

## ST. MARY MAGDALENE, ASHTON ON MERSEY

Annual Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting in St Mary's Church Hall, Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2022

### SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING

1 The meeting opened with a prayer.

2 **Present:** 43 members and the Vicar, Steve Rankin (chair).

**Apologies:** Alec Brownsmith, Andrew Campbell, Angus Campbell, Carol Dodgson, Nathan Gregory, Shauna Hancock, Joan Heys, Lorna Hitchen, Ann McBurney, Jeff McBurney

#### 4 **Churchwarden's Report:**

Wardens: John Vaughan and Anne Keast.

John Vaughan presented the Churchwarden's report:

- The feature of this year has been beginning a move back to normality and balancing the various conflicting needs
- In-person attendance has been lower than before the pandemic but we are hopeful more will return in time
- Thank you too all those involved in helping with our services (tech, wardens, sidespeople, refreshments etc)
- Thank you to Steve for keeping things going during the period of time we had no Associate Vicar
- There are some issues around the premises to deal with including repairs to the roof, the carpark etc. Thank you to Norman and Alec for their continued maintenance work around the building, and to the gardening team for their work in the church grounds
- Our Quinquennial is due to take place in September
- The Terrier has been completed
- Please continue to pray for the gradual move back to normality

#### 5 **Ministry Update – Nathan Gregory, Associate Vicar:**

Nathan gave an update via video

- Thank you to the church for the welcome and support that has been received during such a big transition for Nathan and his family
- Although only having been here for a few months, Nathan highlighted some key things that have stood out about St Mary's and Sale West. These included the "Yes attitude" of church, that it's noticeable the church is willing to try new things, how sturdy we are as volunteers, and our desire to serve.

#### 6 **Election of Churchwardens:**

It was accepted and approved by all, with no abstentions, that both John Vaughan and Anne Keast continue in their role of Churchwardens.

### SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

**Present:** 43 members and the Vicar, Steve Rankin (chair).

**Apologies:** Alec Brownsmith, Andrew Campbell, Angus Campbell, Carol Dodgson, Nathan Gregory, Shauna Hancock, Joan Heys, Lorna Hitchen, Ann McBurney, Jeff McBurney

1 The Summary Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2021 were accepted and approved.

#### 2 **2021 Accounts:**

Brian Macfaden presented the summary accounts.

The accounts were approved. Proposer: Avtar Diggwa, Seconder: Anne Keast, all in favour, no abstentions

The financial overview included:

- We had expected a significant deficit in the General Fund of £37,000 but finished the year with a surplus of £7,295
- 96% of our income came from the regular giving of church members
- Regular giving has remained very strong over the last three years, but we are seeing a slow decline
- Cash, donations, and centre lettings are much lower this year
- Planned giving, corrected for inflation, shows a downward trend in income
- The majority of spending is on salaries – the people who make ministry happen
- We gave £39,000 to missions in 2021, this includes both missions and SWCUT
- Our Parish Share was £20,000 less last year due to 4 months without an Associate Vicar

- We had a part-time Youth Worker in place of a full time Youth Pastor
- Centre running costs were lower due to the centre not being used as much and our energy contract being a fixed rate
- Currently we have reserves for 5 months
- Thank you to all who continue to give to St Mary's and Sale West so faithfully
- Our accounts are all available online ([www.stmarysaom.org/financialreports](http://www.stmarysaom.org/financialreports))

Steve expressed his thanks on behalf of the church to Brian Macfaden, Insook Snudden and Joan Heys for their work on the finances.

### 3 Election of Independent Examiner:

It is a requirement that we have an Independent Examiner, Sue Suchoparek is willing to re-stand and this was approved.  
Proposer: Frances Hyde, Seconder: Helen Jarvis, all in favour, no abstentions

### 4 Ministry Update – Carol Dodgson (Update on SWCUT)

Carol gave an update via video. The work Carol is doing for the Sale West Community Urban Trust, through mentoring and craft groups, has engaged around 150 people from the community over the last year. Carol then shared a story about Sarah and her personal journey after encountering the work Carol is doing.

