

ST JAMES NEW BARNET
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL CHURCH MEETINGS 2019
Held at St James Church, New Barnet on Sunday 28th April 2019
and on Sunday 13th October 2019

28 April 2019

1. Welcome and prayers

The meetings were held in combination with a service of Morning Prayer. The Revd. Laura Hewitt welcomed all members and visitors and opened the meetings in prayer. She explained that because of ongoing investigation into apparent fraud it had not been possible to conclude the 2018 accounts, and that the Annual Parochial Church Meeting could be concluded only after they were available later in the year.

2. Appointment of clerk to the meetings

Bob Bayman was appointed.

ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

3. Elections

Laura Hewitt led those present in thanking Simon and Carol for the work they had done during 2018.

Two nominations had been received for the post of Churchwarden:

- Simon Vincent (nominated by Bob Bayman, seconded by Christine Mulford).
- Carol Connah (nominated by Heather Gill, seconded by Stewart Jones)

There were no other nominations, so Simon and Carol were appointed as Churchwardens for the coming year.

The meeting was then closed in a prayer of thanks for the two wardens.

<p>The children and their leaders then left the meeting, and the congregation continued in worship, followed by a sermon from Laura Hewitt.</p>

THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

4. The Revd Laura Hewitt opened the APCM.

5. Apologies for absence

67 members and 2 non-members were present at the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from 16 members. A further 5 members were engaged in children's activities and unable to be present for part of the meeting. A full list is at Appendix 1.

6. Minutes of APCM of 29th April 2018

The minutes of the previous APCM were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting. There were no matters arising.

7. Elections

As a result of an existing vacancy and some members reaching the end of their tenure there were two vacancies for Deanery Synod and four members of the PCC.

Nominations for PCC membership were as follows:

Deanery Synod

- Rosemary Leaver (nominated by Bob Bayman, seconded by Luke Cowles)

PCC

- Koye Akinjogbin (nominated by Bob Bayman, seconded by Lily Campbell)
- Ros Thompson (nominated by Jenny Hutchinson, seconded by Simon Wilsher)
- Alun Matthews (nominated by Bob Bayman, seconded by Alice Femi-Pearse)

There were no other nominations, so Koye, Ros and Alun were appointed as PCC members.

Sidesmen

The following people were willing to be sidesmen for the coming year.

Joan Ball	Sally Gentle
Jenni Connah	Emily Hewitt
Andrew Cooper	Nick Hobley
Helen Cooper	Jenny Hutchinson
Tracy Corker	Anne Jones
Anthea Cowles	Caroline Jones
Alice Femi-Pearse	Chris Jones
Barbara Fitzpatrick	Stewart Jones

Gaitree Kessler
Helen Langley
Sonia Lucas
Alun Matthews
John Price

Ed Sells
Marion Storey
Rosalind Thompson
Tricia Vincent
Indrani Wicker

All of these were appointed; proposed by Alice Femi-Pearse and seconded by David Hall.

Prayers were then said for the PCC, Deanery Synod members and sidesmen.

8. Treasurer's Report

Zoe reported that irregularities were suspected in the accounts for 2018 and possibly previous years, and that investigations were being carried out, involving also the police and the Charity Commission. It was suspected that the independent inspection of the last two years' accounts had not actually been carried out.

Immediately after the discovery a new finance team had been set up with Zoe as Treasurer, supported by Jenny Robinson and Chris Jones, the roles defined to provide cross-checks with a system of controls. New policies for authorisation of expenditure and payments were also now in place.

A budget for 2019 had been prepared from scratch and approved by PCC, with performance so far on target and a modest surplus forecast for year end. This included provision for a youth worker until beyond the end of the year (to May 2020): it was anticipated that grants would be obtained to continue beyond then but these could not be applied for until problems with the accounts were resolved.

Gift Day for 2018 had raised approximately £12000 including gift aid; to improve cash flow it was now intended to bring forward the date for Gift Day from the autumn to spring, and this year the date would be 26 May.

In reply to a question from the membership Zoe confirmed that the reserves now on hand were adequate though less than desirable - it was intended to steadily strengthen the position. The Diocese was offering flexibility over Parish Share contributions for the time being.

The members responded with thanks to Zoe for taking on the role of treasurer at very short notice, and for the excellent achievements over the past few months. There was a round of applause in congratulation.

9. Presentation of reports

A full set of reports, including the accounts, had been made available to members.

Specific reference was made to the accounts, where Craig reported a minor improvement since the end of 2016, resulting in approximately £10.000 reserves being available at the end of the year. This was regarded as insufficient for the future, and he was working towards proposing a reserves policy. There was a suggestion from the membership of a way to raise funds for a charity, but no questions or comments relating to the accounts.

The following reports were then received and adopted by the meeting:

- Electoral Roll report
- PCC report
- Accounts and Financial report
- Church Fabric report
- Barnet Deanery Synod report

Reflecting on the many accompanying reports of activities within and beyond the church the members expressed excitement and thanks to all concerned for all the work going on.

The service continued in prayer

10. The future - the Mission Action Plan

Laura reminded the meeting that God had been generous and provides members with everything needed for His work at St James. She encouraged members to consider what they do, recognizing the need for support as servers in several areas, including as Sidesmen (the Welcome Team), children's work and hospitality (tea, coffee, etc.) and emphasised the need for us all to belong – this is an important part of what we do as Christians.

Members not already doing so were encouraged to consider taking an active role in services- for example reading or leading prayers – and to talk to her or to other leaders. Jesus is in charge but we move forward into the community only by working together. This was not a matter of doing more, but doing the right things!

