

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 11 May 2025 at 11.30 am.

Easter Vestry (people resident in the parish)

The Chair opened the meeting in prayer and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies received from Caroline Havers, Jamie Creasy, Roger and Daphne Symon.

Appointment of Churchwardens for 2025-2026

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 28 April 2024

Proposed by David Beamish and seconded by Donald Hankey the minutes were approved without amendment.

Church Electoral Roll

The electoral roll after the 2024 revision contained 304 names. The renewal of the electoral roll took place between Sunday 9 March and Sunday 20 April 2025 and now contained 202 names. The electoral roll was displayed on the notice board in the welcome area, and also in Christ's Chapel, alongside application forms. New members of the church were encouraged to join the electoral roll. It was noted that stewards, sidesmen and PCC members needed to be on the electoral roll.

To receive the 2024 Annual Review

Hard copies of the Review had been made available as well as on the website. The Chair noted it was a good opportunity to celebrate all that had happened in the previous year, and included key reports, including those noted below.

The Churchwardens' Report

Clive Manning spoke to the report contained in the Annual Review. He noted the exciting things that were happening and said it was a joy and privilege to be a

churchwarden at St Barnabas. He looked forward to the implementation of the Mission Action Plan in 2025. He thanked all the volunteers and requested more people to volunteer.

Deanery Synod Report

David Beamish spoke to the report contained in the Annual Review. He noted that St Barnabas was part of the Dulwich Deanery of 7 parishes. He also noted that we have four vacancies for seats at the Deanery Synod.

Safeguarding Report

The Chair invited Alison Davidson, the Parish Safeguarding Officer, to speak and also asked for a volunteer to help her in her safeguarding work. Alison spoke to the report contained in the Annual Review. She explained the role of the PSO and the importance of safeguarding to all the activities in St Barnabas. It was noted that the PCC had complied with its safeguarding duties.

To adopt the 2024 Annual Accounts

The financial statements had been circulated and made available on the website. John Brent (Treasurer) summarised the report, noting an accounting surplus of £10k, thanks to a generous bequest. Expenses were below budget but so was income, including donations, which meant we had a deficit of £36k. This was not unmanageable, and it was being worked on. A renegotiated printer contract had led to savings, for example. The PCC was looking at ways to maximise our investments and increase regular giving. The Chair added that she was developing some literature to encourage giving.

In response to questions, John explained that the money we paid to the Diocese (the Parish Support Fund) supported other less well-off parishes who might otherwise not be able to afford a priest. The increase the Diocese requested was below inflation, and the PCC decided how much to give each year. In addition to regular giving, the PCC was also open to ideas around fundraising, and the Chair invited people to talk to her about this.

Proposed by Philippa Tudor and seconded by Susan Pattie, the accounts were approved.

Election of members of the laity to the Parochial Church Council

The Chair invited the candidates to give a brief introduction to themselves. The following people having been duly nominated and seconded for election were appointed as lay members of the PCC:

David Taylor, John Brent, Amanda French, Hilary Maxwell-Hyslop, Jamie Creasy, Katherine Thomas, Nigel Thorpe, Andrew Gould and Hannah Durno (nominated by James Ross and seconded by John Brent).

Appointment of Independent Examiner

The Chair noted that KA Jeffries had been our Independent Examiner for a number of years and it was right that we should test the market. She proposed that the PCC should consider the appointment of the Independent Examiner at one of its meetings in the autumn. This was agreed.

Comments and questions

The Chair invited comments and questions from the floor.

In response to a request that PCC look at the provision for children who are too old for Sunday School, the Chair noted that with the financial support of the Strategic Development Fund (SDF) grant, she was putting together a job description for a youth worker for both St Barnabas and St Clement with St Peter. It was a priority to which she was committed.

The Chair explained the background to the link with St Clement with St Peter, the result of a bid St Barnabas made for an SDF grant. St Barnabas was to be a 'resource church' for St Clement with St Peter, to help that church build and grow. The funding had paid for Revd Gemma Lau, who had been licensed in January and is also an Associate Priest at St Barnabas. Revd Gemma was looking at things St Barnabas was doing well to build on at St Clement with St Peter, for example our Friday PlayTime! Another area of cooperation was the Ascension Day service this year which would be a joint one held at St Clement with St Peter.

Priest in Charge's closing remarks

Revd Liz Barnett recalled the uncertainty of her position at last year's APCM and was delighted to be here today as Priest in Charge. She was grateful for the support and love she had received. She gave thanks to churchwardens Clive Manning and Caroline Havers, PCC Secretary Sue Bishop and PCC Vice Chair David Beamish. She also gave thanks to those standing down from the PCC - Hannah Jameson, Angeline Ong, Nick Joicey and Jeremy Moore. Thanks to the wardens at Christ's Chapel and the choirs at both churches and to everyone who served behind the scenes - flowers, coffee, servers and many more. She recalled highlights of the year, including the wonderful performance of 'Creation', for which thanks were due to Trish Cowley. She also thanked the St Barnabas staff and clergy colleagues.

Revd Liz talked about the Mission Action Plan (MAP) development - she had been heartened by the congregational questionnaire which had demonstrated that we all believe we could do more. She was pleased with the progress on MAP so far and


would be bringing a first draft statement of vision, priorities, and commitments to the PCC this week for discussion.

Revd Liz also flagged that next year would be very important as we would celebrate 30 years since the new building of St Barnabas in 1996. It was a good time to be thinking about building for the future, and to remember all those who have prayed here before us.

Having moved into the vicarage in March, Revd Liz was looking forward to being installed as vicar in June.

In conclusion, Revd Liz emphasised that if we wanted to grow in faith and number, it would need everyone's help. She encouraged those present to be champions and talk to other members of the congregation, to encourage them to participate and contribute. There was room for everyone to bring their skills and join in.

The meeting was closed in prayer.

Signed: 

Date: 06/05/2026