

Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) Minutes 14th May 2023

Approved at the Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) on 12th May 2024

	Vestry Meeting (Anyone living in the Parish and/or on the Electoral Roll can attend and vote) NB: physical meeting with additional participants watching, but not voting, via Zoom.
Item	Subject
1	The Revd Bridget Shepherd (Vicar and chair of meeting) welcomed everyone and explained the difference between the Vestry Meeting and the APCM.
2	<i>Present:</i> Adriaan Goosen, Angela Stebbings, Catherine Clough, Clare Johnson, Conway Tearle, Elizabeth Bentley, Gail Treves-Brown, Gladys Ekpo-Daniels, James Murdoch, Jean Parker, Jevan Green, John Murray, Tim Newberry, Margaret Cadney, Min (Elmena) Britton, Peter Watson, John Stevens, Richard Clough, Rosemary Thurbon, Sonja Goosen, Sue Tearle, Trudi Bramson, Yi Baylis, Margaret Arutoghor, Nina Grossfurthner, Ann Lorek, Allison Streetly, Barbara Bird, Gemma Burns, Catrin Cox, David Dannreuther, Julianna Wali, Abel Wali, Dik Morling, Richard Burns, Hannah Burns, Sarah Brown, John Bramson, Revd Bridget Shepherd and Kyra Morrison and Ian Chrystie <i>Apologies:</i> Mia Hadfield-Spoor, Cherry Murdoch and Nick Shepherd
3	Declarations of Interest: None declared.
4	Approval of Minutes for 8th May 2022 No Corrections The minutes were approved ; Proposer: John Murray. Seconded: Sue Tearle. All in favour. <i>Carried: Minutes approved.</i>
5	Matters arising from 8th May 2022 <ul style="list-style-type: none">● There were no matters arising, questions or comments.
6	Election of Church Wardens <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Sue Tearle was proposed by Patricia Herrera and seconded by John Murrayb. James Murdoch was proposed by Patricia Herrera and seconded by John Murrayc. There being no other nominations, Sue and James were elected unopposed. <i>Sue Tearle and James Murdoch were re- elected as Church Wardens</i> Thanks were offered by Bridget to the Wardens.
7	The Vestry Meeting was closed

Item	APCM (Anyone on the Electoral Roll can attend and vote) NB: physical meeting with additional participants watching, but not voting, via Zoom.
1	<p><i>Present:</i> Adriaan Goosen, Angela Stebbings, Catherine Clough, Cherry Murdoch, Clare Johnson, Conway Tearle, Elizabeth Bentley, Gail Treves-Brown, Gladys Ekpo-Daniels, James Murdoch, Jean Parker, Jevan Green, John Murray, Tim Newberry, Margaret Cadney, , Min (Elmena) Britton, Peter Watson, John Stevens, Richard Clough, Rosemary Thurbon, Sonja Goosen, Sue Tearle, Trudi Bramson, Yi Baylis, Margaret Arutoghor, Nina Grossfurthner, Ann Lorek, Allison Streetly, Barbara Bird, Gemma Burns, Catrin Cox, David Dannreuther, Julianna Wali, Abel Wali, Dik Morling, Richard Burns, Hannah Burns, Sarah Brown, John Bramson and Revd Bridget Shepherd, Kyra Morrison.</p> <p><i>Observers:</i> (not on Electoral Roll): Ian Chrystie</p> <p><i>Apologies:</i> Mia Hadfield-Spoor and Nick Shepherd</p>
2	Declarations of Interest: None declared.
3	Approval of Minutes for 8th May 2022 No Corrections The minutes were approved; Proposer: Angela Stebbings. Seconded: John Murray. All in favour. <i>Carried: Minutes approved.</i>
4	Matters arising from 8th May 2022 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were no matters arising, questions or comments.
5	Receipt of Trustees' Report on the past year (May 2022-April 2023) and Receipt of Annual Accounts for 2022 (Hard copies of the Annual Report and Annual Accounts were made available at both churches, or can be downloaded from the PCC page of the website.) The Report which goes both to the Charity Commission and the Diocese was read through section by section with pauses for comments or questions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) <u>Aims and Purposes</u> b) <u>Objectives and Activities</u> c) <u>Achievements and Performance</u> d) <u>The Electoral Roll</u> Bridget commented that we were stable in spite of the known Eastward drift (SW London to SE London to Kent) which meant we lost 10 families (45 people) during COVID but these being replaced by new people joining with roll numbers slightly up. Stability represents church growth under the water. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> e) <u>Safeguarding Report</u> Bridget reported that our Safeguarding Officer, Ann Lorek, has no worries and thanked people for doing their training. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> f) <u>Fabric Report</u>

- g) Deanery Synod
- h) Financial Report

Yi and Conway gave a quick summary of the highlights and pointed out that although the detail was found in the Annual Accounts, there is a high level summary in the Trustees' report including pie charts as a graphical representation of sources of income and expenditure.

Yi thanked the Finance team for their help and specially noted the huge contribution made by Roz, recently departed (RIP), in managing the book keeping. Yi is standing down as Treasurer (but staying on the PCC) and Conway, currently her deputy managing the accounts, has agreed to step up to become Treasurer.

Gail asked about the predictability of donations and especially the year on year reduction in this items; Conway said that donations were one off, relatively unpredictable but often triggered by specific need e.g. for the Boiler replacement in the previous year.

Allison commented on the significant income coming from Fair Trade to the credit of Gail and her team.

