

**CHRIST CHURCH, SOUTHGATE
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETINGS
held in Church on Sunday 26th May 2024**

Meetings commenced at 11.35 am

Chair: The Rev'd Dr Chrichton Limbert (FrCh)

Prayers: led by Fr Chrichton

In attendance: 25

FrCh said that the meeting would be recorded to help with the minutes.

Apologies for Absence: Kate Carroll, Amy Li, Rev'd Hazel Miall, Philip Miall, Ray Harris, Richard Brain, Kate Macpherson, Stephen Mason, Bea Limbert-Mason.

(1) ANNUAL MEETINGS OF PARISHIONERS

1. Minutes from previous meeting

Minutes from the previous meeting of Sunday 26th May 2023 were accepted nem con.
Proposed: Cathy Dallman; seconded Clare Boulton (CB).

2. Matters Arising

None.

3. Election of Churchwardens

FrCh said that Graham Cook had been nominated by Caroline Robertson and CB; Kate Carroll had been nominated by Claire Edwards and Joanne Leach to stand as the Churchwardens.
Elected: nem con.

4. Any Other Business.

None.

In the absence of any other business, FrCh formally closed the meeting and invited those not on the Electoral Roll to withdraw.

(2) **ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

1. **Minutes from previous meeting**

Minutes from the previous meeting of 26th May 2023 were **accepted nem con.**

Proposed: Sandra Anderson; seconded: Imogen Cooper.

2. **Matters arising from the minutes**

FrCh said that due to some confusion over the official election of LLMs to the Deanery Synod, Sandra Anderson's name had been omitted from the minutes last year as a member of the Deanery Synod, but he confirmed that she did serve as a Deanery Synod representative and would continue to do so until the next round of elections in 2026.

3. **Consideration of reports**

FrCh referred everyone to the Annual Report which had been made available in church and online via the church website.

3a. **Presentation of the Electoral Roll**

Patricia Ashby, the Electoral Roll Officer, confirmed that the final year of the current electoral roll had been completed and it would be due for complete renewal in 2025. Consequently, she said it would be very important for everyone to fill in the electoral forms next year as names would not carry forward. PA said that the final number for 2024 on the roll was 232, 1 fewer than last year. PA thought that this was significant indicating that people often did not fill in the electoral forms as required and urged everyone to encourage others to do so. FrCh said that 9 people had joined but there had been 10 losses due to many deaths this year in the parish and people moving away.

In conclusion, the overall total of the roll had reduced by 1 from 233 in May 2023, to 232 in May 2024.

3b. **Consideration of the Annual Report of the proceedings of the PCC and the activities of the Parish**

FrCh referred everyone to the annual report.

FrCh said when he had written his report it had felt a long time ago as it covered the calendar year of 2023. He said 2022 had ended with Christmas bouncing back up after COVID, with 2023 being the first proper post COVID year back with proper attendance including 654 at Christmas.

FrCh highlighted the following events

- a number of marriages, baptisms and funerals had taken place;
- Fr Paul Ellerby had been ordained as Priest;
- ABRSM exams had taken place in the church;
- various talks and visits had taken place – the Enfield Society; the Friends of the William Morris Society; Palmers Green U3A (a group that would be returning to visit in August 2024); a talk about the windows by FrCh to the Probus Club in Ware.
- St Paul's New Southgate had used the church gardens for a quiet day for their PCC;
- the Undertaker's memorial service had taken place with Seawards;
- the CCA bar had been opened;
- the Harvest quiz had gone well;
- the choir had trips to Hereford and Truro Cathedrals and had been filmed by French and German TV.
- he was delighted to record that the average yearly number of children under 16 attending church had risen by 50% from 10 in 2022 to 15 in 2023, which counted as amongst the top figures in the Church of England. Jill Holiday said that she thought that the reason there were so many children attending was because Christ Church made a big effort to be very welcoming and tolerant towards them. FrCh agreed and added that the large number of school visits also helped.

FrCh said that, although it had not taken place in 2023, he had wanted to draw attention to the great and sad loss of Clive Woodhouse who had been on the PCC, the Finance and Standing committee and had been a stalwart of so many other things at Christ Church.

