

# **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 26 April 2026 at 10.45 am.**

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

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## **Appointment of Churchwardens for 2026-2027**

Caroline Havers and Joe Gibbons, 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 11 May 2025**

Proposed by Philip Wedmore and seconded by Jervis Rhodes, the minutes were approved without amendment.

### **Church Electoral Roll**

The electoral roll after the 2025 renewal contained 203 names. The renewal of the electoral roll took place between Sunday 8 March and Sunday 5 April 2026 and now contained 217 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.

### **To receive the 2025 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. She encouraged everyone to read the Review.

### **The Churchwardens' Report**

Clive Manning noted the highlight of his report was the increase in the number of people stepping up and getting involved.

## **Deanery Synod Report**

James Ross explained that membership of DS gave the opportunity to elect candidates to General Synod. There were still a couple of vacancies to represent St Barnabas with Christ's Chapel on the Deanery Synod, and he encouraged people to consider it.

## **Safeguarding Report**

The Chair introduced Alison Davidson, our Parish Safeguarding Officer, and drew attention to the Safeguarding Report in the Annual Review. No questions were raised.

## **To adopt the 2025 Annual Accounts**

The financial statements had been made available in hard copy and on the website. John Brent (Treasurer) summarised the report. We had recorded a deficit of £60k in 2025, excluding depreciation charges. The underlying deficit was £52k. As a consequence, our overall capital funds had depleted.

On expenditure, repairs and maintenance accounted for £45k, which included refurbishment of the organ and other essential works. John expected repair and maintenance costs to continue to be in line with this trend.

Income from lettings was slightly higher than in 2024, and from donations slightly lower. We had pledged to increase our contribution to the Parish Support Fund (PSF) by 5.7% in 2026. The PSF supported the cost of clergy in our parish and also in other parishes in the Diocese with fewer resources.

John noted that the deficit was not sustainable, and the PCC was taking steps to maximise lettings revenue, manage capital assets to achieve a high yield and manage our costs. However, the underlying message was that we needed to increase our donation income. John noted that our reliance on other sources of income had increased over recent years, and this trend was not sustainable.

John announced that a Finance and Stewardship Working Group had been set up, and he invited anyone interested in joining it to contact him.

David Taylor introduced himself as the person responsible for managing the Legacy Assets. He echoed John's comments on the importance of increasing regular giving.

In Q&A, the need for transparency by the Diocese in how it planned to manage its own deficit was emphasised, particularly in relation to how they spend the PSF. A discussion session on this topic at a future date would be welcome. The Chair noted that our Archdeacon, Jonathan Sedgwick, would be at St Barnabas on 29 April for a Parish Conversation, and he was aware that this was a question that was likely to be raised.

It was suggested that St Barnabas look into payroll giving as a means to facilitate increased giving. It was also suggested that a cost-benefit analysis be done of investments and maintenance costs to ensure we were making the most of possible investments (such as the Hive energy controller).

Proposed by Nigel Thorpe and seconded by Geoff Pick, the accounts were approved.

### **Election of members of the laity to the Parochial Church Council**

The Chair noted that bios of the candidates had been shared on Connect and in hard copy at the meeting. The following people, having been duly nominated and seconded for election, were appointed as lay members of the PCC:

Hilary Maxwell-Hyslop, David Taylor, Clive Manning and Alison Firth

### **Election of members of the laity to Deanery Synod**

The Chair noted that bios of the candidates had also been shared before the meeting. The following people, having been duly nominated and seconded for election, were appointed as lay members of the Deanery Synod:

James Ross, Joe Gibbons, Jane Eliet

### **Appointment of Independent Examiner**

The Chair noted that the PCC had appointed Elizabeth Wedmore as Independent Examiner for 2025 and thanked Elizabeth for her work on this. The Chair again sought APCM approval that the decision should be delegated to the PCC in due course. Approval was received.

### **Comments and questions**

The Chair invited comments and questions from the floor.

Duncan Hibberd asked for volunteers to run the sound desk. The Chair endorsed this call for more volunteers

Megan Pacey, Chair of Governors of Dulwich Village Infant School (DVIS), said that they were building a community of DVIS alumni and invited anyone who had been involved with the school to sign up.

On behalf of the congregation, Caroline Havers expressed thanks to Revd Liz and Revd Susan for their leadership of St Barnabas over the last year.

### **Vicar's closing remarks**

Revd Liz Barnett was delighted to be addressing the meeting as Vicar. The parish had seen real growth in numbers, energy and enthusiasm. There was a renewed sense of vision. At the start of her appointment as Vicar, she felt it was important to

set a new vision, Mission Action Plan and Mission Statement. She wanted to ensure that we demonstrated how everything we do is an opportunity to share God's love with each other, the wider parish and the community. The vision was already being realised through our 4 commitments. It was wonderful to see so many people stepping up to make the vision a reality. She thanked the churchwardens for their support over the last year, the deputy warden, the PCC Secretary, Treasurer, Director of Music and the choir, Chapel Organist, Stewards and Sidespeople, Congregation Wardens and all those who quietly volunteered in the background. She also expressed her thanks to the parish staff and clergy colleagues,

Looking ahead to the rest of 2026, it was important to sustain the energy and enthusiasm as we celebrate the 30th anniversary of this wonderful building. She concluded with a call to action to encourage ourselves and others to get even more involved and to commit to regular financial giving.

The meeting was closed in prayer.

Signed: .....

Date: .....