Bridget clarified that although there was no specific plan to spend the residual sum of the Eunice Saville Legacy, this sum was being considered as a possible contribution towards essential repairs e.g. for the GS Boundary Wall.

- i) Reserves Policy
- j) Plans for Future Period
- k) Structure, Governance and Management
- l) Administrative Information
- m) Approval

The Report was received by the APCM there being no further comments or questions.

6 Deanery Synod and PCC Elections

a. Deanery Synod Elections

There were 3 three-year vacancies based on the Electoral Roll number. The Diocese had bought forward elections by a year and we needed to elect members in spite of the fact that existing members had not completed their 3 year term.

Nomination		Proposer	Seconder
Peter Watson	3 year term	James Murdoch	Adriaan Goosen
James Murdoch	3 year term	Peter Watson	Adriaan Goosen
Adriaan Goosen	3 year term	James Murdoch	Peter Watson

- i) The existing team of Peter Watson, James Murdoch and Adriaan Goosen were duly re-elected unopposed.
- ii) James and Bridget had commented that the team had worked well together to make representation more effective.

b. PCC Elections

i) There were 4 three year vacancies based on the Electoral Roll number.

ii) A resignation freed up a 1-year place.

ii) There were 4 nominations for 4 three year places and hence no election, the candidates being elected unopposed. There was no proposal for the one year place.

Nomination		Proposer	Seconder
Louise Grace	3 year term	James Murdoch	Cherry Murdoch
Hannah Burns	3 year term	James Murdoch	Cherry Murdoch
Clare Johnson	3 year term	David Dannreuther	Peter Watson
Gladys Ekpo-Daniels	3 year term	Margaret Arutoghor	Nina Grossfurthner

Nina Grossfurthner and Laurie Roberts were retiring from the PCC and not standing again this year; Bridget thanked all whose term of office had completed.

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Reflections:

1) Churchwardens' (James Murdoch and Sue Tearle) comments

- James wanted to thank those who supported the Churchwardens in their roles including the Deputy Wardens, Sidespeople and all those who just lend a hand when they see the need. There are many people to thank e.g. the Ministry team may wish to thank the musicians but James was personally calling out those supporting the Wardens.
- We see huge encouragement, with potential for growth as a church and growth in our community work. We are already growing as a church and have support community initiatives but see even more potential (Bridget will mention children and youth work below).
- However, someone said the harvest is plentiful but the harvesters are few. The only limiting factor may well be how many of us are able to volunteer for expansion of our ministry and community engagement.
- On practical matters, James gets quite busy re the Boundary wall, just to give notice that, when we finally have a proposal acceptable to Diocese and Local Authority, it would be good at that stage to appeal to the congregation and to the wider community so that we do not use all our reserves and still have funds for our other ministry.
- Sue very much echo's James' comments and wants to thank ALL those who support the work of the church in any and all capacities whether official or unofficial.

John Murray (Deputy Warden) added that a special thank you was owed to the team who manage the Hall Hire. It is a huge contribution to income and the manage it very well.

2) Vicar's (The Revd Bridget Shepherd) comments:

- In 2021 we agreed to adopt and adapt the C of E vision for the 2020s... [See Annual Report]
- At the start of 2022 I asked people to pray specifically about becoming younger and more diverse as 10 families had moved away from the parish during the pandemic
- Since that time some exciting things have happened. We've had an influx of new members in their 20s and 30s. They're often a missing demographic in church, but we now have at least 20 people in that age bracket. That's extraordinary!
- I'm also thrilled that at the end of June we're being joined by a new Curate, who happens to be black. 60% percent of church goers in London are black, but in London only 5% of C of E clergy are black.
- So that says two things to me: 1. God is faithful and answers our prayers. 2. Our prayers make a difference.
- I'd like to ask you to pray into this area again... We are slowly rebuilding the number of children we have in church – and it's a delight to have them! And we have a fantastic youth group with around 12 young people at most sessions.
- BUT... at the moment, all of our youth group sessions are planned and led by one person. There are other leaders there, but they're not in a position to plan and lead sessions at the moment. And with Children's Church, 80% of sessions are planned and led by one person. Again, there are other leaders there, but for various reasons they're not in a position to plan and deliver sessions.
- I'm not suggesting that the needs of children and young people are more important than anyone else. I'm saying that if we under resource this area of church life we give the impression that it's *less* important.
- So please pray for new leaders to share the load.
- The main quality leaders need is to treat children and young people with genuine value. I visited a family this week who said that they're 4 year old wanted to come to this church because she wanted to see

	<p>her friend John. That's John Murray – because John treated her with genuine value and interest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God is faithful and answers our prayers, and our prayers make a difference so please pray! <p>John commented that it is only a question of speaking to children like adults 'children are human' and encouraged folk to volunteer for childrens' work. We will have to follow 'safer recruitment' practices but we do have folk with expertise to give training.</p>
8	<p>Independent examiner John Howard was our IE this year. Bridget has thanked him</p> <p>It was agreed that the PCC approach John Howard in January 2024, and to appoint someone else if he is unwilling/unavailable. Proposed James Murdoch Seconded Conway Tearle. All in favour</p> <p><i>Carried: Agreed that it was delegated to PCC to appoint John Howard or substitute if not available</i></p>
9	<p>AOB James proposed thanks to Bridget without whose leadership this church would not be such a great place and led three cheers for the Vicar.</p>
10	<p>Closing Prayers The meeting closed in prayer/blessing at around 12 noon.</p>