

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting and 104th Annual Parochial Church Meeting,

Sunday 19th May 2023 @12.30 via Zoom.

Vestry Meeting

1. Prayers

1.1. The Rev. Dr. Steve Griffiths opened the meeting with a prayer

2. Minutes of the Annual Parishioners' Vestry Meeting.

2.1. The minutes of the meeting held on 28th May 2023 were approved unanimously.

3. Election of Church Wardens

3.1. Rev Dr. Steve Griffiths introduced the election process for the Vestry Meeting, which was to elect the Church Wardens for the ensuing year, this meeting was open for all people who live in the Parish unlike the APCM which was restricted to those on the Electoral Roll.

3.2. Resolution to remove the 6-year limit for a Warden's term of office. The current rules suggest that Wardens should stand down after 6 years. However, the APCM can vote to waive this rule. Rev Dr Steve Griffiths requested that the meeting consider allowing Wardens to continue in Office for more than 6 years. This was because Barry Snelgrove and Debbie McGill would not be continuing as Wardens and Paul Edwards had completed 6 years in Office. Paul Edwards had indicated that he would be happy to continue as Warden and this would give the necessary continuity needed in these circumstances.

It was proposed by Debbie McGill and seconded by Richard Bunce that the 6 year rule should be set aside for the Parish. This was carried unanimously

3.3. Dinos Kousoulou confirmed that there had been 2 nominations received for the 3 Warden positions, which had been appropriately nominated and seconded, they were:

Paul Edwards,
Cherie Embleton

3.4. As there were no other nominations, the 2 nominees were elected unanimously.

3.5. The meeting was closed at 12.45

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Apologies for absence. No apologies were received.

2. Minutes of the 2023 Annual Parochial Church Meeting

• The minutes of the meeting held on 28th May 2023 were approved unanimously.

3. Matters arising

• No matters were raised.

4. **Parochial Church Council Report.** The PCC had met 4 times under the new rules. Olive Cope and Steven Driver were welcomed to the PCC and Dorothy Kousoulou was elected as a co-opted member to assist Olive with the paperwork and we also welcomed Richard Bunce as an ex-officio member. Tracy Jenkins, Alison Paing, Lekisha Atkinson, Louise Sear, Sue Saull and Lowri Banfield had all completed their 3 years and were thanked for their contributions. Laura Bruce was standing down as Treasurer and the PCC thanked Laura for all her work on the Church Accounts.

The building continues to be opened twice a week.

Ruth Mackay asked if there were any statistics available on visitor numbers. Dinos Kousoulou confirmed that this was one area that needed to be improved. However, his experience was that numbers had slowly increased on Saturdays.

5. **Church Wardens' Report.**

Paul Edwards presented this report on behalf of the Wardens. Thanks were given to Barry Snelgrove and Debbie McGill for their contributions as Wardens. Paul Edwards highlighted the following areas:

- The increased number of volunteers working across different ministries.
- The impact that Richard Bunce has had as Lay Minister.
- The development of the Children and family's area and the relocation of the Refreshment area.
- The Coffee morning and Rowantree Choir event and church being open during Holy Week

Paul Edwards thanked Rev Dr. Steve Griffiths for his dedication and support.

Olive Cope asked if there could be an opportunity to thank the Wardens and for them to give the Congregation a better understanding of their role.

It was agreed that the Sunday after the Wardens' Commissioning should be used for this event.

6. **Financial Report.**

Rev. Dr. Steve Griffiths presented the Draft Annual accounts on behalf of Laura Bruce, the Treasurer. The meeting noted the continued stable financial situation. The current Balance at the end of 2023 was £728,491. This contains a figure from a legacy that will be received over the next 10 years. The contribution from the letting of the Parish Centre, car park and flat has stabilised the financial position and will continue to contribute towards the restoration of the church.

It was noted that there had been a reduction in direct giving which was understandable in the current financial circumstances.

It was proposed By Dinos Kousoulou and seconded by Mark Thebridge that the draft account be adopted. This was carried unanimously.

Laura Bruce was thanked for her assistance in getting the Accounts ready for the meeting. It was noted that Stephen Driver had indicated his willingness to stand as Treasurer and he would be formally appointed at the first meeting of the PCC.

7. **Fabric.** Dinos Kousoulou presented the report which highlighted the delays in obtaining permission from the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) for the replacement of the lighting and internal redecoration of the Church. The repairs to the stained glass window had now been commissioned. It was noted that the Architects had been requested to produce a specification to complete the

necessary work on the clock tower, and once received this would be going to tender before DAC approval is sought. The rainwater system around the Church required significant improvement and quotes for the work are being sought.

Ruth Mackay asked what the likely costs of the internal decoration would be. It was confirmed that this would be in the region of £125-£130,000. Adrian Saull asked if the water damage to the north wall was being addressed before any decoration would be undertaken. It was confirmed that the repairs to the rainwater system should deal with this and the decoration program would only start once this had been completed. Rev. Dr Steve Griffiths informed the meetings that the building was on the Heritage at Risk Register and that there would need to be a separate programme for repairing the pillars that are badly damaged, as this would need extensive work, potentially taking the pillars back to the original stonework.

