

Parish of St. Mary the Virgin, Kenton
Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
held in the Church Hall on Sunday 12th May 2024
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 23 electors.

The meeting commenced at 12.10pm.

1. **Apologies:** Prof. Luke Anand, Mr Robbie Anand, Mrs Debra Griffiths, Ms Beauty Huntley, Ms Pretty Huntley, Ms Kimberley Huntley Nidge, Mrs Cynthia Yorke.
2. **Minutes of the previous Meeting**
The minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Sunday 14th May 2023 had been circulated to all on the Parish e-mail list and distributed to those attending the meeting. They were proposed by Mr Peter Crawford, seconded by Mrs Patricia Edwards and agreed unanimously.
3. **Electoral Roll Report**
Mrs Cynthia Yorke had sent her apologies, but had provided a written report to confirm that there were 118 persons recorded on the Electoral Roll this year (111 in 2023). One parishioner (Mary Haines, had sadly died), but there were 8 additions, with 57 residing within the Parish and 61 non-resident.
4. **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, and Joanna Service as Parish Safeguarding Officer, confirmed that she had completed all the necessary training required by the Diocese and had recently completed her Induction to the role. She added that although she may be the 'named' official, safeguarding is everybody's business. She encouraged all PCC members to complete their safeguarding training.
The Annual Report and Accounts was proposed for adoption by Fr Mike Still, seconded by Mrs. Janet Cameron and agreed unanimously.
5. **Elections and Appointments**
5.1 Members of the Parochial Church Council
12 vacancies existed for election to the Parochial Church Council.
The following were Proposed and Seconded:
 - 1) Mrs. Sakunthala Ahluwalia
 - 2) Mrs. Janet Cameron
 - 3) Mrs. Gloria Cowans
 - 4) Mrs. Patricia Edwards
 - 5) Mr. David Griffiths
 - 6) Ms. Bernadette Labastide
 - 7) Ms. Talatu Comfort Masozera
 - 8) Ms. Carmin Paul
 - 9) Ms. Joanna Service
 - 10) Mrs. Jean Williams
 - 11) Mrs. Cynthia Yorke

Mr David Griffiths (Hon PCC Secretary) explained that under new legislation, any member present could request an election for all those nominated as PCC members. In that case, each one would have to be voted for. No-one requested an election and therefore they were all elected unopposed.

5.2 Independent Examiner

Sheila Burt (former Treasurer at St Thomas, Hanwell) had inspected our accounts last year and offered to do so again this year. She was very thorough. She had also offered to inspect them again next year. Mrs. Sheila Burt was proposed by Mr David Griffiths, seconded by Mrs Nancee Walker and agreed unanimously.

6. Incumbent's Remarks

Fr Richard said that his verbal report supplemented what had been written in the Annual Report. He thanked the Churchwardens, Johnette Clark and Ken Elliott; and the PCC members and Standing Committee. He also thanked Mr. David Griffiths for compiling the Annual Report, and Sheila Burt, our Independent Examiner.

He gave thanks for those who were involved in the wider life of the Parish: Cynthia Yorke as Electoral Roll Officer, Sacristan and Head Server; and the serving team; Peter Crawford and the choir; Pat Edwards for her welcome on the 'front desk' and organising the party food lists; to all those who help with the provision of hospitality - our after Mass teas and coffees to the big celebration events; to Bernadette Labastide and Gloria Cowans and the catering team; to Lorna Abbott (who is often 'first in and last out') and to Fr Mike Still. He thanked Luke Anand and Leila Bullard for representing the Parish on Deanery Synod; to Joanna Service for taking on the role of Parish Safeguarding Officer; and to all those present for being here and supporting the mission of the Parish.

Fr Richard said that all together we are a team, a family, coming together Sunday by Sunday and he was grateful for everyone's contribution. He felt that 2023 had been a time of laying down the foundations, a solid preparation for us to move forward. He remarked on the successful Stewardship Campaign which had put our finances on a much more healthy setting and thanked those who had increased their giving. He also thanked those who had helped to organise events, mentioning in particular Johnette Clark for re-establishing the Christmas Fair. He said that we had already received £10,000 in grants this year; but that we must still keep a watchful eye on our bank balance and carefully monitor our expenditure.

Fr Richard was encouraged by increased attendance at Holy Week and Easter services. Since 1st January 2024 there had been 302 regular public services in church, but there had only been 5 occasions when he had been on his own! There had been some good progress with our Ministry with Young People. A recent trip to the Harrow Climbing Wall, and now three young people wanting to attend the Walsingham Youth Pilgrimage. The School Christmas Workshop was to be repeated this year; and a new initiative with four schools attending a Christmas Carol Service. He was pleased that we were growing closer ecumenically, building our relationship with All Saints RC Church. The May Devotion will be testament to this. He was impressed that we had donated £6,500 in charitable giving this year. Last year in September there had been a number of Confirmations. This September we shall be welcoming Ryan Davey as Pastoral Assistant for 11 months. There are plans to make the Memorial Garden a more community-based space and we have 'signposted' our presence locally with the new lighting in the Tower.

In conclusion, he commended the 2023 Annual Report as a record of what we have achieved so far; it is a 'Hymn of praise to the God we love, and who loves us'.

7. Closing Prayer & Blessing

Fr Mike Still, in responding to Fr Richard's remarks, said that he felt that "we are thriving" thanks to the leadership of Fr Richard at the helm. His comments were greeted with a round of applause in appreciation of Fr Richard's leadership of the Parish.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12.33pm with a prayer and a blessing given by Fr Mike.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

David Griffiths
12th May 2024