

## ST. MARY MAGDALENE, ASHTON ON MERSEY

Annual Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting in St Mary's Church Hall, Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2024

### SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING

- 1 The meeting opened with a prayer.
- 2 **Present:** 57 members, the Associate Vicar, Nathan Gregory, and the Incumbent, Steve Rankin (chair)  
**Apologies:** Rosemary Sigee, Colin Baldwin, Hazel Baldwin, Janet Turnbull
- 3 The summary minutes of Annual Vestry Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2023 were accepted and approved.  
**Proposer:** Jeff McBurney, **Seconder:** Anne Keast. All in favour, one abstention
- 4 **CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT:**  
Wardens: John Vaughan and Yorke Menzies

John Vaughan & Yorke Menzies presented the Churchwarden's report:

- Members were directed to read the Annual Report for more detail on all that has happened over the last year
- This year various jobs required following the Quinquennial inspection have been completed, including repairs to the south porch entrance costing around £8,000. Additional work is being planned and so we expect some significant works to be undertaken in the coming year.
- John Vaughan thanked all those who help look after the building, including Norman Elston, Alec Brownsmith and Phil Lawton, as well as those on the gardening and church cleaning teams.
- Yorke Menzies thanked the deputy wardens and sidespeople for their commitment behind the scenes which helps ensure church runs smoothly every week

Steve Rankin thanked both John and Yorke for all their work over the last year

- 5 **ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS:**  
It was accepted and approved by all, with no abstentions, that both John Vaughan and Yorke Menzies take up the role of Churchwardens again this year. **Proposer:** Ian Thwaites, **Seconder:** Ann McBurney.

**The Vestry Meeting closed and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting was opened.**

### SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

- 1 **Present:** 57 members, the Associate Vicar, Nathan Gregory, and the Incumbent, Steve Rankin (chair)  
**Apologies:** Rosemary Sigee, Colin Baldwin, Hazel Baldwin, Janet Turnbull
- 2 The summary minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2023 were accepted and approved by all, with no abstentions, subject to the date being amended from 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023 to 24<sup>th</sup> April 2022. **Proposer:** Elaine Jones, **Seconder:** Jeremy Barnes.
- 3 **SUMMARY OF THE ANNUAL REPORT 2023**  
The Annual Report includes all the financial details from the past year plus stories from all ministry areas.
- 4 **2022 ACCOUNTS:**  
Brian Macfaden presented the summary accounts which were then approved with all in favour and no abstentions.  
**Proposer:** Helen Jarvis, **Seconder:** Graham Fosh.

The financial overview included:

- Last year the PCC agreed a budget that included a deficit in the general fund of £7,000. At the end of the year the account had a surplus of around £1000. This difference was predominantly down to three significant gifts being given, and a change in the youth worker role that meant money was saved.
- There was a lightning strike which damaged electrical equipment but this was covered by insurance with the exception of a £250 excess.
- The Maintenance & Development fund finished with surplus of £12,000
- Butterflies Pre-School had a deficit of £18,000, which was expected due to a difficult previous year leading to a reduction in children. Most of the deficit was from the first term and they are now back to a much healthier position
- The Heartbeat Café and other funds made a surplus of £1000
- In total we made a £4,000 deficit

