



REIGATE PARISH CHURCH WITH THE HEATH CHURCH

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

held on Monday 24th April 2023 in the church

VESTRY MEETING TO APPOINT CHURCHWARDENS

1. Welcome & Introduction:

Nigel Griffiths, in the absence of Richard Wilson who is on sabbatical, welcomed everyone. He read from Psalm 65. He commented on how good it is to gather as a church and to give thanks to God for all that is going on through its people, the congregation of St Mary's. After a time of worship, he committed the meeting to God in prayer.

2. Election of Churchwardens.

Nigel outlined the responsibilities of the Churchwardens, who within their role represent the church community, give support to the vicar, steward the property and buildings of the church, and ensure the smooth running of services and activities of the church.

There were two nominations for churchwarden and Nigel gave a short biography of each:

Leslie Jackson, proposed by Liz Gunn, seconded by Gareth Evans

Nick Rayner, proposed by Ali Baptiste, seconded by Josh Brown

In the absence of any other nominations, they were duly elected and welcomed to their post.

Nigel gave thanks for all that Leslie Jackson and Tom Lumsden had done over the past year as churchwardens, and as Tom steps down at this APCM, he gave thanks for his support as a churchwarden.

Nick Rayner was welcomed as our new churchwarden, to serve alongside Leslie.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. Apologies for Absence:

Ali Baptiste, Sheila Dobson, Fliss Drewett, Chris Freeman, Elizabeth Gurteen, Freda Handley, Mark Johnson, Olivia Johnson, Mitzi Leask, Tim Leask, Esther Lyth, Jaqi Stevenson

2. Introduction to those standing for PCC:

Nigel outlined the responsibilities of the PCC members as trustees of the church, ensuring the overall wellbeing of the church and its finances. He read out from the profiles of each of those who had been nominated for the 10 places on the PCC.

In the absence of any other nominations the following were duly elected:

Tom Andrew
Debbie Jackson
Andrew Morgan

Becky Beggs
Brenda Juntunen
Nick Pettitt

Ian Capper
Tania Hillsdon

Heather Chesterton
Esther Lyth

As we are also electing representatives for the Deanery Synod, who will also be on the PCC, Nigel read out their profiles along with those of the churchwardens. He explained that the Deanery is an assemblage of churches in the Reigate area.

The following had been nominated and as there were no other nominations they were duly elected:

Sally Bertlin; Vron Booth; Gareth Evans; Philippa Parry; Nicola Peck; Andrew Prestwood

There was a time of prayer, in small groups, for all those elected to the PCC.

3. Minutes of the April 2022 APCM

The Minutes of the last APCM (held on 26th April 2022) had been circulated in advance of the meeting and were approved.

Proposed by Ian Capper and seconded by Leslie Jackson and all were in favour.

4. Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising

5. Churchwardens' Report

Leslie Jackson spoke to his report, written with Tom Lumsden,

Leslie spoke of some of the highlights including the 'Christmas Event' which included the 'Journey to Jerusalem' experience in the church, the Welcome Ukraine initiative, the Satellites 2022 Summer gathering, the Prayer Evenings and 24/7 Prayer Week giving thanks for all who had been involved in these and other activities in so many ways both here at St Mary's but also at the Heath Church.

He reminded us that the more we worship, pray, study and work together the more we grow in community and 'Koinonia' (fellowship), taking our example from the early Christians who "continuously devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." (Acts 2:42). Life Groups can be an example of community, and we are thankful for those who lead them. Our graft into Merstham will be an example of 'giving ourselves away for the sake of others'.

Leslie urged us to hold our leaders in our prayers at this time with changes in our staff team over the next months. We are especially grateful to Nigel Griffiths and to Kate Capper leading us at this time while Richard is on sabbatical. We also need to pray for the appointment of a new Youth Minister, as Martin Saunders will soon be moving on. He spoke with gratitude for all that Martin, Mandy Childs and Gen Griffiths do with our young people and all those who help lead the children's groups week by week and he encouraged others to help with these teams.

