



Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting & Annual Parochial Church Meeting Sunday 7th May 2023 – 12.15pm

Annual Parish Meeting

1. Revd Graham Hunter (GH) explained difference between the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Parochial Meeting,
Election of Churchwardens
2. “We have two nominations for the positions of Churchwardens, namely, Ann-Marie Nye and Larre Olajide. I propose that they be duly appointed by our consent through show of hands” After brief commendation from GH (AMN: Worship & Welcome; LO: Prayerful, Pastoral, Practical), they were unanimously elected by show of hands. (Proposed & seconded by Stephen Millar and Anita Masih.)
3. The meeting closed.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Minutes of Last Meeting

1. Minutes of last meeting were approved & signed.

Vicar's Introduction

2. “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times...”
 - a. GH spoke about aspects of 2022 which were wonderful – and described ways in which we were ‘congregationally and missionally healthy’
 - b. He went on to describe some of the challenges we faced – which had been ‘operationally very taxing.
3. Four Key Priorities: GH reminded those assembled of the 4 key priorities in our Mission Action Plan:
 - a. Renewal of Sunday worshipping community. GH explained that Christian life was much more than just coming to church on a Sunday – but it was not less than just coming to church on Sundays. He also introduced the launch of a new chair fund to create more capacity for growth.
 - b. Relentless concern for kids and youth. GH explained that we must analyse and evaluate how we resource our kids and youth ministry to enable better provision and more innovation and outreach.
 - c. Beacon project. GH explained that a small group would begin looking at how to draw together the different streams of social transformation work so that we can develop a more coherent and sustainable offer.
 - d. #LoveHoxton. GH explained that after substantial delays during Covid, we were hoping to get the building project moving again.



Celebration

4. The Annual Report & Financial Statements had been circulated digitally, along with other papers for the meeting.
 - a. Ruth Etang was invited to give a Safeguarding Report. She summarised the new measures for Safeguarding put in place during 2022, and explained the new Parish Safeguarding Dashboard. She reported back on progress made on Safeguarding training.
 - b. Maria Demetriou gave a report on the Electoral Roll. The roll was revised during February to April 2023, and had increased to 150 members.
 - c. GH encouraged people to read the Vicar's Introduction for brief highlights of the report.
 - d. GH invited questions and comments on the Annual Report and Financial Statements. None were asked during the meeting, but GH explained that members could also ask questions via email afterwards.
5. GH then asked everyone who served on teams during the year to stand, and we collectively thanked all the staff and volunteers who had served over the past year.

Listening

6. There was a brief time for 121s and testimony. Some of the testimonies shared included the following:
 - a. Thanks for the prayer and support of church family during a difficult health scare.
 - b. Thanks for the engagement of men in the church with reaching asylum seekers through football.
 - c. Thanks for the CAP Debt Centre and the number of clients who became debt free during the year.
 - d. Thanks for the support and encouragement of church family during a period of unemployment and anxiety.
7. Those gathered were then invited to have short 121s to discuss what they appreciated about church, and also to share their dreams for the coming year. They then wrote these down on post-it notes and stuck them to a flipchart. Some of the themes expressed included:
 - a. Appreciated: Healing; encouragement in difficult times; safe space; church family fellowship; church still standing; people and warmth; post-church refreshments; youth ministry flourishing;
 - b. Dreams for 2023-24: modernising kids and youth ministry with tech capacity improvements; more chairs to be provided; being a place for connection and friendship for the lonely; men's football to bridge gap between football and faith; growing connect groups for people to know God and one another better; more community organising; flyers distributed in letter boxes; more trips for kids and youth; 'get real' in sermons – sharing about difficulties and how God helps us through; run Sanctuary Course; start up mental health hub; develop afternoon service; more silent prayer and contemplation; focus on relationship building; more focus on older youth.



Action

8. INVEST & Congregational Giving
 - a. GH launched the May INVEST campaign by playing the video and asking people to complete INVEST cards.
 - b. He introduced the concept of legacy giving – explain how members could leave a gift in their will to support mission in future generations.
9. Deanery Synod Appointments
 - a. Stephen Millar & Daniel Pratt were appointed as Deanery Synod representatives. (Proposed & seconded by Ann-Marie Nye and Larre Olajide.)
10. The list of nominees for appointment to serve as elected members of the PCC were as follows: Anita Masih, Alice Howell, Maria Demtriou, Richard Neasham, Fiona Hollow. These were duly appointed by show of hands. (Proposed & seconded by Ann-Marie Nye and Larre Olajide.)
11. Our Independent Examiner, Chris Goodhead FCS of KnightGoodhead Accountants was re-appointed.

Close

12. Rachel Greaves-Brown closed the meeting in prayer.

