**Holy Trinity & St Matthias Church, Tulse Hill, London SW2**

**Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)**

**held on Sun 19th May 2024**

**Present**

A cross section of the congregation and PCC were present (in church and viewing by Livestream).

Minutes of the meeting were taken by David Jowsey.

**Introductory Remarks**

Richard Dormandy (Vicar and PCC Chair) welcomed everyone to the combined Sunday morning service, Annual Parochial Church Meeting and Meeting of Parishioners, including viewing the Annual Report film together (which is also on our YouTube channel).

**Pause to Breathe**

Richard led the Kneeling Place Pause to Breathe and praying for the service.

**Apologies**

Apologies were received from Sina Taiwo.

**Minutes Approval**

David Jowsey (PCC Secretary) explained that the PCC checks the APCM minutes in their first meeting after the APCM, but it’s not for the PCC to formally approve them.

He advised that the 2023 APCM minutes were provisionally approved by the PCC shortly after the last APCM, save for a small typo and an explanation on the Diocesan Parish Support Fund. They now needed to be formally approved by the whole congregation.

Richard and David provided the APCM with a short summary of the Diocesan Parish Support Fund. David then put the motion that the minutes be approved, which the congregation did unanimously by show of hands.

**Electoral Roll**

Jamie Lobban (Electoral Roll Officer) advised that the parish Electoral Roll is the list of people who are eligible to stand as members of the church Council, or to take part in the annual church meeting by nominating or voting for people to that position. Anyone who lives in the parish or comes to church regularly can join the Electoral Roll.

He reported that we have 130 people on our Electoral Roll this year (1 had died and 6 had joined over the last year).

**PCC Report**

David Jowsey (PCC Secretary) gave a brief presentation on what the PCC is responsible for, and who the ex-officio and elected members are, and some of the key activities have been happening in our church during 2023/24.

Our PCC Trustees are:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **CLERGY**  (Ex – Officio) | Richard Dormandy  **(Vicar & Chair)** | William Sharpe  **(Non Stipendiary Minister)** |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **CHURCHWARDENS**  (Ex – Officio) | Fay Morris | Nicole Lyon |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **READERS**  (Ex – Officio) | Gloria Otu-Simon |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **DEANERY SYNOD REPS** (elected to Deanery Synod &  Ex – Officio on PCC) | Jamie Lobban | + 2 places vacant |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **DIRECTLY ELECTED**  (see next slide) | 12 people | +up to 2 co-opted  (ie elected by PCC) |  |

Our Directly Elected PCC Trustees are:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| David Jowsey  (Secretary) | Adam West | Alicia Humphreys |
| Alice Odusina \* | Amy Grant | Becky Robertson |
| Georgie Snyder | Jacky Sutcliffe | Malcolm Kemp \* |
| Yetunde Akintunde \* | Zebida Gardner-Sharper | +1 place vacant |

The term of office is 3 years. Those in red and starred end their term this year.

David thanked those coming to the end of their term for their service to the PCC. He then gave a special thanks to Malcolm, who has served in a lot of roles in this church over many years including: Deanery Synod for five years, then church warden for six years, after which that he was on PCC for further three years which included a few years as treasurer as well.

The PCC oversees all aspects of:

* Our church fellowship
* Main building, church grounds & community hall
* Finances
* Policies
* Including supporting and encouraging our leadership and ministry teams

We meet about 8 to 9 times a year.

Some of the broader things that we have been doing during the past year were:

* Ministry groups updates
* Community Money – including recruiting a new centre manager
* Implementing various finance policies
* Promoting training opportunities for the church
* Phase IV - with opening celebrations in April
* Homegroups
* Funding pledge to support the Diocese
* Fire Evacuation Plan & Training
* Arranged some Finance Admin support
* Mission Partners
* Mission Action Planning continues
* Parish Weekend Away – with over 80 people attending

**Fabric & Churchwardens’ Report**

Nicole Lyon (Church Warden) reported that in 2023 there were no major items to report on the fabric of the main Church. The only things of note were that we had to clear the gutters due to the debris generated by our semi-resident peregrine falcons and silk wash the spire on the north side. Plus, a roof tile slipped had on the east side of the north transept, repaired by the steeplejacks whilst cleaning the gutters. They also checked around the rest of our roof and stated that it's in excellent shape.