The meeting was then adjourned and the service closed in prayer

13 October 2019

The meeting was re-convened on this date, again as part of the Sunday service.

11. The Revd Laura Hewitt re-opened the APCM and reminded the congregation of the circumstances that led to the adjournment.

A period of prayer and worship followed, after which the children and their leaders left the meeting

12. Apologies for absence

62 members and 10 non-members were present at the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from 16 members. A further 10 members were engaged in children's activities and unable to be present for part of the meeting. A full list is at Appendix 2.

13. Presentation of the accounts

The accounts had been distributed; Zoe explained that the 2017 accounts had been redone following the discovery of the irregularities, and the figures for that year shown in the 2018 accounts were therefore different to those presented at the 2018 APCM.

Zoe explained the trustees' report, the statement of financial activity, balance sheet and income & expenditure statements to the meeting, and confirmed that they had been approved by PCC.

A new independent examiner, Anthony Davis (the husband of a vicar elsewhere in the Diocese), had been appointed, was satisfied with the 2018 and revised 2017 accounts and had been present at the last PCC meeting.

Zoe went on to provide a brief description of the current financial position, with a very small surplus expected by year-end, but with the intention of restricting expenditure to build reserves to a satisfactory level over time.

There were no questions from members.

Zoe proposed that Anthony Davis should be appointed to examine the 2019 accounts in due course. There was no objection from the members present and this was therefore approved.

The meeting was then closed, and the service continued with a sermon, prayer and further worship

Appendix 1

There were 67 members of the electoral roll recorded as being present at the first part of the Annual Meeting, with a further five members (*) engaged in children's activities and unable to be present for part of the meeting:

Olubukoye Akinjogbin	Alice Femi-Pearse	Ann Pinner
Oluwabukola Akinjogbin	Barbara Fitzpatrick	Daniel Pinner
David Allis	Michelle Freese	John Price
Anthony Badaloo	Sally Gentle	Susan Price
Wendy Ball	Samantha Gentle	Jennifer Robinson-Beswick*
Robert Bayman	Heather Gill	Paul Robinson-Beswick*
Pamela Bayman	David Hall	Amanda Rodgers
Jackie Campbell	Emily Hewitt*	Edward Sells
Lily Campbell	Danny Ho	Linda Sells
Linda Careford	Nick Hobley	Martin Smith
Ester Chinofamba	Vicky Hope	Elizabeth Smith
Carol Connah	Stephen Hunt	Boon Choo Soon
Richard Coomes	Jennifer Hutchinson*	Marion Storey
Andrew Cooper	Caroline Jones	Trevor Thompson
Helen Cooper	Zoe Jones	Elizabeth Thompson
Tracy Corker	Rosemary Leaver	Rosalind Thompson*
Luke Cowles	Diane Lord	Tricia Vincent
Anthea Cowles	Sonia Lucas	Susannah Walsh
Philip Cowles	Alun Matthews	Martine Whitaker
Harsha Cowles	Joy Murphy	Indrani Wicker
Stephen Craggs	Areghan Obawaeki	Joel Wicks
Evie Craggs	Omotayo Obawaeki	Lauryn Wicks
Katherine Dominy	Fiona Perera	Evelyn Woollard
Richard Dominy	Simon Perera	

Apologies for absence were received from the following:

Joan Ball	Stewart Jones	Doreen Scott
Jennifer Connah	Anne Jones	Simon Vincent
Rebecca Craggs	Gaitree Kessler	Elizabeth Vincent
Laura Hall	Helen Langley	Simon Wilsher
Chris Jones	Christine Mulford	
Fiona Jones	David Mulford	

Appendix 2

There were 62 members of the electoral roll recorded as being present at the Annual Meeting when it resumed on 13 October, with a further ten members (*) engaged in children's activities and unable to be present for part of the meeting:

Olubukoye Akinjogbin	Nick Hobley	Ann Pinner
Oluwabukola Akinjogbin	Vicky Hope	Marie Pressland
David Allis	Sarah-Jane Hope	John Price
Robert Bayman	Stephen Hunt	Paul Robinson-Beswick*
Pamela Bayman	Bryony Johnson	Amanda Rodgers
Jackie Campbell	Caroline Jones	Edward Sells
Lily Campbell	Christopher Jones	Linda Sells
Carol Connah	Fiona Jones	Martin Smith
Jennifer Connah*	Zoe Jones	Elizabeth Smith*
Richard Coomes	Stewart Jones	Jacqueline Smith*
Andrew Cooper	Anne Jones*	Boon Choo Soon
Helen Cooper	Gaitree Kessler	Marion Storey
Tracy Corker	Helen Langley	Trevor Thompson
Rebecca Craggs	Rosemary Leaver	Elizabeth Thompson
Katherine Dominy	Diane Lord	Simon Vincent
Richard Dominy	Sonia Lucas	Tricia Vincent
Barbara Fitzpatrick	Alun Matthews	Susannah Walsh*
Michelle Freese	Christine Mulford	Martine Whitaker
Emily Gentle*	David Mulford	Indrani Wicker
Samantha Gentle	Keisha Murdock*	Joel Wicks*
Heather Gill	Areghan Obawaeki	Lauryn Wicks
Leon Hamilton	Fiona Perera	Evelyn Woollard
Emily Hewitt	Simon Perera	
Danny Ho	Amy Perera*	

Apologies for absence were received from the following:

Luke Cowles	David Hall	Rosalind Thompson
Anthea Cowles	Jennifer Hutchinson	Elizabeth Vincent
Philip Cowles	Daniel Pinner	
Harsha Cowles	Susan Price	
Sally Gentle	Jennifer Robinson-Beswick	