

Minutes of St Mark's Annual Vestry Meeting and APCM held on Sunday 15th May 2022 at 10.30am during the Morning Service

1>Welcome and Prayer: Rev Ben King

2.Apologies: Received from: Maureen Payne, Jean Broom, Sharon Yates, Joe Yates, Bethany Yates, Flo Cobain, Dawn Walton, Brian Valerie, Val Adkins and Kay Lang
Present: 40 adults and 16 young people.

3.To acknowledge the adopted minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting and APCM on 17th May 2021. These were duly acknowledged.

4.To elect two Churchwardens: Mike Richardson and Sharon Yates, being the only two nominations, were duly appointed with no election required, as Churchwardens for the forthcoming year. Rev Ben King thanked Mike and Sharon for all their work over the past year. Mike Richardson, on behalf of himself and Sharon, thanked the church for its support and kindness during this year.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1.Elections: Six Parochial Church Council Members

There were six vacancies for Parochial Church Council members. Ben King thanked all those who had served on PCC during the past year and those who had stepped down this time, David Dale, Judith Nyabango and Jackie Randall.

Bola Ogunfowokan was appointed as a new PCC member for a three-year term and two current members, Jane Ridout and Michael Semuguruka were re-elected for further three-year terms. There were only these three nominations so no elections were needed.

2.To receive the Electoral Roll- Mike Richardson

Mike Richardson had circulated an Electoral Roll article in the APCM reports. In May 2021 there were 107 people on the electoral roll. After the 2022 annual revision the number of people on the electoral roll is 102, with 50 people living in the parish and 52 people living outside it.

A proposal to receive the Electoral Roll was made by Barbara White and seconded by Charlotte Mouzer. This was passed by the meeting.

3.To receive the Annual Fabric Report:

Mike Richardson reported on behalf of the Churchwardens. He had published a full report in the APCM booklet. Mike said that everything which needs to be done has been done but of course this is always on-going. Mike thanked Sharon, Beth and Charlotte for all their work clearing things out and helping to keep the building in good order. Mike acknowledged others who also helped to keep the building going. Mike highlighted the work of Kathy Lancaster who has cleaned the church for many years and has always been very willing and accommodating, particularly during Covid when extra cleaning was needed. Kathy is now stepping down from her cleaning role and was presented with a gift. Bethany Yates and Charlotte Mouzer have stepped in to do this temporarily
To receive the fabric report: proposed by Ann Arnold and seconded by Ann Slater.
The meeting received this unanimously.

4. Churchwardens' Report:

Mike Richardson went through the events of the year on behalf of himself and Sharon Yates as put into the Churchwardens' report for the APCM booklet. He thanked everyone for continuing to follow Covid regulations inside the building and gave thanks that the numbers attending services had steadily risen. Mike said that during and since the pandemic, the focus has now changed from thinking about the building, to thinking about people and how to care for them in new ways. He said that many people have attended the outside events which are still church in a different form. Because we have been using the outside a lot more, we now have some new outdoor furniture.

Mike commented that people in the community had remembered us when we were doing the "pick-ups" from previous times and had remembered the church and that this was encouraging. Mike thanked everyone for being part of our church family.

Ben King thanked both Mike and Sharon for all that they do in the church and for the way they are able to serve God so well together.

5. Treasurer's Report:

Peter Arnold said that he didn't intend to go through the written report again which had been available for people to see but he did summarise our financial position through three charts.

Where the money came from in 2021: £55,225 in giving. The tax return from Gift Aid was £11,413. Grants and legacies from Helen Rigby and Elizabeth Palmer gave us £75,022 including a London over the Border grant of £5000.

Operating activities amounted to £3,123. Funds generated from the September Jumble Trail were £336

Interest brought in: £6,702.

Where the money went: We gave away £9,997. The Diocese and Deanery cost us £36,358. Ministry and work, which is of course on-going, cost us £9,118. Our building costs were £13,016 and this includes all maintenance and bills. Admin costs were £5,563 (internet, stationery, photocopying etc plus paying a professional accountant to do the specialist accrual accounting required because of our high income for that year).

Income v Expenditure: At the moment because of our legacies, our income of £150,000 looks healthy but Peter reminded the meeting that we should not rely on that for our everyday expenses.

Peter invited **questions** from the church family. A question was asked about major jobs still to be done. Peter said that we should expect to spend more on maintenance over the next few years particularly as the Quinquennial comes round again next year. There will be things to do before it and almost certainly afterwards.