2023 included great strides forward in the building of our straw bale hall as we neared our 2024 completion date. So, at the end of 2023 Father Nature began on landscaping the grounds including Ivy's Orchard.

We also used GoodGym, volunteers who combine exercise with community involvement. They've been involved in our garden maintenance, painting the hall, moving chairs and moving plasterboard.

Thank you to everyone who participates in the running and upkeep of our church and church services without you all our church would not be the warm tidy and welcoming place it is.

**Tulse Hill Community Money Advice Centre Report**

Yetunde Akintunde (our Community Money Advice Centre Manager) reported that they are a small team of three operating the centre two days a week at the moment.

They provide a free and confidential face to face service, offering advice specific to each client's needs. Alongside this, clients are taught budgeting and money management skills to help them stay in control of their finances. In order to assure high quality and competent service we are affiliated to Community Money Advice and governed by the FCA.

We have two categories of clients:

1. those with debts, providing debt management advice, supporting them until a debt solution is identified and implemented
2. those who need help with completing benefit forms, personal independent payments, attendance allowance, application for housing costs and council tax. We also help with freedom passes, applications for blue badges and other benefit applications required by clients

We also give long-term support to very vulnerable clients.

In the past year we have seen 67 debt clients and 94 non-debt clients. 10 of our clients went debt free.

After their initial appointment with us we find that clients have a sense of relief that they are getting the support they need and not fighting on their own which improves their mental health.

People can fall through the net because they are not aware of their entitlements, and we help by advising and assisting them to understand the system and how to express their needs.

Some of the comments we have received from our clients are: if we had gone to another organisation I would not have received the help and support that you gave to me; it is the first time ever I felt somebody actually sat down and listened to me.

**Safeguarding Report**

Fay Morris (Church Warden & Safeguarding Officer) reported her responsibilities include the safeguarding and DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks on all volunteers who are involved in activities within the church and also the PCC. It is the responsibility of the ministry leaders to let Fay know when they have recruited new people.

We are doing well in getting the DBS' done. The process is a lot quicker now using the online DBS system. There had been a little glitch with that, but it’s now sorted. The checks are done through the Diocesan safeguarding administrator, outside of that it goes an external body to approve.

There are no major issues to report with regards to safeguarding.

Fay has completed her leadership safeguarding training and felt that it would be good for all leaders within our church Community to do this rather than just the basic safeguarding training as it really goes into in depth into the spiritual side of safeguarding within churches and church communities.

**Finance Report & Appointment of Independent Examiner**

Malcolm Kemp presented the PCC's annual report and accounts for 2023.

He started by thanking everyone who has contributed financially and in other ways to the life and mission of Holy Trinity. We depend on volunteers for what we do and for the finances needed to support our activities.

Malcolm then presented a summary of the accounts and brought out three main points:

* overall our finances continue to be in good shape, with total combined funds of £315k at year end
* around half of that, £158k, was for the Phase IV Fund. There have been significant further expenditures on the straw bale build since the year end that have depleted this balance. church members have continued to donate generously to this project so we are expecting the project to come out broadly in balance
* our main fund recorded a surplus of just under £20k during 2023

David then proposed that the accounts be accepted, and that the APCM give their agreement for the PCC to formally decide who to appoint as our independent examiner to look at our accounts for us for the coming year.

*Proposed: David Jowsey Seconded: Malcolm Kemp* ***All in favour***

**Deanery Synod Report**

Jamie Lobban (Deanery Synod Rep) explained that Deanery Synod is an opportunity for a dozen or so churches in our South Lambeth Deanery to get together to share information learning and to worship together. It normally meets at one of the Deanery churches for a formal meeting with a speaker followed by a short service.

South Lambeth Deanery Synod has met two times since the last APCM and also held a combined Ascension Day service at St Peter's Streatham.

The first meeting in the last year was at St James's Clapham and discussed housing issues in Lambeth and hosting refugees, and ways in which churches and Christians can respond.

