

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Tuesday 30th April 2024 in the Church Hall

Present

Revd Will Hunter Smart (Rector and Chairman), Revd Joy Mawdesley (Associate Rector), Rick Coward and Tania Wolak (Churchwardens), James Lancaster (PCC Treasurer), Phil Davis (Lay Vice Chair), Chris Philip (PCC Secretary) and 62 other members of the Church family.

Welcome

Will welcomed everyone and thanked them for their commitment to and care for St Nic's shown through attending this meeting. He read from 1 Peter 2:4,5 – the call to be living stones being built into a living temple for God. There followed a short time of sung worship led by Andy Laidler and Paul Philip.

A: The Annual Meeting of Parishioners for the election of two Churchwardens

Will thanked Tania Wolak who had served as Churchwarden for 5 years and was now standing down. Her enthusiasm, compassion, and prayerfulness had been a great support. Tania was presented with a gift and flowers in appreciation of her service.

Richard Coward and Madeline Norman had been nominated to stand as Churchwardens for the next year. As there were no other nominations they were declared duly elected.

Chris Philip was invited to pray for Tania, and for Rick and Madeline as they began a new year of service.

B: The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from six members of the church family.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the APCM held on 24 April 2023

These had been made available prior to the meeting.

Will proposed from the chair that they be accepted as a true record. All those who had been present last year were in favour.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

Following a question at the last APCM concerning the possibility of solar panels on the Church roof, Will reported that the architects and heating engineers working on our Church renovation plan were very positive that solar panels could be installed on the Church roof. Solar would certainly form part of the plans that are being produced. They would not be visible from ground level because of the crenellations around the roof.

4. Annual Reports to the APCM

a) PCC Annual Report

The report contained a summary of the proceedings of the PCC as well as other significant events in the life of the Parish.

Will invited questions from the floor. None were raised.

b) Electoral Roll Report

Mandy Maskell was not able to be present but had reported that there are now 310 members on the Roll compared with 307 last year. 9 people had been removed due to death or moving out of the area. A further 12 have joined the roll in the last 12 months. Mandy would continue to encourage new church members to join the roll. Will thanked Mandy in her absence for her efforts.

There followed a short time of silence as Will read the names of those church members who had died in the last 12 months.

c) Finance

As this was his final presentation, James affirmed how much he had enjoyed serving the Church as Treasurer. He thanked Shalini Philip (Stewardship Officer), Sheila Moore (Financial Controller) and the rest of the Finance Committee.

He described the state of the Church Finances in the past year as resilient. The full details are set out in the annual report which shows a total unrestricted income of £502,126. The total expenditure in the year was £550,227 showing a budgeted overspend of £48,100 (using reserves) .

It has again been necessary to present a deficit budget (£28,024), but following the recent giving appeal, the rise in interest rates in 2024 and higher returns from investments, we will hopefully see an improvement through the year.

James thanked the congregation for their continued generosity in supporting the work and mission of our Church. He would continue to serve on the Finance Committee to support Ian Gore as he takes over as Treasurer.

Will thanked James for sharing his energy and skills over the last 8 years in stewarding the Church finances. He presented him with a gift from church family as a token of our appreciation.

d) Report of Parish Activities

Libby and Elaine had compiled a compendium of parish activities over the last year – which showed great diversity and highlighted the number of volunteers who give time and skills to reach out to others both within the church and in the wider community. Will commended the booklet to everyone, and thanked Libby for collating it so well.

5. Election of members to the PCC and Deanery Synod

The following PCC members were standing down:

Cheryl Gadsby, Suzanne Lees, Peter Bradley, Becky Bird, Joanna Lazarus and James Lancaster Will thanked them for their service and support over the last year.

The following people had been proposed and seconded to serve on the PCC:

Andy Laidler, Paul Lazarus, Paul Philip, Joyce Zealey, Ian Gore for a three year term.

Tristan Davies to fill a 'casual vacancy' with one year remaining.

Graham Caskie was proposed and seconded to serve on the Deanery Synod to fill a 'casual vacancy' with two years remaining.

As there was no need for an election, so the above 7 people were duly elected.

Revd Joy Mawdesley prayed for the new members thanking God for their willingness to serve in this way.

6. Appointment of the Independent Examiners of the Church Accounts

James acknowledged the excellent service the church had received from the firm of James Cowper Kreston, who have examined our church finances over several years.

James proposed that the firm of James Cowper Kreston be appointed as independent examiners for a further year. Chris Philip seconded this motion. All present were in favour.

7. Closing Comments

Will expressed his sincere thanks to the staff team for their close partnership with him in the ministry at St Nic's. He hoped to be able to announce the appointment of a new Children's Minister for the 5-11s soon. A new Curate will be joining the Benefice in June. Will also thanked other members of the clergy who take regular services in the Benefice, Janice Macdonald, Pam McKellen, and Geoff Sowden.

Will had been especially encouraged by the recent Easter Day service with 8 full-immersion baptisms and renewal of baptism vows. These included several young people who joined the youth ministry recently. Easter was also a sign of the fruit of our recent focus on Welcome and Integration, and especially the way that our Hong Kong community have become so well integrated into the life of our Church. More generally, we should be encouraged by the work of our worship, livestream, hospitality and stewarding teams, which all contribute to the Sunday services and the recent growth we have seen at the services.

Will then outlined two challenges that lay ahead for St Nic's: the discussions and decisions regarding the Church of England Prayers of Love and Faith, and the Church Building Project. Will asked people to pray for both these challenges. He was delighted that Steve Wolak has agreed to head up the Church prayer goal, beginning with 10 days of prayer for 'Thy Kingdom Come', starting the following week.

Will reminded everyone that we are the living stones being built together by God. He finished by reading the verse the meeting had begun with: 1 Peter 2:5

Churchwarden Rick Coward thanked both Will and Joy for their dedicated ministry – and for the leading of worship and preaching which is both challenging and sincere. It had been a good year with much to give thanks for.

The meeting closed at 9:45pm after singing a hymn and a prayer of blessing.

.....
Chair

.....
Date