8. **Appointment of External Examiners.** The meeting noted that Griffin Stone Moscrop & Co. had acted as External Examiners for the Church for many years. It was proposed by Olive Cope and Seconded by Geraldine Clark that they be appointed again for the coming year. This was approved unanimously by the meeting.
9. **Electoral Roll Report.** Debbie McGill reported that the roll stood at 219. Everyone will need to re-register on the roll in 2025.
10. **Appointment of Deanery Synod Representatives.** Dinos Kousoulou confirmed that 3 people could be appointed to represent St Andrews. 2 nominations had been received.

Ruth Mackay Proposed by Dinos Kousoulou and Seconded by Dorothy Kousoulou

Richard Bunce Proposed by Paul Edwards and seconded by Debbie McGill

The meeting voted unanimously to appoint both.

11. **Election of PCC members.**

It was confirmed that there were 9 vacancies on the PCC and that the following nominations had been received prior to the meeting.

Lowri Banfield proposed by Dinos Kousoulou and seconded by Gemma Jameson

Louise Sear proposed by Stephanie Land and seconded by Dinos Kousoulou

Barry Snelgrove proposed by Debbie McGill and seconded by Paul Edwards

Katie Chapman proposed by Paul Edwards and seconded by Debbie McGill

Geraldine Clark proposed by Debbie McGill and Seconded by Dinos Kousoulou

Damian Browne proposed by Patience Wilson seconded by Debbie McGill

Roger Ayrton proposed by Dinos Kousoulou and seconded by Paul Edwards.

As there were no other nominations and there were more vacancies than the nominations received, all were elected onto the PCC.

12. **Reports.**

12.1 Bell Ringers. Chris Trawin's report was noted. Jeremy Taylor highlighted that the Junior section of 8 represents half of the ringers in London. The Bell Ringers were thanked for their efforts especially for all the additional sessions that had been performed over the last year.

12.2 Children and Family Ministry. Kate Ladd presented her report We noted the continued growth in this ministry both in Church and at the School. The Children and family area is still work

in progress. Thanks were extended to all those involved in supporting this ministry. Kate Ladd thanked the Choir for their understanding while the new area was being established.

12.3 Choir. The meeting noted the report. Mark Thebridge encouraged anyone who was interested in joining the choir to contact Philip Shrimpton.

12.4 Christian Meditation Group. We note that the group had recently held its 105th meeting. Olive Cope was thanked for her work in this area.

12.5 Deanery Synod. Ruth Mackay presented the report and extended her thanks to Tony Leach who had recently stood down as a rep. Ruth Mackay has found the meetings interesting and encouraged other to consider standing as a representative.

12.6 Pastoral Care Team. Ruth Mackay presented the report and highlighted that the group's main aim was to maintain contact with members of the congregation who are no longer able to attend Church. Elmhurst Car Home is now being visited regularly and have welcomed the contact..

12.7 Tea and Chat. The meeting noted the report prepared by Diana Lane. 30 people had attended the last event and the group continues to grow in number.

12.8 Vicar's Report. Rev. Dr. Steve Griffiths presented his report. The recovery from the Covid pandemic was now well established. The following elements of the report were highlighted:

- The continued growth in the number of people volunteering across all ministries is a sign of a healthy Church. Thanks were extended to Kate Ladd, Richard Bunce, Cherie Embleton, Andre Ali, Philip Shrimpton, Steph Morton and Irina Ponizova.
- The spiritual growth is reflected across several activities both online and in person as well as the contact with the school
- Church attendance has increased year on year with changes in the pattern of attendance.
- We should celebrate the financial security St. Andrews enjoys
- We need to acknowledge the significant challenges that the Church of England and the Diocese of London is facing over the next 5 to 10 years and that the priority is to steer St Andrews through the various uncertainties.
- We note that Rev Dr Steve Griffiths has completed 10 years of Ministry at St Andrews.
- Rev Dr Steve Griffiths wished to note his thanks to Dinos Kousoulou, Paul Edwards, Debbie McGill, Barry Snelgrove, Adrian Saull and Kate Ladd for their support and in particular to Jo Griffiths.

13 Questions from the floor.

Ascension Day. Olive Cope asked if we could celebrate Ascension Day. The vicar agreed that this would be marked next year. Kate Ladd stated that it had been picked up as a theme at TFG.

Safeguarding Officer. Geraldine Clark asked if a new safeguarding Officer was to be appointed. It was confirmed that this would be undertaken at the first meeting of the PCC.

Rev Dr Steve Griffiths thanked everyone for their attendance and their participation.

The meeting closed in prayer.

The meeting closed at 13.50

Dinos Kousoulou