

PARISH OF ST. BARNABAS WITH CHRIST'S CHAPEL, DULWICH

Minutes of the Easter Vestry and Annual Parochial Church Meeting held at St Barnabas church on Sunday 30 April 2023 at 11.30 am.

Easter Vestry (people resident in the parish)

The vicar opened the meeting in prayer.

Appointment of Churchwardens for 2023-2024

Caroline Havers and Clive Manning, having been duly nominated and seconded, were appointed as churchwardens.

The vicar warmly thanked David Drake who had served as churchwarden for two years.

The vicar also thanked David Beamish for his many roles in the church, including as deputy church warden from which he was standing down.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (people whose names are on the church electoral roll)

Apologies

Apologies had been received from Hugh and Diane Taylor.

Minutes of the APCM held on 1 May 2022

The minutes were approved without amendment (subject to any further comment to be submitted within 2 weeks).

Church Electoral Roll

The electoral roll after the 2022 revision contained 117 residents and 184 non-residents, making a total of 301. The electoral roll was revised between Sunday 2 April and Sunday 9 April 2023 and now contained 115 residents and 189 non-residents, making a total of 304. The electoral roll was displayed on the notice board in the welcome area alongside application forms. New members of the church were encouraged to join the electoral roll.

The vicar thanked David Beamish for monitoring and managing the electoral roll. David noted that having been electoral roll officer for 22 years he was willing to hand the baton to anyone who wished to volunteer.

To receive the 2022 Annual Review

Hard copies of the Review had been made available as well as an electronic copy on the website. The vicar expressed his thanks to everyone who gave their time, commitment and skill to all the activities reflected in the Review. He reflected on new arrivals and departures. It had been a great pleasure to welcome Madeleine Kelly in the office, who had made a huge impact. Gemma Rose, our new buildings manager was also making a positive impact on the leasing of buildings which had increased income. We had also welcomed Community Volunteer Heather Hufford, with us until July, ordinand Lucy Cleave, refugee support worker Sara Manwell (whose costs were fully supported by City Bridge Trust), and Owen Elsley as Assistant Director of Music. We had said farewell to Rachael Gledhill who continued her

curacy at St John's Upper Norwood. A farewell gift of a home communion set and some money had been given to her at her licensing service.

The vicar also thanked Christopher Woodward, Director of Music for providing wonderful music particularly at Christmas and Easter; members of the PCC, in particular John Brent, Treasurer. He also thanks those providing service behind the scenes such as Tricia Cowley (flowers), and to those managing community groups, organising speakers, washing church linen etc.

In response to a question he confirmed that the office would be open, and phones answered from 9.30 - 15.00 Monday-Friday.

In response to a question about the reference to changes to patterns of services, the Vicar explained this related to decisions taken in 2021 post COVID. As a result, we now had a regular family service; childrens' groups on 2nd and 4th Sundays only, with Messy Church on the 3rd Sunday.

In response to a question about how to attract volunteers there was a suggestion to revitalise the volunteers' day inviting people to put themselves forward.

The Churchwardens' Report

The report is contained with the Annual Review. There were no questions. Caroline Havers echoed the call for further volunteers and expressed her personal thanks to David Drake and David Beamish. The vicar introduced Sophia and William Ollard who had recently taken on the role of church wardens at Christ's Chapel. The vicar expressed his thanks to Francis Jevons who was standing down as church warden at the Chapel, as well as a member of the PCC. Alison Firth also expressed her thanks to Francis.

Deanery Synod Report

The report is contained within the Annual Review. David Beamish noted that this was a somewhat negative report as the DS was not in a good state currently.

A point was made that there is a requirement for DS to meet at least twice a year, and was at risk of being impeached if it did not get itself organised. It was requested that this point be passed on to the Diocese.

Safeguarding Report

An oral report was given and it was noted that a written report would be added to the Annual Review as an addendum. The vicar expressed thanks to Alison Davidson and Lydia Cook for their role. He reminded those present that it was a requirement for PCC members and volunteers to undergo safeguarding training. He invited any volunteer who had not undergone the training to speak to Alison or Lydia. It was also a requirement for PCC members to have a DBS check.

To adopt the 2022 Annual Accounts

The financial statements had been circulated and made available on the website. John Brent reported that we had achieved a surplus of £151,169, which was better than expected. Sources of income include rent from the Parish Hall and properties owned by St Barnabas. Income from donations had also increased this year, including specific donations raised for

the Ukraine appeal. Expenditure also increased due to inflation and increase in staff numbers. Looking ahead, John reported that the fixed price energy contract had come to an end and renewed contracts would mean energy costs increasing significantly this year.

The vicar expressed his appreciation to John for his work as Treasurer.

In response to a question about the cost of electricity related specifically to lighting, John reported that this was a live and ongoing discussion as lighting in the church itself was hugely expensive. Various areas of cost savings were being explored including more efficient bulbs. Everyone was encouraged to switch off lights when not in use. Liz Barnett reported on investigations into introducing sensors.

The 2022 Annual Accounts were adopted.

Election of members of the laity to the Parochial Church Council

The following people having been duly nominated and seconded for election were appointed as lay members of the PCC:

Jeremy Moore, Sue Bishop, Mark Annear, Alison Firth, Will Ollard, Katherine Opie-Smith, Mairin Mulvey, Patty Harper

Election of up to 4 members of the laity to the Deanery Synod

James Ross and Donald Hankey having been duly nominated and seconded for election were appointed as lay members of the Deanery Synod.

Appointment of Auditor/Independent Examiner

K.A. Jeffries had been proposed as auditor/independent examiner for 2023. The proposal was approved.

Comments and questions

The vicar invited comments and questions from the floor:

(i) Chris Woodward noted that he was very willing to offer a teaching session for alternative eucharist settings. He was mindful of congregational singing. He noted that there should be different settings to reflect different liturgical periods - Advent and Lent, Easter, and the remaining 23 weeks of the year (Hubbard). It was suggested that the music for the other settings should be handed out to the congregation, although for those who couldn't read music a teaching session would be appreciated.

(ii) There was a suggestion that since KA Jeffries had been our auditor/independent examiner for a long time, we should put the contract out to tender next year.

(iii) The vicar noted that there would be time after the St Barnabas Day service for a social gathering. The main activity to celebrate the day would be a concert for which a small charge was required to cover costs. This had also been done in previous years.

(iv) Philip Pratt expressed his thanks to his team of volunteers on the sound desk for their time and support in managing the online streaming of services which allowed us to reach a larger congregation.

Vicar's closing remarks

The vicar reported that 2023 looked set to be another busy year. St Barnabas had been invited by the Diocese last year to be part of a national bid to work with other parishes as a Hub church, to support smaller congregations with their ministry (but not taking over the other church). St Barnabas had been successful in its bid, alongside St Peters with St Clements, and as a result would have funding for key staff (£788k over 5 years), including: a part-time assistant priest; an increase in music staff; a full time children and family minister; and in a couple of years' time a part-time youth worker. A third parish had been identified as a potential partner in 2-3 years' time. This was an exciting opportunity which would take shape over the next 5 years for St Barnabas to be a help and support to other parishes. The aim was to appoint key people into those posts by the end of 2023 to allow ministry to begin in 2024. Other churches were looking to St Barnabas to learn from our experience.

The vicar expressed his thanks to the congregation for their role in the parish.

The meeting was closed in prayer.