- Brian Macfaden explained some of the key changes to income which included:
  - Income increasing from £280,000 in 2022 to £302,000 in 2023
  - One-off donations increasing from £1,000 in 2022 to £15,000 in 2023
  - Income from Church Centre lettings increasing from £42,000 in 2022 to £46,000 in 2023
  - We saw a 7.4% increase in our income
- Almost three quarters of our expenditure is on staff salaries, including the Parish Share paid for clergy
- The PCC plan to give at least 10% of our income to mission and last year the PCC gave £39,000 to mission
- Key changes to expenditure included:
  - Giving to mission increasing to £4,000 as a result of the increase in income
  - An increased amount paid for youth and children's workers
  - Church Centre running costs increasing
- We finished the year with £143,000 in the bank, which is mainly within the Maintenance & Development fund
- Brian talked about the impact of inflation on our income over the last three years. Church members were encouraged to review their giving every year, regardless of whether this led to an increase or decrease.
- For 2024 the PCC have approved a budget with a projected deficit of £57,000 because they are keen to take up all the ministry opportunities we have, particularly around children & youth and church planting which are areas that Chester Diocese and the Church of England are focussing on
- Brian reflected on the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St Mary's and the people who, at that time, looked ahead and built a church that would achieve so much for the kingdom of God. He encouraged all members to prayerfully consider how they give
- Our accounts are all available online ([www.stmarysaom.org/financialreports](http://www.stmarysaom.org/financialreports))

## 5 ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

There are 409 names on the Electoral Roll, this is a decrease from 413 last year

## 6 ELECTIONS:

The following automatically receive a place on the PCC:

- **Deanery Synod Members**, elected every three years:  
*Dave Atkinson, Avtar Diggwa, Matthew Kay, Jeff McBurney, Rosemary Sigee, Ian Thwaites*
- **Readers**, ex-officio members of the PCC:  
*Brian Macfaden, Outi Rankin*
- **Pastoral Workers**, ex-officio members of the PCC:  
*Mags Holt, Karen MacMillan, Ann McBurney*

Gill Hart is retiring this year as a pastoral worker. Steve Rankin thanked Gill for her time serving as a pastoral worker, and particularly for all she has done at Sale West.

The following elections took place:

- **Parochial Church Council**  
There are 15 places available for the PCC 2024/25, for a 1-year term. 12 names were submitted. Following on from an election the following people were appointed to serve on the PCC:  
*Ada Adiu-Brown, Rotimi Bajela, Jeremy Barnes, Janet Darlow, Joan Heys, Frances Hyde, Helen Jarvis, Elaine Jones, Brian Macfaden, Claire Nathan, Barbara Shimmings, John Vincent*

The proposal to accept the PCC elections was approved with all in favour and no abstentions.

- **Independent Examiner**

It is a requirement that we have an Independent Examiner. Sue Suchoparek is willing to re-stand and this was approved with all in favour and no abstentions.

## 7 MINISTRY STORIES

### Children & Youth

Julie Loynd gave an update on Children and Youth. Highlights included:

- The new vision for children and youth is to see them:
  - KNOW God – though providing Biblical foundations so they know and understand God's character better
  - GROW in their faith – enabling and supporting children and young people to develop their faith
  - SHOW their faith – encouraging children and young people to demonstrate their faith to those around them
  - For all of these to happen, children need to CONNECT with God in order to turn their 'head-knowing' faith into a 'heart-loving' faith where they encounter the living God.
- There are now three areas of children and youth ministry focussing on 0-4's, Children (4-11's) and Youth (11-18's)
- Julie has taken on a new role now as Children, Youth & Families Director and will be overseeing a team comprising of a part-time 0-4's Worker, a part-time Children's Worker, and a full-time Youth Worker.

- Julie shared some examples of the what is happening within Caterpillars, which provides a great evangelistic opportunity with young families in the community, Junior Church, including connections with local schools, and family events such as the new One Big Family services, Scratch Nativity, Mind of their Own course etc. There are exciting things happening with our young people too
- Julie finished by thanking everyone for their support, prayers, and all the help given

### **Sale West**

Carol Dodgson shared an update of what is happening at Sale West and through Sale West Community Urban Trust (SWCUT)

