**SAINT MARK'S CHURCH REIGATE
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING SUNDAY 12 MAY 2024
HELD IN CHURCH AT THE 10.00AM PARISH EUCHARIST**

Fr Martin Colton, Chairman of the Parochial Church Council was in the chair.

**PRESENT**:

Fifty-eight parishioners in church.

**APOLOGIES**:

Apologies were received from eleven parishioners.

**MINUTES**:

The Minutes of the 2023 Annual Parochial Church Meeting were agreed and signed as an accurate record of what had taken place.

**MATTERS ARISING**:

There were no matters arising.

**PRESENTATION OF THE ELECTORAL ROLL**:

Following a revision of the Electoral Roll Mr Terrence Hancock reported that the number on the Roll now stands at 172. This represented a loss of nine names due to death and the addition of seventeen new names.

**ELECTION OF DEPUTY WARDENS:**

Mrs Jane Artis, Mr Timothy Warren and Mr Robert Crilley were elected.

**ELECTION OF DEANERY SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES:**

There were nominations for the two-year vacancy which therefore remains unfilled.

**ELECTION OF PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS**:

The following were elected each for a three-year period – Mrs Theresa Hill-Smith and Mrs Melanie Crighton. The vacancy for a two-year period remains unfilled.

**CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS AND PRESENTATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT**:

 Fr Martin commended the Annual Report which highlighted the various activities which have taken place during the past year. The majority of users of the hall facilities have returned following the Covid shut down, and it was encouraging to see the re-start of the monthly Community Lunch. Over the early part of the winter it was also good to be able to offer the hall as a Winter night Shelter again. The church accounts are included in a separate Statutory Report and Accounts and this together with the Annual Report are available on the church website. Printed copies of each can also be obtained on application to the Secretary of the Parochial Church Council.

**REPORT UPON THE GOODS AND ORNAMENTS**:

Mr Benjamin Read (Churchwarden) reported:

2023 has been a year when no major work of an urgent or unplanned nature has been necessary. There was a small element of damage to one of the stained glass windows in the South aisle but that has been repaired. There is always more work we could do but nothing of an urgent nature as identified in our last quinquennial inspection remains outstanding.

Items of general maintenance and upkeep have been addressed, particularly where required to do so by law. Thanks to our Secretary, Terrence Hancock, for ensuring that the necessary inspection and testing of our fire prevention facilities is addressed annually. Given the number of naked flames still burning in the building, I know that will be a matter of comfort to us all. Likewise, the church clock has had its bi-annual service in the last 12 months.

Work was carried out to disinfect the belfry following the ingress of pigeons, and the external openings to the belfry have been covered with a layer of mesh to prevent further ingress

None of this means we do not have works that need doing, simply that they are not of an urgent nature or likely to lead to additional damage if not addressed. This is a building made from Reigate stone and we are all now very familiar with its qualities as a building material.

Last year it was reported that work will be required to the organ in the next 5 to 10 years and this still remains the case. We will need to raise funds for those works, which will not be insignificant in cost.

The Hall is not officially within the remit of this report, but we all treat it as an extension to and important part of the buildings where we are temporarily acting as custodians. The Hall and foyer were re-decorated

last Summer and look so much the better for it. But of much greater relevance to some is the fact we have finally been successful in getting the loose flagstone in the car park by the door to the foyer fixed!

In terms of the goods of the church, nothing was disposed of in 2023 and there have been no major additions either.

The Churchwardens thanked all the many volunteers who have done so much behind the scenes to help keep our church open and preforming its role both as the spiritual home for our community, but also in its wider role as a centre for community life.

**THE CHURCH ACCOUNTS**:

Mrs Melanie Crighton (Treasurer) spoke about the 2023 accounts.

In 2023 we recorded a deficit or loss of £14,000. Total income for the year was £217,000 with expenditure of £231,000. At the end of the year unrestricted reserves stood at £83,000. As a church, and a registered charity, we aim to break even over a five year period. We also aim to hold sufficient cash to cover expenditure for the next three to six months. Cash held at the year-end was £81,000 which equates to around four month’s expenditure.

Expenditure in 2024 included £9,000 for work on the belfry replacing pigeon netting, £2,500 on repairing one stained glass window and £8,000 on the church property. A further £20,000 was spent on decoration and refurbishment of the hall which was long overdue. Our contribution to the Diocese through the Parish Support Fund is the most significant expenditure at £116,000. This is in the form of a pledge which is agreed by the PCC in advance each year to cover the cost of clergy across the diocese together with training and other parish support. Other regular expenditure includes insurance, utilities, cleaning, office administration, maintenance, etc.

Our commitment to reduce our carbon footprint continues and the solar panels installed in 2022 and tighter control over heating and thermostats have helped to limit the financial impact of our increased energy costs since our fixed tariffs ended in September.

