

# Annual Parish Church Meeting for St Mark's, Kensal Rise, London Sunday May 18th 2025 starting at 10XX

\*occurring in celebration service

## Minutes:

The church service began at 1032. 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 2024, and ~1 challenge for the church to overcome.

The congregation shared their highlights from 2024. Giulia said the Christmas fair and especially that there was chocolate. Sharon shared that more people from the congregation are now sharing their gifts in the church. It was also shared that the activities and kids group were a highlight. Becky praised the home groups as a chance to grow deeper- particularly and Andy and Sue's hospitality! Clement shared his and Yoelitzas wedding at St Marks. Will praised the marriage course - they felt God's presence with them.

The congregation next reflected on challenges our community faces for next year. Arthur mention keeping to grow the church and its members. Karen shared that prayer ministry is not always very quiet and it would be good to find a different place. Michelle brought up the challenge of resourcing a childrens' worker.

#### 2) Election of the Church Wardens for St Mark's for 2025/26 - DR

Dave announced that Paul will stand again as a Warden, and he called for the congregation members to pray and consider whether they would also stand - we need another Warden to stand or two deputy Wardens. A proposer and seconder were on the form. The congregation agreed via applause to approve that Paul will be accepted again.

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### ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

The APCM started at 1223 . 37 people were noted as present at the start.

To vote in the APCM, congregants were advised they should be on the electoral roll and should sign their name on the clipboard going around. Non roll members could stay but not vote.

### **1) Minutes of the APCM on May 5th 2024 for acceptance and matters arising - MP**

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

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

Kellie presented. The electoral roll is updated every year, and this year a new roll was formed. 199 was previous, now it is 166.

### **3) Safeguarding report - KJ**

Kellie spoke on safeguarding. This has been tightened across the diocese recently, which is good news. We include safeguarding in our newsletter, have a safeguarding Sunday once a year. We also include prayers for safeguarding. This is particularly important given our large childrens' ministry. We discuss safeguarding in a monthly meeting, and Ruth Miller has come onboard with this. Anyone on a team with vulnerable people are advised to at least do the basic safeguarding training. Kellie was thanked for her hard work.

### **4) Election to the Deanery Synod - DR**

The deanery synod was explained to the APCM. We are allowed 3 members for our church. There is a nomination for Ruth Miller to join the Deanery Synod. This was approved by the congregation.

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

The PCC was thanked for all their hard work and welcome by Dave. John and Maria are stepping down from their posts - they were thanked for their hard work and service. We elected new members to the PCC. These were Andrew, Angie, Doug and Katie. All were in favour of their acceptance.

### **6)\* *Acceptance of the Ministry Report from 2024 Annual Report presented during celebration service)***

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

The 2024 Annual Report was discussed during the celebration service -**see attached 2024 Annual report for detailed content**. A summary of key points is shared below.

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

Vanessa and Caroline gave the report about the children and youth. Caroline spoke about how blessed we are to have so many young people. 10-15 children for Explorers are there each week, 23-27 Adventurers, and children in the creche as well as at the back. Caroline formally thanked the Kids' group volunteers - around 30

people - teaching as well as caring. We pray they enjoy this time but also know Jesus.

Vanessa shared an update on the youth at St Marks. She shared the vision for young people to become mature and consistent followers of Jesus. The youth are growing in their relationships. We've seen from 2 to up to 16 young people coming to youth activities. On Friday, they come 4.30-6.30pm (younger) - again 16-23 instead of 3! This involves hanging out but also small talks on aspects of Christian life. Older youth come 7-9.30pm - the group involves discussions, food together - she encouraged parents to send them along. Volunteers were asked to stand and were thanked for their help and service - it takes a village. Congregation were asked to help out if they can on a Friday. The Aims for 2025 are to keep growing Youth - it has already grown so much. This requires funding - £300 a month is spent, we want to grow the capacity - including more youth coming from the community - via word of mouth. They also want to work with other churches and organisations. Lastly, Vanessa gave a bit thanks to everyone for their support of the youth. Dave recognised the hard, long-term, sometime hidden work that has been going on to lead to this point.

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

Dave shared on this topic. He noted first again the theme of children and young people within the topic of partnerships. Princess Fred's is an obvious link, but we also are becoming linked to Kenmont - eg via assemblies, and year groups have come in to STMKR to learn more - there is more room here. Furness school, where Will is assistant head, and Ruth has been supporting their choir. We need more help and support to grow this aspect of our partnerships, and funding for a childrens' worker. In terms of local projects, Dave highlighted 3 - 1) parents and toddlers - 60 kids each week - we need to resource this - please help if you can. 2) the christmas fair - so many people came when we open our doors and 3) we are an official Warm Space. Local projects - we also became partnered with CAP recently - there is a local debt centre. STMKR also hosts dementia cafe, a refugee youth group, and Into University. We are part of a network. The church has 6 mission partners, and we give 10% of the church income to these partners - thanks to the congregations generous giving. The 6 mission partners were highlighted (Fusion, New Growth Ministries, OM, Scargill House, Operation Ressoration Bolivia, There is Hope Malawi). We think there is a calling for our church to help with food poverty - we'd like to help regularly and sustainably throughout the year.