FrCh wanted to record his thanks to his wonderful clergy team for their support and all their work: Fr Paul Ellerby, Rev Hazel Miall, Cathy Dallman, Jackie Anderson, Sandra Anderson, Amy Li, Anna Hughes and Claire Betts (before she had left). He also wanted to record many thanks to Clare Boulton, Kate Carroll, Graham Cook and Judith Limbert for all their sterling work to support him in particular. In conclusion, he said it had been a very, very good year.

FrCh drew attention to the following in the Annual Report:

- the Outreach Report including the website, the Vicar’s weekly newsletter, the Spire and talks & visits.
- the Sidesmen’s report. He said that the register was now 19 and passed on thanks from Judith and Ronald Lo to the sidesmen, which he echoed.
- Judith Limbert’s Children and Youth report which detailed a lot of activity including arts and crafts and record number of schools and children; he said over 1000 children had visited Christ Church either with schools or for other services.
- Richard Brain’s Director of Music Report. FrCh reminded everyone that since the report had been written Richard and his wife Kate Macpherson (the organist) would now be leaving Christ Church as Richard had accepted the post of Head of Music at Haileybury School. FrCh said that an exhaustive process had been conducted to appoint a replacement and a fabulous candidate had been selected. He said that once the DBS checks had been completed an announcement would be made and he would start in September. FrCh said the candidate was in his early 30s, currently worked as a musical administrator in a London Cathedral, had glowing references and had proved very popular with all choir members. He said he was steeped in an understanding of the church as his grandfather had been a Bishop and his father once a Cathedral Dean, was currently responsible for 6 countryside parishes.
- Social Responsibility Committee Report which detailed much wonderful fund raising and charity donations;
- Eco Report which highlighted the Jubilee plaque, return of the bees and no mow May which had been extended this year.
- Safeguarding
- Health and Safety

3c. **Finance Report and Acceptance of the Audited Accounts**

CB referred everyone to the Annual Report and the Accounts.

- CB said that the audited consolidated accounts covered all 4 main funds ie the Parochial, Parish Centre, the Spire Magazine and Social Responsibility Funds - the total income was £286,643 and the total expenditure was £270,528 giving an overall surplus across those 4 funds of £16,115.
- CB said that all the properties (Flats 6&7 The Green, the Parish Centre and Oakfield Road) had been revalued and as the market had changed dramatically since the last valuation, this had added £781,121 to the total funds carried forward so there was now £4,192,633 in assets.
- CB said unrestricted income of the parochial church fund had been £223,924 an 18% increase on the previous year thanks to a very generous legacy, an increase in donations and from hiring the church out for ABRSM exams. CB confirmed that ABRSM would also be hiring the church in 2024 and that there would be income from using the church as a polling station for the local and general elections in 2024 .
- CB said unrestricted expenditure had been £177,906. She said that expenditure across the board was going up - cost of gas and electricity had risen by 17% on the previous year. She said that gas bills during the winter could be nearly £2000 a month whilst other expenditure was subject to inflationary increases. However, she said that due to the generosity of the parishioners and by trying to maximise income in different ways, there had been a surplus of £46,018.

- CB referred to the church's restricted funds which covered things such as the fabric, music, choral scholars, bees etc. She explained that costs spent on the church fabric were always high hence there was a deficit showing of £26,587 but confirmed that this was all planned, one-off expenditure and the necessary consequence of looking after a beautiful building and being able to enjoy the fantastic choir and music.
- CB said that going forward there would be significant expenditure in 2024, totally nearly £100,000, which had been agreed by the PCC. This included the recent completion of electrical upgrade work; the forthcoming underboarding of the chancel roof to prevent any more plaster falls; the forthcoming roof repair to the Lady Chapel; and the recent installation of new windows at Oakfield Road. CB said replacing the windows had been money well spent as they had not been safe or watertight and it would allow for maximising rental income at slightly higher levels in due course as the property was now in a better state. She said they were being careful re spending for the rest of the year and going forward and aiming to maximise income as much as possible. She referred to Mick Meur's regular article in the Spire re regular giving and confirmed many people were in the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) which was the best and easiest way to receive income from parishioners. However, CB said that many people had been lost from the PGS in 2024 for various reasons leading to a significant monthly loss of about £1000. She said they would need to encourage people not already in the PGS, to join, and a stewardship campaign was planned for later in the year.
- CB wanted to record her grateful thanks to all the volunteers that helped manage the money – counting it after the services and for the SRC - and in particular extended her personal thanks to Mick Meur for his stewardship services and tireless support of CB and the church, and also to John Macrory. CB said none of it could be done without everybody's help.