On the income side just over half of our income came from donations, which includes monthly planned giving, collections at services, gift day, other one-off donations and gift aid claimed. The balance came from rental income from the car park and church property, hall lettings and other activities. In addition in 2023 we received bank interest of £3,000 and a legacy of £1,300.

Income from our hall lettings increased by 8% to £28,000 due mainly to increased hire rates but we are starting to see more interest in regular hires. We continue to control costs as much as we can but took the decision in 2023 to redecorate the hall and foyer and replace the foyer flooring hoping to attract more hirers.

In 2024 no significant building or refurbishment work is planned and the forecast is for a breakeven position but this is dependent on an increase in income and no unforeseen costs relating to our buildings.

As a church we are heavily dependent on donations and we are very grateful to all who donate to the church both financially and with their time and energy in all the many aspects of running activities.

**APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**:

It was proposed by Mrs Nicola Lloyd and unanimously agreed that “Stewardship” should be appointed our Independent Examiner.

**REPORT ON DEANERY SYNOD**:

Presented by Mrs Helen Baron

Area Dean: Reverend Martin Colton; Lay Chair: Leslie Jackson.

St Mark’s Representatives: Suzanne Baker-Hedge, Helen Baron and Sarah Walker.

The Deanery enables the parishes to work together, sharing resources, experiences and opinions so that we can enhance the mission of the church in exciting and innovative ways.

The Synod meets three times a year in different churches around the Deanery. Each church is represented by their clergy and lay representatives. The programme for the evening often includes a visiting speaker

on a particular theme as well as an opportunity for “Parishes to Share” news and a formal business agenda with reports from the other bodies on which the Deanery is represented.

In addition to the Synod the Deanery organises events and services throughout the year which include workshops, with an opportunity to study aspects of church life, quiet days as well as healing and wholeness services.

One of the most enjoyable aspects of Deanery Synod meetings is meeting people from other churches and visiting a variety of churches in our deanery. St. Mark’s and the other Deanery Synod members represent their congregations in making and voting on plans for the local and wider areas in the Reigate Deanery and Southwark Diocese.

**Here is a summary of our discussions over the last year:**

**June 2023 (meeting at Christ the King, Salfords)**

We discussed the Church of England’s call for all parts of the Church to be ‘net zero carbon’ by 2030. As a deanery we aim to have all churches registered with Eco Church.

Surrey County Council are currently running a solar panel scheme. For further information, visit: https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/ and search solar panels. For further information, visit:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/churchcare/net-zero-carbon-church>

A discussion also took place regarding a diocese directed motion calling for the General Synod to review how Church of England weddings have changed since the pandemic, and asking for the Government to change the law to allow Church of England ministers to conduct Church of England weddings in places other than church of England registered settings.

**October 2023 (meeting at St. John’s Redhill)**

We split into groups to discuss the Southwark Vision of shared values which were split into two categories: 1. Christ centred and 2. Outward focused and these are some of the

headline ideas:

• Maintaining the highest possible number of stipendiary clergy and growing lay ministries.

• Growing our existing churches and establishing new worshipping communities.

• Becoming younger and more diverse – We need to grow younger in our congregations.

• Deepening our discipleship links - sharing across churches and denominations.

• Increase links with schools with more support for SparkFish.

• Encourage more lay people to do the Bishop’s Certificate.

• Share more with each other e.g. churches that are doing well in the deanery to share resources and

 ideas with each other.

• Opportunities to share Safeguarding training in person across parishes.

• Form an Eco-church group with guest speakers; attract younger members and teenagers through

 green/eco churches

• More community work and churches together activities

We also had updates on:

• Foodbanks: <https://www.redhillfoodbank.org.uk/>

• Reigate Archdeaconry Social Justice Focus - <https://reigatedeanery.org.uk/rasjf>

• Welcare: <https://welcare.org/>

• The Duggie Dug event in November (funding for this event was sponsored by the deanery).

**February 2024 (This was a short meeting held on ZOOM)**

* Renewed hope Trust update with a guest speaker Ann Coe
* Breakout rooms gathered ideas for future meetings
* Members encouraged to attend the Lay Conference at St. Bede’s School in March
* Nominations for the AMPC (Archdeacon Mission and Pastoral Committee)

The Venerable Moira Astin (Archdeacon), Fr Martin (Area Dean) and Leslie Jackson (Lay Chair) will be carrying out the ‘Articles of Inquiry’ inspections during April and May.

Notes of the Diocesan Synods can be found in The Bridge Publication, available in church or on-line at: [https://southwark.anglican.org/news-events/news/the-bridge-newspaper/](https://southwark.anglican.org/news-events/news/the-bridge-newspaper/%20)

**OTHER BUSINESS**:

Mrs Louise Wallis (Churchwarden) voiced a vote of thanks to Fr Martin for his continued ministry to us and also thanked the PCC Secretary for all his work during the year.

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 10.45am.

 Chairman 11 May 2025