Steve added that the work Carol is doing is continually building connections with people on the Sale West Estate and we're now beginning to see people from Sale West journeying to Christ

### 5 Elections:

Readers – Brian Macfaden, Outi Rankin

Pastoral Workers – Gill Hart, Mags Holt, Ann McBurney

Deanery Synod – Jeff McBurney, Avtar Diggwa, Rosemary Sigeo, Ian Thwaites

**Parochial Church Council:** We have 12 places available for the PCC 2022/23, for a 1-year term. 11 names were submitted.

Following on from an election the following people were appointed to serve on the PCC:

*Dave Atkinson, Jeremy Barnes, Janet Darlow, Graham Fosh, Joan Heys, Lorna Hitchen, Frances Hyde, Helen Jarvis, Matthew Kay, Barbara Shimmings, Elaine Jones.*

Proposal to accept the PCC elections, Proposer: Rosemary Sigeo, Seconder: John Vaughan. All in favour, no abstentions.

### 6 Ministry Updates:

#### Steve Rankin (general update on St Mary's and Sale West)

- All services have now re-opened with a different uptake at each – 11.15 is as strong/stronger as pre-pandemic, 9.30 lost some of the fringe of young families but is rebuilding, Sale West – moved from a morning service to 4pm in order to allow Steve to lead all services while we awaited the appointment of Nathan. For now, the time cannot be changed back due to other bookings taking place. Some Sale West members have moved to the 9.30 and 11.15 services. 7pm is still reshaping/reforming after Jane Beaumont's retirement, numbers picking up but more slowly.
- Faith Matters has continued on Zoom. Nathan is leading the next course online, and Steve is leading an in-person course at Sale West
- Fuel initially shrank after moving online but has picked up again since moving back in person.
- Figures for children and youth put St Mary's at number one in the diocese for work with under 16's, and number twenty nine in the country (of 16.5k Anglican churches).

#### Julie Loynd (update on Children's Work)

- Coming out of lockdown, God said very clearly to re-open in September, which we did
- It was important to give previous volunteers permission to step down. We had 40% of Junior Church volunteers step down, which meant, because of the required adult:child ratios, Junior Church couldn't operate as it had done pre-pandemic.
- We now have a children's congregation in hall for those in reception to year 6, and a Stay and Play group for younger children which has provided an opportunity to connect with parents
- Key to the vision is that God's family is important, and collective worship is part of each session
- Approx. 50 children attend every week, with material being differentiated so all ages can understand
- Julie expressed her thanks to those volunteers who continued, and those who joined the team
- Praise to God that we've been able to keep going

#### Alex Stewart (update on Youth Work)

- Before September we had around 12-16 attending on a Friday night, this has increased to around 30+ every week
- Of 27 young people, 11 made a commitment at a recent Friday night when a team from Festival Manchester came to speak. This has highlighted the need for ongoing support and discipleship.
- Cross Roads was set up to encourage young people to grow and develop in their relationship with God

Steve added that Alex's time is split between Trafford Youth for Christ, St Alban's, and St Mary's and Sale West.

## 7 **Future Plans**

Steve shared some thoughts on the coming year:

- Challenges we face include finances, and volunteers (children, youth, musicians, tech, refreshments etc). A lot of our ministries this year have been tweaked around the infrastructure we have. Fuel in particular will suddenly grow when the year 6's move up after Whit. While we continue to be as flexible as we can we need more volunteers in certain areas.
- As a church we are excited about the momentum we are seeing grow within our children and youth ministries, especially as these also bring in parents and whole families.
- Festival Manchester is coming up in July.
- Nathan continues to research church planting and we will hopefully begin to hear more this year
- There is a desire for ministry to continue as we come out of the pandemic; we are still being cautious but are moving together towards what that ministry might look like.

8 **Electoral Roll Report:** Following the statutory renewal of the Electoral Roll, there are 431 names on the Roll.

9 **The meeting closed with prayer at 6.15pm.**