- Carol is now working full time as the Children and Families Worker at Sale West combined with being the Community Engagement Worker for SWCUT.
- 8 funding applications were submitted last year and all were successful, including one large funder that will cover two thirds of the costs of and allows some longevity in the work
- Carol connects with the community through activities which allows relationships to grow. Activities include a Men's support group, creative groups, a bereavement support group led in partnership with social prescribers, BluSci
- The aim of the groups is to create a place of belonging for people, where people are accepted and there's no judgement. People from different backgrounds are coming together and supporting each other
- Carol shared some statistics on how the groups have positively impacted people's confidence, reduced anxiety, helped them feel less isolated and increased their sense of motivation.
- People have been allowing people to pray for them, and some are experiencing God and coming to faith. This is having a generational impact on children from those families.
- Carol is also part of the Myriad church planting/Sale West revitalisation team. She shared that there is a vibrancy at Sale West now, and they have a vision to provide a home of light. Everyone is accepted and the team are creating a safe place.
- The children's work has been re-established at Sale West. The team are also planning to run a Faith Matters course, and have been given bursary tickets for a family to attend New Wine.
- Carol is in discussion with Firs Primary School to see how she can support children in school that are struggling to engage

The church Children's and Family Worker and SWCUT Community Engagement Worker roles have historically been separate but are now Carol is doing both. Steve Rankin clarified that the funding obtained was applied for via Sale West Community Urban Trust as part of Carol's community work.

## **8 DEANERY SYNOD REPORT**

Jeff McBurney gave an update on the Deanery Synod.

- Bowdon Deanery comprises of 16 parishes which are made up of 13 benefices.
- St Mary's has 6 representatives on the Deanery Synod, which is more than most churches due to our size
- The Deanery Synod meet regularly to allow churches to share news from around the Deanery.
- Meetings include a visiting speaker and this year talks have included: how churches can become more inclusive, Emmanuel College Theological Training, and the environment and how churches can move towards being net zero
- As well as a presentation, meetings provide time to talk to other churches, there's a time of worship, and reports are given from the Diocesan Synod and General Synod.
- Jeff directed everyone to the Annual Report for a more detailed update written by Rosemary Sigee

## **9 MINISTRY STORIES**

### **Church Planting**

Steve Rankin gave an update on church planting:

- Steve shared some research on how people engage with church for the first time and talked about the changes in demographic in our parish over recent years
- Church planting aims to be:
  - Mission Centred – primarily focussed on those outside of the church
  - Adapting to the context – meeting people where they are and having them belong
  - Forming disciples – building relationships and helping people grow in their faith.
  - Creating a Jesus-centred community – church plant teams are exploring how they can reach out into a new community and create a Jesus-centred community.
- Church planting is about being more outward looking rather than expecting people to come into church.
- Steve has also joined the Diocesan Church Planting Strategy Group and is working with the Diocese in their goal to reach the 1.5 million people who do not have any connection with God.

## **7 Future Plans**

Nathan Gregory shared some of the vision and plans for the coming year:

- One major change this last year has been a restructure of the staff team, in particular the swap in roles for Steve and Nathan's. Nathan expressed how humbled he was that Steve has entrusted him to take on the new responsibilities and thanked Steve for being willing to hand over to him
- We were reminded that last year Alex was here but he has now moved on. We are grateful to Trafford Youth For Christ for seconding Dave to us to oversee the youth for a season.
- During what's felt like a transition period God has still been at work and we've be able to see people come to faith and become disciples
- Nathan shared some stories of people who have come into St Mary's, come to faith through Alpha, through Fuel etc and who are now exploring being baptised or confirmed, and who are continuing to grow in their faith
- Big priorities for the coming year include Church Planting and Children & Youth. Alongside that Nathan wants to see a bigger focus on praying together as a church
- There will also be a focus on the pastoral care of everyone through creating teams to put energy and focus back into our existing congregations
- John Vaughan and Yorke Menzies have agreed to represent St Mary's in Churches Together in Sale and this will hopefully lead to more mission opportunities together with other churches
- It was highlighted that we don't want to neglect one another in our mission and so hopes to begin to explore how we may reach out to, and support, others including those who are retired.
- Nathan thanked everyone for all they do in supporting the mission and ministry of St Mary's

**8 A.O.B**

There were no items of other business

**9 The meeting closed with prayer at 6.35pm.**