He thanked the ministry team, our worship leaders, the admin team, and all those who volunteer and serve in so many ways. Leslie thanked those stepping down from ministries including Rachel

Howe, from Girls' Brigade and Jenny Rayner from leading St Mary's Global. He also thanked those who had served on the PCC and in particular Liz Gunn, Pete Chesterton and Peter Darwent who had all served for a significant length of time.

In finishing Leslie reminded us to keep our hearts and minds open to God's plan for us all, that there will undoubtedly be more challenges to face but that we need to walk and listen to Jesus as He guides us on our way.

Nigel thanked Leslie for his report.

6. Treasurer's Report and presentation of audited accounts for the year ending 31st December 2022

Nick Pettitt had taken over from Alastair Rubie as Treasurer at the last APCM and he introduced his report by thanking Alastair for his support in the handover process during the past year. His first audit had been completed with the assistance of the Finance Team - Mark Randall, Laura Juden-Wills, Su Rogers and Deirdre Hucklebridge and Nick expressed gratitude for each one of them.

There have been both challenges and successes as the new team have bedded down. The move to the new Xero accounting system has been a notable achievement. The PCC can now receive management accounts, the annual budget and updated forecasts with greater clarity which will ensure their governance obligations, as Trustees of the charity, are maintained, and any concerns or extra expenditure requirements are highlighted.

Financial Review of the year (pages 6-7 of the Statutory Accounts).

The annual accounts for 2022 had been audited and copies of the Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 2022 were available, with a copy on the church website under 'Giving' and 'Annual Accounts 2022'.

Nick reported that our finances for 2022 were back to pre-pandemic levels with both income and expenditure exceeding 2021 levels. Notably, one-off donations far exceeded budget, and in spite of monthly giving decreasing at the end of the financial year, general giving was also slightly ahead of budget over the year.

Income exceeded expenditure with a surplus of £68,672 which, less Capital expenditure of £6,699, was added to the General Fund reserve. This surplus equates to 8.9% of the income for 2022 and was largely because of one-off donations and some staff appointments not being made. The General Fund reserve was therefore at a very healthy level of £262,544 at the end of 2022 and will provide a firm foundation for our intended activities in 2023.

Nick said we have a great deal to thank God for, not least our finances.

He also reported that:

- Bookings of both the Church and Church Centre exceeded pre-pandemic levels and it has been encouraging to see both being used more now. However, there is still some unused capacity.
- Our largest expense continues to be the Diocesan Share (which roughly equates to our clergy and one other) to which we contributed £246K or 34% (2021 39%) of our total expenditure.

- Total staff costs took up £174K, £7K more than in 2021 but less than budgeted. This was because some positions mentioned in the Vicar's Report were not filled as expected.
- Payments to mission partners, missional organisations and other donations amounted to £84K (2021, 70K) evidence of our focus on mission.
- The Investment Funds, largely the Peggy Caffyn-Tees legacy, continue to be invested with CCLA. Their market value on 31st December 2022 show a loss of £55,287. This was broadly in line with the downturn in the financial markets in 2022 and are expected to recover in 2023.

For 2023, we are budgeting for a small but manageable deficit, with costs likely to increase as new appointments are made.

During this year, Nick would like to work more closely with budget holders and continue to develop Xero.

He concluded by warmly thanking everyone for their giving, and for continuing to give so generously over the past year both financially and of their time.

Nick then opened the meeting to questions. He also encouraged people to come and speak to him after the meeting or in the future if they had any further queries.

Adrian Mezzetti asked about accommodation for Ben Forbes and his family when he joins us during the summer as Associate Vicar. Nick said that the Forbes family will be living in St Clair Close, which is currently being prepared for them by the Diocese.

Resolutions

1. To adopt the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31/12/22.

Proposed by Andrew Morgan and seconded by Heather Chesterton

2. To reappoint the auditors, Jacob, Cavanagh and Skeet at a fee to be agreed by the PCC.

Proposed by Janet Malcolm and seconded by Debbie Jackson

Nigel expressed thanks to Nick and all the hard work he and the finance team put into keeping our finances in order.

7. Vicar's Report

Richard Wilson's report 'Year in Review 2022' had been circulated prior to the meeting and he had made a recording of it before he went on sabbatical, which was played.