#### **c) Fabric Report**

Paul and Vivienne shared the Fabric Report. This involves looking after the buildings, land, and the Curate's house. The main activities were installing the heating in 2024, and we received a grant for the garden and have done a lot of work there - the team were thanks. We sadly had a few burglaries last year, but it has required inspection of our security. We had an eco audit and trying to reduce our carbon footprint - the . The vicar and the team who helped with the buildings were thanked. Our 2025 plan - refurbish church hall - in the sumem. Some roof repairs are also needed, and the church floor needs repairing. Paul thanked Vivienne for her 7 years hard work - an essential part of the church and also the last year, she stayed on longer as Warden. Paul and Viv thanked Dave and Rachel for their hard work nad leadership they've brought in the 2 years they've been here. Viv thanked the congregation for their support over the years. Dave thanked Viv again for the care and service - much longer than recommended!

#### **d) Vicar's report.**

Vivienne read Acts 2:38-47. Dave's main point was that our church is trying to do what the Church has always done since the time of Acts. The Church followed a rather simple formula - this could only have flourished and had the impact if did thanks to divine presence and blessing. He highlighted the foundation stone of the church - laid 1914. Back then, there was no neighbourhood there. It was decided to be used for housing and All Souls Harlesden decided that a church should be at its centre - St Marks. How can we be a neighbour that our neighbours need? Currently, the world is feeling rather pressured and vulnerable, with great expectations on us. In this context, how can we be a good neighbour in our community. What is our posture? We are called to be in our world but not of our world. We were reminded that Perfect Love that He gives us casts out fears - this is our antidote. We are called to pray and remember just how big this love is (Eph 3:18), and rest in it. We should take an invitational posture - not demanding. We can be genuine - not perfect - with all our pain and anxieties - this is being our real selves, and thus inviting others into this - an authentic life. What happens? All can join.

#### **e) Safeguarding**

Kellie shared this in the safeguarding report in the APCM - see above

Acceptance: Amendments - it was noticed that a few typos and misspellings were found. Apostrophes were also noted and corrected. Questions were invited by the APCM congregation Ruth proposed acceptance of the ministry report as shared so far, Vivienne seconded, all were in favour and this was accepted.

#### **7) Report from the Brent Deanery Synod for 2024/25 and acceptance by the meeting - PK**

Paul gave the Deanery Synod report (page 24-25). We have 3 members (Alan, Paul, Angie) - and Alan, Ruth, and Paul will be standing this year. 3 meetings were held - on the Mothers Union, Climate Action, and Safeguarding. Paul proposed acceptance of the report, Caroline seconded, all were in favour of acceptance.

#### **8) Report for the Financial Affairs of St Mark's Church and acceptance by the meeting - AM**

Alan presented the financial report. Alan mentioned how the message of people bringing their gifts fits with his report. The headlines of the money - we've had a surplus of £8811 this year. This was the first year we had the accounts ready for sign off before the APCM. The surplus was driven by £41716 Gift Aid arrears claimed for 21/22. We had no legacies this year. The cost of the heaters was a big outlay, but Gift Aid helped smooth the deficit. We raised £13749 for the heaters so it was nearly paid.

Now over 50% of regular giving is through PGS. This means that Gift Aid can be claimed at once. Over £1000pm is claimed. £9000 has also come in through the card reader. However, we are still running a deficit of £650pm (this has come down from last year). Regular income is up 8% from last year. Our expenditure has gone up this year (from 189300 to 217703) - this includes an increase in the common fund, increase in salaries, our tithing. Our monthly shortfall is closer to breaking even - around £15000-16000 each month. About £10000pm is regular giving. The electric

heaters has reduced our gas bills by about 30%. Our reserves have increased by £8812 - to £128805. Alan reminded people how to give by PGS - by numbers most people are not giving by PGS still (20 vs about 60 who still give by dd, plus more who give by envelope, card reader etc). The hall and the roof will be our major expenditure for the next year. There is a hope to invest in our kids' work but that will be a large ask from the congregation as salaries are very expensive. Dave thanked Alan and Sinitta for their hard work.

The annual report figures are indicative - the PCC have approved them. We now invited proposal of acceptance of the accounts. Paul proposed acceptance of the 2024 financial report, Michelle seconded, all were in favour - motion passed.

#### **9) Appointment of an Independent Examiner - AM**

We must accept independent auditors - Stewardship - as our independent examiners again. Alan was pleased with their efficiency. Alan proposed acceptance, Sinitta seconded, all were in favour - the motion has passed

#### **10) Closing Prayer - DR**

Dave thanked everyone present for living God's love. Dave closed the APCM in prayer at 1309 with today's Collect.