slides and the **official document**. Total income in 2023 was about £25K more than previous year, due to legacies not regular giving. Regular income has decreased slightly. The Christmas fair made £2.5K approx. Approx a quarter of income came from hall lettings.

In expenditure, our common fund was decreased to £70K. £180K went towards salaries, largely due to increases for cost of living. An extra £10K was spent on heating as we didn't have a grant to help - should go down next year with our new heating system that is more efficient. Some money was spent on the vicarage, but should come back in 2024. It was a low maintenance year.

The net effect of having a £8042 profit, however in monthly income and expenditure we are at a net loss - ie without legacies - around £4k per month in deficit. We have given £16K to mission partners, love Christmas etc which is an increase on previous years. Our reserves are at £119981 which is a slight increase - from £111938 - again this is due to legacies largely and has compensated for our monthly decrease in income. Dave expressed his thanks to people who give legacies. this is very generous but his vision for the future is that we don't have to rely on these legacies for our general running - and in future legacies could be used for a special purpose or ministry. Dave thanked Alan for being a fantastic treasurer.

Questions were invited. Q1 was asked by Miti - as a local church - do we receive money from the CofE, or actually we don't, but give 36% of our income? Alan answered that this is true, and indeed the common fund is requested to be higher. Celia highlighted that we are more wealthy than other churches so this fund helps support those churches that are less well off. Q2: is gift aid for 2023 included, or outstanding? Alan explained that gift aid is in arrears - he has just done 2020. 2021-23 - adds up to around £55-60K. Alan reminded people to switch to the PGS which gives us the gift aid per month from givers. It should be noted that even considering gift aid donations we are still losing £3500 per month. Q3: is there a specific number for our reserve we should aim for? A: £5/12th average expenditure = ~£68K is our minimum. Q4: does Alan have a team around him to help and how could Alan be supported? A: Sinitta does book-keeping to help Alan. In future it could be split into gift versus regular outgoing/notation - volunteers are always welcome.

Paul proposed acceptance of the financial report subject to the Independent examiner's approval, Alistair seconded, all were in favour - motion passed

**8) Appointment of an Independent Examiner - AM**

We changed last year to Stewardship (Stewardship Services (UKET) Limited) - they have been responsible, have helped simplify, are Christian and are cheaper than our previous examiners. propose. Alan invited the APCM to vote that we appoint them.

Sue proposed acceptance, Flora seconded, all were in favour - the motion has passed

**9) Closing Prayer - DR**

Dave closed the APCM in prayer at 1250