The second meeting was at Emanuel Streatham and discussed Lay Ministry, including hearing from a SPA (Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary) and a reader talk about their roles.

**Vicar’s Remarks**

Richard reported and gave thanks that our hand-built hall is 99% finished. We’ve just had our building inspector for his final visit, which went very well. Bar a few bits of paperwork we expect the building to be signed off very soon.

He gave thanks to so many people for the past year:

* if you come to church
* if you've welcomed someone
* if you've spoken to someone, especially if you've spoken to someone new
* if you've shown concern for someone
* if you've shown uh practical care for someone
* if you've prayed for someone or prayed with someone
* if you've served tea or coffee
* if you've been part of a home group
* if you have come to one of our prayer meetings
* if you watch our services online
* if you've helped with those Services
* to William, Gloria, Jacky and Ruth for leading from the front or preaching
* if you help provide our music in any way
* if you're one of our amazing youth who help in so many ways that I don't know how we would manage our Sunday rotas without them
* and of course, thank you to God.

Richard then committed our church, parish, school and ourselves to God, and concluded his remarks with the words from Psalm 121: “I lift my eyes to the mountains where does my help come from my help comes from the Lord who made Heaven and Earth.”

**Reading**

Amy Grant read from Psalm 121.

**Vicar’s Vision**

Richard gave his vision for 2024.

We've heard about the year that's gone. The year coming up is going to be a year of change now we've got our Hall. We'll be slowly changing to use it as we work out all our protocols and encourage others to use it. It's going to be a process that's going to take the whole year and it's going to be a process of change.

Some of you in your individual lives will face times of change this year: maybe a change health wise, some of you had children in the last year and there are others expecting children in this year. That brings huge change. Some of you will find change in your jobs or you may be retiring this year.

Richard was thinking of the calmness and serenity that comes from this Psalm in a in a time of change: “He will not let you fall, your protector is always awake. The protector of Israel never dozes or sleeps. The Lord will guard you; he is by your side to protect you. The sun will not hurt you during the day, nor the moon during the night.”

Today is Pentecost Sunday and on that first Pentecost the believers came together from wherever they were to present themselves before the Lord because Jesus had said come together and I will send the Holy Spirit on you. In a sense that's what we do each Sunday we come together and we present ourselves to God again.

In this year of change it's a time to come together to present ourselves ready for God's help.

“I look to the mountains where will my help come from? My help will come from the Lord.”

Last October Richard wrote a song based on Psalm 121 and also based on the parable of the Prodigal Son who returned from the far off. It says in one version of this parable: “I'll get up from where I am, I'm going to go back to my father.” It's a picture of us getting up and coming back to God. Wherever we are, whatever we're going through, whether it's a small situation or some massive ongoing situation, get up and to come back to God to our helper.

**Prayers**

Prayers were led by Helen Bailey.

**Elections**

David Jowsey (PCC Secretary) announced vacancies for:

* 2 Church Wardens (we require 2 to be elected annually)
* 2 Deanery Synod outstanding vacancies (until May 2026)
* 4 PCC members (3 retiring by rotation + 1 vacancy for 2024 to May 2027)

The following 2 people were proposed and seconded as Church Wardens before the meeting and were duly elected unanimously by show of hands by the residents of the Parish:

Fay Morris, Nicole Lyon

There were no candidates standing for the Deanery Synod vacancies.

The following 3 people were proposed and seconded as PCC members and were duly elected unanimously by a show of hands by the members on the Electoral Roll:

Naomi Kemp, Sina Taiwo, Yetunde Akintunde

This leaves 2 outstanding Deanery Synod vacancies, and 1 outstanding PCC vacancy.

**Questions & Comments**

Naomi thanked Richard for his leadership.

In addition to the thanks given during the meeting and the video reports, Richard then thanked everyone who makes this church the place and body of people that it is, and thanked David as PCC secretary.

No questions were received.

**Closing Remarks**

Richard closed the meeting and the service with the Blessing, Peace and Dismissal.

Signed . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

Rev Richard Dormandy

Date . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .