**Parish of St. Mary the Virgin, Kenton**

**Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

**held in the Church on Sunday 14th May 2023**

**immediately following the Annual Meeting of Parishioners.**

**Present :** The Revd R. Norman, The Revd M. Still, Miss J. Clarke and Mr. K. Elliott

(Churchwardens) and 28 electors.

The meeting commenced at 11.52am.

1. **Apologies:** Mrs Debra Griffiths, Miss Angela Haines & Mrs Mary Haines.
2. **Minutes of the previous Meeting**

The minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Sunday 22nd May 2022 had been circulated to all on the Parish e-mail list. They were proposed by The Revd. Mike Still, seconded by Mrs. Gloria Cowans and agreed unanimously.

1. **Electoral Roll Report**

Mrs Cynthia Yorke reported that there were 111 persons recorded on the Electoral Roll this year (109 in 2022). 2 had moved away (Sherri Kapadia and Zahina Ramdahanie), but there were 4 additions making a net gain of 2, with 55 resident within the Parish and 56 non-resident.

1. **Approval and Adoption of the Annual Report**

Fr. Richard Norman outlined the content of the Annual Report, which included the Annual Report on Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council, the Annual Report on Fabric, the Annual Report of Meetings of the Harrow Deanery Synod and the Annual Report on Finances.

He invited any questions or comments from the floor, but there were none.

The Annual Report and Accounts was therefore proposed for adoption by Miss Johnette Clarke, seconded by Mrs. Pat Edwards and agreed unanimously.

1. **Elections and Appointments**

**5.1 Representatives of the Parish on Harrow Deanery Synod**

2 vacancies existed for election to the Harrow Deanery Synod. The following were Proposed and

Seconded:

1) Prof. Luke Rajan

2) Mrs. Leila Bullard

They were both elected unopposed.

**5.2 Members of the Parochial Church Council**

12 vacancies existed for election to the Parochial Church Council.

The following were Proposed and Seconded:

1) Mr. Robbie Anand

2) Mrs. Janet Cameron

3) Mrs. Gloria Cowans

4) Mrs. Patricia Edwards

5) Mr. David Griffiths

6) Ms. Beauty Huntley

7) Ms. Bernadette Labastide

8) Ms. Joanna Service

9) Mrs. Jean Williams

10) Mrs. Cynthia Yorke

They were all elected unopposed.

* 1. **5.3 Independent Examiner**
  2. Sheila Burt(former Treasurer at St Thomas, Hanwell) had very kindly stepped in at the last minute to inspect our accounts this year and had done a very thorough job. She had also offered to
  3. inspect them again next year. Mrs. Sheila Burt was proposed by Mr. David Griffiths, seconded by
  4. Ms. Beauty Huntley and agreed unanimously.

**6. Incumbent's Remarks**

Fr Richard remarked upon a very successful Stewardship Campaign earlier this year, entitled "With Gratitude and Hope". He thanked Mr. David Griffiths for compiling the Annual Report, and Sheila Burt, our Independent Examiner. Also Steve Purcell (who facilitated Sheila's appointment); and previous Independent Examiner, George Pascoe. He also thanked Jean Williams for her conscientious and faithful work as (retiring) Honorary Treasurer.

He also thanked Cynthia Yorke and the serving team; Peter Crawford and the choir; Pat Edwards and other welcomers; and Gloria Cowans and the catering team. All had worked hard to ensure that recent celebrations of Easter and the Coronation were splendid and enjoyable. He added thanks to those who had cleaned the church for Easter on Holy Saturday; and to Lorna Abbott and those who maintain the beauty and appearance of our church on a weekly basis.

Fr Richard was grateful to those who had taken on new roles, and to all who give of their time and talents. He also thanked those who give generously financially, and to those who make the special gift of fervent prayer. Additionally, he thanked those who represent St Mary's to the wider Church: to Leila Bullard as a Deanery Synod representative, and Margaret Davies as our liaison with ACAT (Action by Christians Against Torture). He also expressed thanks to the member churches of the Kenton Group of Churches, and to our brother and sister Christians who now use our church and hall: Emanuel Romanian Pentecostal Church, the Antiochian Orthodox, Potters House and the Grace Bible Reading Centre.

He paid tribute to the clergy who have assisted this parish over the past year - particularly during the interregnum: Fr Bernard, Fr Leslie, Fr Jason and Fr Mike (for all done on and off the altar). In particular, Fr Richard thanked Johnette and Ken who as Churchwardens had navigated the parish through the vacancy and had done (and continue to do) so much behind the scenes. He thanked everyone for the warmth of welcome he had received and for their commitment to this church, to the parish, to our mission and ministry under God.

Fr Richard then spoke about the importance of legacy - to ensure that future generations can experience worship in the beauty of holiness. There will be many challenges, but we face them with hope. He spoke about the challenges of coming as a new Vicar to a parish; and reiterated the words from the advertisement for the vacancy: 'At the heart of our Catholic faith and worship at St Mary's is the daily recitation of the Divine Office and the daily Mass' and he asked whether this was true? He asked everyone to pray for renewal - to discern God's will for us as a parish and as individual Christians; and to place prayer, especially the Office and the Eucharist at the absolute centre of our lives.

In conclusion, he suggested that 'to do God's will' involved three strands, in two directions in pursuit of one goal. The one goal if faithfulness to the Father; the two directions are within and beyond the Church; and the three strands are worship, fellowship and service - love of God, love of one another in this church family, and love of our neighbour wherever we encounter him or her in need.

Discerning and doing, and both with hope - and both with gratitude for all that God is doing in this place.

**7. Closing Prayer & Blessing**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12.10pm with a blessing given by Fr Richard.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

David Griffiths

14th May 2023