A vote of thanks to Peter was given by Lynne Richardson, both for the work on the APCM presentation and throughout the whole year. Peter was applauded for his accounting work.

a) To adopt the examined accounts: Proposed by Alan Slater and seconded by Helen Palmer. The accounts were adopted unanimously.

b) To appoint an independent examiner for 2021/22: Peter Arnold proposed Jagdeep Ghataore who has examined our accounts before. This was seconded by Ellen Kemp. The independent examiner was adopted unanimously.

6. To receive questions on any other reports: A question was asked about the Churchwardens' report. The person expressed the view that the pick-ups don't replace our former youth service or toddler groups and although it was acknowledged that we are not yet able to offer the service we once did, there is a need to serve the community in a more meaningful way and was this going to happen?

Mike Richardson replied that whilst people did receive our gifts gratefully, it has been acknowledged that there is more we can do in the community, looking ahead.

A question was then asked about the music group and organist and what was going to happen musically at St Mark's. The point was made that the musical life of the church added to its spirituality and can sometimes be very uplifting.

Ben said that we obviously do not have an organist now but that there are different avenues to explore about worship and music in the church. Hopefully it is an issue which will be answered more fully at a later date.

Mike Richardson gave thanks to Jane Ridout as PCC secretary. He gave grateful thanks to Ben King for leading us through the pandemic and also thanked Joo-Young and Verity for sharing Ben with the church family.

7. Vicar's Report:

a) **A year in pictures:** A video of the last twelve months at St Marks was shown to the meeting including:

Children in the creche area

Messy church with adults and children

Prayers

Pink Bin project at Harvest

BBQ event

Firepit Fridays in the Autumn

Fireworks on 5th Nov

Bags of Joy given out to the community

Advent windows

Knitted sheep for Christmas Eve Knitvity service

Christmas celebrations including the Nativity float

Christmas Wreath making

Daffodil drop

Banner of casting our nets into the deep

The new cross outside church decorated with flowers for Easter

Easter gardens made by the younger family members

The large Easter garden

Ben thanked Bethany for putting together the photos and the video which was uplifting to see.

b) Looking forward- St Mark's future:

Ben King read out Bethany's plan for a new project, expressing disappointment that she could not be there to read it herself due to Covid. Ben said it was something that Bethany had worked long and hard on, as indeed had the PCC before they agreed to the idea going ahead. Bethany had herself called it a crazy idea.....that of having a pop up cafe, but the more she had considered it, the more she felt that God was calling her to set this up.

Bethany feels very strongly that this is a way of building up and nurturing the church and the local community.

Photos of the new coffee bike were put up onscreen for people to see...basically a coffee machine on wheels which can be moved around the parish or in the church. This should arrive in July. From September Bethany plans to have targeted sessions, inviting people into the cafe with, for example, a Play Cafe for mums and young children and a Coffee and Chat group for more senior members of the church.

The coffee bike can also go out into the local community because it's mobile and can be moved around, for instance to Godwin school on occasions.

Why has Bethany considered this? She feels that it will be a wonderful opportunity to spread God's love and to reach out to a wider section of people. It also helps provide for targeted sessions and is a very versatile model. It will hopefully be a good way of building up relationships and helping to address problems in a relaxed way. Bethany plans to build up teams within the church.

Bethany's report thanked the PCC for releasing up to £25,000 of funds which will hopefully not be needed in its entirety because a grant of £12,500 has been applied for. That body meets in June. The money will be taken from legacies as a way of furthering our mission and outreach.

Ben said he hoped that it will bring many blessings and that Bethany had received a message from the cafe bike company to say how excited they are by the plans for this project. He asked people to pray.

A question was asked about the use of our fairly new kitchen as a way of providing for groups in the church.

Ben replied that this will be a new way of doing things and we will be seen and noticed in the community.

Another question was asked about storage and maintenance. Ben said that the coffee bike will be stored in the Vicarage garage and that maintenance is included in the initial cost. This was also true of insurance. The question of local businesses and their reaction was also brought up and Ben said that this had been discussed in PCC.

c) **Commissioning and Prayers:** People from the congregation prayed for the forthcoming year.

8. Items of local interest: Cakes were being sold next door to the church for people to buy and support as they left!

The APCM ended at 12.10. The new PCC was asked to meet at the back at 12.15 for a short meeting to elect officers and sign a Safeguarding declaration.

9) The inaugural meeting of the PCC will take place in church on 13.6.22

PCC Meeting at 12.15pm on 15.5.22 to appoint officers:

Ex-Officio members: Churchwardens: Mike Richardson and Sharon Yates

These PCC members were appointed as officers:

Chair: Rev Ben King

Treasurer: Peter Arnold

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Ellen Kemp

Vice Chair: Ann Arnold

Data Officer and Electoral Roll Officer: Mike Richardson

Secretary: Jane Ridout

Co-opted PCC Members: Bethany Yates.