In the video Richard spoke of our vision to see God changing lives, families, and churches again and again. He reminded us that our mission is to make whole life disciples of all ages, to create and support communities of people who worship God with their whole lives, and to model and reproduce this as widely as possible. Our strategy is to draw people into intentional apprenticeship to Jesus through:

- reaching out to a world in need,

- drawing people into a new identity in Christ,
- developing a culture of discipleship,
- loving one another as family and
- giving ourselves away for the sake of others.

Richard spoke of the impact of the 'covid-years' which had resulted in a decline in the number gathering for worship and that our depth of relationship had become thinner. However, in recent months there has been renewal and growth on Sundays with new people joining us and getting involved. Gratitude was expressed for everyone who serves each week to make worship and community possible.

He then focused on the following:

- The renewal of churchwide prayer, notably the **monthly prayer evening**, which has grown in significance. It is the foundation of all that we do and must be in balance with our activity for God.
- The work of the **Welcome Ukraine** team and the work with hosts and refugee families in our local community.
- The establishment of the **St Mary's Local team** which has developed a set of principles, as we seek to be involved in poverty alleviation and social action, and as we discern the way forward.
- Themes at our Sunday services - for example in response to the '**Living in Love and Faith**' initiative of the wider Church of England, some further teaching was offered on Sundays, as we continued to explore together how to live faithfully in a post-Christian culture, especially around the issue of sexuality.
- Changes in the **staff team** with Ali Foulkes, Charles Merritt, and Erin Gilmour moving on, and Kate Capper changing role. Josh Brown was appointed Head of Worship Culture and Mandy Childs was appointed Children's Minister (6-11's). We will also be seeking a replacement for Martin Saunders as he steps back from leadership of the Youth Ministry. In July Ben Forbes will be joining the team as Associate Vicar.
- The launch of the first **Summer Satellites Festival**, last August and held in Peterborough under Martin Saunders' leadership was a highlight with a large contingent attending from St Mary's.
- The invitation to **church plant** under Nigel Griffith's leadership, with a group going with him to graft into All Saints Merstham was an exciting development, and a way of pioneering mission on the Merstham estate.
- Our **finance team** has also changed and under Nick Pettitt's leadership, new financial systems have been established. Richard spoke with gratitude to all who give so faithfully.

Richard said how grateful he was to have this time of sabbatical, especially with the impact of what some would call 'discontinuous' change (because of the impact of forces out of our control) accentuated by the lockdown. He said that, while we look ahead to support the exciting and vital mission of God in Merstham, it's also time to rebuild the core of the church, to invest in relationships, and deepen our commitment to our church family, locality, and community.

As we move through 2023 Richard said he was looking forward to:

- Welcoming and embedding **new staff** into our leadership

- Developing and implementing our plans for supporting and resourcing the churches of **Merstham**
- Running a successful in-person **Alpha** course in January
- Seeing Sunday **attendance** grow in commitment and regularity
- Strengthening our **children's and youth work** on Sundays and involving more of us in shaping our children's faith as a family
- Making the most of the opportunities of **New Wine and Satellites** Festivals
- Developing our approach to our **local mission**
- Increasing our financial **investment** in discipleship

Richard concluded by giving thanks to the church family, to the staff team, to the warden team, Leslie Jackson, Tom Lumsden, Nick Rayner and Becky Beggs and to his wife Tory.

Following the presentation of Richard's report, Nigel asked if there were any questions or comments on any of the reports in the 'Year in Review' document:

- Joy Perrett said we should also thank Mike Fox and Danielle Robinson and celebrate all that they do and give.
- Brenda Juntunen asked about the Heath Church. Nigel referred to the Heath Church report he had written in 'A Year in Review' and spoke warmly of the encouragements of the past year, with the work on the annex and church building completed, the growth of the congregation and the commitment of all who serve at the Heath Church.

Nigel led the meeting in a time of open prayer, giving thanks for the past year and praying into the future.

Nick Rayner concluded the meeting by giving thanks for Nigel, and in his absence Richard and all on the ministry team for the way they are leading us at this time.

The meeting ended at 9.35 pm