CB proposed the acceptance of the accounts; proposed Patricia Ashby; seconded Ronald Lo.

Accepted: nem con.

FrCh expressed his great thanks to CB in her role as Treasurer and for all her hard work with helping to produce the audited accounts. She received a round of applause. Mick Meur raised the issue that now the accounts were audited, they had become very complicated and too difficult for people to understand. FrCh and CB agreed but explained that it was as a consequence of a change in the law and that as Christ Church was a registered charity it had to comply with a new reporting standard. CB said she was happy to provide a simplified version for the APCM next year in addition to the required version. FrCh also confirmed that all the relevant numbers were in CB's report in the Annual Report and CB said she could put a copy in the Spire or leave copies at the back of church if people wished.

3d. **Fabric Report**

FrCh referred everyone to KC's report in her absence. He highlighted:

- Architect: the London Diocese had ratified the appointment of Touseer Ahmad of Carew Architects as the church architect in 2023.
- Chancel Floor: there had been structural surveys and investigations on the chancel floor re its potential collapse. Quotes received for the repair work had ranged between £370 and £500 excluding vat but the structural engineer Ed Morton confirmed that as the floor had not shown signs of further movement, it would be sufficient to set in place a programme of more minor repairs and monitoring. FrCh confirmed that as a result the choir stalls had been levelled and the cracked tiles would be replaced with specially commissioned replica tiles in June by Cliveden Conservation.
- Chancel Ceiling: after a plaster fall above the altar, the chancel would be now be overboarded like the nave and confirmed the faculty had been approved and work would take place in the summer.
- Lady Chapel: FrCh confirmed that the faculty had been approved to allow for the repair of a leak in the Lady Chapel roof.
- Electrics: the 5-year electrical check and replacement of breaker circuit boards had been completed. FrCh asked if there were any questions. There were none.

3e. **Deanery Synod**

FrCh referred everyone to the Report. Ronald Lo said that FrCh had been appointed as Deanery Sub Dean. FrCh said that a Deanery Synod had been hosted at Christ Church and that John Macrory had now resigned as a lay member of the Deanery Synod.

4. **Elections and Appointments**

a) Representatives to the PCC

Caroline Robertson, PCC secretary, said that the ending of the terms of office of Angela Parker and Chris Howell and the passing of Clive Woodhouse had left 7 vacancies on the PCC, 4 having been carried over from the previous year.

She said the following 5 had applied for election to the PCC

Christopher Chessum	proposed by Philip Miall; seconded by Judith Lo
Sophie Cook	proposed by Jennifer Wooten; seconded by Sandra Anderson
Youla Hadjidaniel	proposed by Judith Limbert; seconded by Clare Boulton
Stephen Mason	proposed by Richard Brain; seconded by Emily Wilson
Angela Parker	proposed by Christopher Chessum; seconded by Adrian Hill

FrCh thanked them all for agreeing to stand and to Angela for standing again. He thanked Chris Howell who had been prevented by ill health from attending meetings and also recognised again Clive Woodhouse's contribution to the PCC saying that he would be much missed.

FrCh proposed that all those nominated should be elected. **Agreed nem.con**

b) Deanery Synod Representative

There were no nominations to replace John Macrory in the Deanery Synod.

c) Anthony Croft Ezekiel Independent Examiner/Auditor

CB confirmed that it was likely that the accounts would be audited in future, rather than just examined, because once income was over £250,000 and assets over £3,260,000 then an audit was always required.

CB proposed the reappointment of Anthony Croft Ezekiel for the following year. Seconded by Ronald Lo. **Agreed: nem.con**

5. **Any Other Business**

On behalf of the parish, Graham Cook gave a vote of thanks to Rev'd Hazel, Fr Paul and Fr Chrichton for all that they did for worship at Christ church and for the wider life of the parish and said that it would be impossible to overstate everything that they did, especially FrCh. He said the parish was very fortunate to have FrCh as their incumbent and it was good for everyone to acknowledge it. He also thanked Judith Limbert for everything that she did, including helping with social media, the children's corner and the quiz. He led the parishioners in a round of applause. CR said that all documents for the meeting were on the website but she would be happy print out anything for individuals if requested.

There being no other business, FrCh declared the meeting closed.

Date of next Annual Meeting Sunday 25th May 2025 to be confirmed

CR: 05/06/24