

# **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 28 April 2024 at 11.30 am.**

### **Easter Vestry (people resident in the parish)**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **Appointment of Churchwardens for 2024-2025**

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

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

### **Minutes of the APCM held on 30 April 2023**

Proposed by Katherine Opie-Smith and seconded by Philippa Tudor the minutes were approved without amendment.

### **Church Electoral Roll**

The electoral roll after the 2023 revision contained 115 residents and 189 non-residents, making a total of 304. The electoral roll had been revised between Sunday 24 March and Sunday 31 March 2024 and now contained 114 residents and 190 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. It was noted that stewards and PCC members needed to be on the electoral roll.

### **To receive the 2023 Annual Review**

Hard copies of the Review had been made available as well as an electronic copy on the website. The chair paid tribute to Rev Liz Barnett for her strong leadership during the interregnum.

### **The Churchwardens' Report**

The report is contained within the Annual Review. Caroline Havers stressed the need for volunteers, in particular stewards and sound desk managers.

### **Deanery Synod Report**

The report is contained within the Annual Review. David Beamish reported the arrival of a new lay chair and area dean. He invited those present to consider putting themselves forward for membership as St Barnabas only had 2 positions out of its allotted 6 filled.

### **Safeguarding Report**

It was noted that although a written report had been provided it had been omitted from the Annual Review in error. This would be rectified. It was noted that the PCC had complied with its safeguarding duties.

### **To adopt the 2023 Annual Accounts**

The financial statements had been circulated and made available on the website. John Brent (Treasurer) summarised the report, noting a deficit of approx £46k due to exceptional spend on maintenance and renovation (eg replacement of fire alarms in the church hall) and increased energy bills. Income from rental of the church hall was strong, but from donations was flat. The budget was under some pressure and we were looking for cost efficiencies to return to a balanced budget.

A question was raised about energy efficient light bulbs. John responded that it was not economic to replace them as it would require replacing the complete system at a cost in excess of £60k. In relation to energy efficiency, it was noted that Hannah Jameson led the eco-group which was currently carrying out an eco-audit, looking at areas for reducing our carbon footprint.

In response to a question about the cost of curates, it was noted that their salary was paid centrally but accommodation paid by the parish. The appointment of a new curate could not take place before the arrival of the new incumbent.

In response to a question about the deficit, it was noted that the deficit for 2024 was not expected to be as large as last year. The annual budget and 5 year plan aimed for a balanced budget in 3 years. In the meantime there was scope to draw down on accumulated interest in the Legacy Funds.

It was noted that a large proportion of our expenditure went to the Diocese as part of our Parish Support Fund contribution, to support ministry within the wider Diocese in parishes that had fewer resources than St Barnabas. This was an important part of our wider mission and the PCC had agreed to maintain the contribution at the current level.

Proposed by Nicholas Joicey and seconded by Jeremy Moore, the 2023 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:

Katherine Opie-Smith, Patty Harper, Nicholas Joicey.

### **Appointment of Independent Examiner**

K.A. Jeffries had been proposed as independent examiner for 2024. Proposed by Caroline Havers and seconded by Jeremy Moore this was approved.

### **Comments and questions**

The chair invited comments and questions from the floor:

In response to a question about plans for renovating the plaster damage in the choir vestry and other areas, Rev Liz Barnett responded that the Buildings Manager was aware of the

issues and was dealing with it. She noted that a programme of work was underway following the Quinquennial Review recommendations.

A request was made to the PCC to review the timing of the APCM. By shortening the morning service the APCM could start earlier and enable more people to stay and attend, finishing no later than the usual morning service.

There was a lively discussion about how to encourage more people to volunteer for various parish activities and roles. It was suggested that a working group might look into this further, and the Chair proposed that the PCC should take this forward at its next meeting (7 May).

### **Associate Priest's closing remarks**

Rev Liz Barnett commented on how busy 2023 had been and noted that volunteership was part of discipleship. Although we had hoped to have an incumbent in place by now, God was asking us to be patient. She thanked everyone for their love, prayers and support, especially during the interregnum. Liz wanted to thank in particular David Beamish (Vice Chair of the PCC), Sue Bishop (PCC Secretary), all PCC members, Lucy Cleeve (ordinand), the churchwardens at both St Barnabas and Christ's Chapel, Chris Woodward (Director of Music) and Owen Elsley (Deputy DoM), the choirs, Peter Venn for managing the Eucharistic Ministers, Anthony Turner and those who served, Angela Batty and everyone who helped with children's group, and Bertha Kurth our intern.

There was much to be grateful for and celebrate and Liz felt that God had great things in store for St Barnabas and Christ's Chapel.

Clive Manning gave thanks for Liz's extraordinary service during the last 6 months and gave a prayer of thanks and of support and blessing for Liz.

The chair expressed warm thanks to those stepping down from the PCC (Charis Ballard-Ridley and Sophia Ollard).

The meeting was closed in prayer.