St George's Church[i]

**ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING**

Tuesday 25th April 2023 In person and via Zoom

**MINUTES**

**1.0 WELCOME**

1.1 Lizzy Woolf, the Rector, warmly welcomed everyone to the meeting, including those online, and she opened with a prayer.

1.2 The *Eyes Quiz* answers were revealed.

1.3 Dan Hebden, Worship Pastor, invited questions from the congregation and asked that they be directed to Eve Ridgeway, Associate Rector in person or through the online *Chat* function.

1.3 Note that there were 75 people attending in person and a total of 34 people online.

**2.0 PARISHIONERS' MEETING**

**2.1** The minutes from the 2022 St George's Parishioners' meeting were approved.

**2.2 Retiring Church Warden:** Lizzy Woolf sincerely thanked Phil Wright for his service as he steps down from a 3-year term of office. She described him as a diligent, faithful, and kind warden, and thanked him especially for his thoughtful ideas and his work on the church buildings. Phil responded by thanking everyone who had prayed for him in this role and said that it had been a privilege to work with the Operations team and the Ministry team, and especially the rector.

**2.3 Church Warden Nominations**: Lizzy Woolf thanked all the Church Wardens for their work throughout the year. Two of the nominees, Jamie Woodhead and Richard McIntyre introduced themselves to the congregation. Jamie was nominated to continue in the role of Church Warden for a further year (his third year) and Richard McIntyre, who has been Deputy Church Warden for a year, was nominated as the second Church Warden. Ganzi Isharaza was nominated for the role of Deputy Church Warden. He was absent from the meeting, since he is currently working abroad. There were no other nominations and so they were all duly elected.

**3.0 ANNUAL MEETING**

3.1 The meeting approved the minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting

3.2 Lizzy Woolf introduced the statutory reports which were issued prior to the meeting. These included the illustrated 2022 Annual report, the Fabric report, the Deanery Synod report, and the Electoral Roll report indicating that there are 361 people on the roll.

3.3 **PCC members stepping down.** The Rector thanked the people who were stepping down from the PCC for their faithful service. These were: Ronke Fakunle, Tracy Farnhill, Susie Smith and Beth Vickers. David Kibble stepped down from Deanery Synod. Charmaine Kambabazi stepped down as a co-opted member of the PCC.

3.4 **Election of new PCC** members. New nominees for the PCC were Charmaine Kambabazi, (as a full member instead of a co-opted member) Ken Garner, Kate Livesey and Chinedu Olafu. David Kibble was nominated as a PCC member (although he has stepped down from Deanery Synod) Clare Oldfield was nominated as a new Deanery Synod representative. Since no vote was required, there being fewer nominees than places, they were all duly elected, each for a three-year term of office.

3.5 Three current members of the PCC, Susie, Shirley and Ben were interviewed by Lizzy and Dan. They were thankful for amazing answers to prayer, especially regarding church finances and were impressed by the huge generosity of the vision of the church. Over the last year, God provided enough volunteers and finances to fulfil the vision.
3.6 Lizzy told us that we are blessed by our PCC who prayerfully engage with each other and feed ideas back to the clergy.
3.6 The appointment of Wyatt's as our independent financial examiners was ratified.

**4.0 Prayer**
Dan introduced the prayers and asked all those attending to pray for:

- The whole newly appointed leadership team
- St George's vision (Preach Jesus, Make Disciples, Serve the city, Send out Leaders)
- Intern Recruitment

We then broke into small groups for a time of prayer.

**5.0 Quiz** Angie Wright (St G's Assistant Operations Manager) and Dave Chesters (Youth and Leadership intern) then introduced a light hearted quiz, where we were asked to discern which words were cheeses and which were IKEA items.

**6.0 Question**
A question was posed by a church member – *What is a Church Warden?* This was answered by Lizzy explaining that they are officially Bishop's officers who work with, support and advise the rector and clergy team as well as informing and encouraging the congregation.

**7.0 Finance Presentation**
7.1 Keith Swallow, the Church Treasurer, outlined the key points in the 2022 end of year accounts by referring to the financial Pie charts on the Annual Report.
7.2 Looking back over 2022, at the beginning of the year we were still in the grip of the pandemic, the Church Centre was closed for business and there were staff team vacancies.
7.3 The budget deficit was originally forecast to be £145K, but we ended the year without a deficit.
7.4 The PCC prayed for the recovery of the business in the Church Centre, the prayer was answered and we saw God's amazing provision.
7.5 Keith warned that we are still facing the challenges of utility costs in our church at HTBL and in our intern houses.
7.6 We chose a green tariff for environmental reasons but Keith asked everyone to pray that the suppliers will act fairly.
7.7 The PCC decided to bless others by giving away some of our surplus at the end of the year to two DEC charity appeals. Holy Trinity Boar Lane used some of their surplus to make improvements to their church building and they also gave away £1K to local charities.
7.8 Keith thanked everyone for all their giving, which has enabled St George's vision to be fulfilled and he also thanked the Treasury team for their hard work
7.9 The full statutory accounts are available to all church members on request and Keith welcomed any further question to be directed to him by email.
7.10 Lizzy thanked Keith for his sterling work in completing these accounts.
7.11 The statutory church accounts for 2022 were formally received by the meeting.

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**8.0 Vision Talk**
8.1 Lizzy Woolf (Rector) referred to the Church Vision booklet.
8.2 She referred to Luke chapter 17, when Jesus healed ten men from leprosy, but only one, the Samaritan, returned to thank him.
8.3 We all want to be those with thankful hearts, not taking God's provision for granted.
8.4 Lizzy thanked everyone for the contributions they make to all aspects of church life, in prayer, services and giving etc.
8.5 The vision of the church is still to: Preach Jesus, Make disciples, Serve the city and Send out leaders.
8.6 In 2023 our two priority areas are:

- Prayer - especially including attendance at the monthly prayer gatherings
- Outreach to young people

8.7 Lizzy explained that we are now part of a New Wine pilot scheme where we will help some other churches who wish to start children or youth ministries.
8.8 St George's now has 1,000 people who call it their church. We are called to the specific role of being a *Resource Church*, giving away generously in a creative and imaginative way.

- 2019 Mark Harlow went with 48 people to St Paul's, Ireland Wood
- 2020 Church at Hyde Park Corner began
- 2021 HTBL became part of St George's team ministry
- 2022 Julia took 19 people to St Peter's Bramley

8.9 Lizzy would welcome the prayers of the congregation for discernment, good anticipation and good timing, so that we are ready to respond to future needs.
8.10 She asked church members to contact her if they feel God prompting them with a vision or idea for the future.

**9.0 Bramley Update**
9.1 There followed a short video from St Peter's Bramley with Julia Wilkins and members of the congregation giving thanks for growth in their church.
9.2 They were very thankful for the financial gift from St George's and have used it to improve the PA system and to buy screens and other church equipment.

**10.0 Holy Trinity Boar Lane update**
10.1 Richard Barber, (HTBL Curate) explained that the activities at HTBL have expanded hugely since last year and it is now a growing church with interns based there too.
10.2 in November 2022, 6,000 people came into the building to see the Gaia Earth exhibition.
10.3 In January 2023, the first Alpha course started with 10 people and the *Gratitude Course* took place with 12- 15 people.
10.4 There are now 3 midweek services with 30 – 40 people attending regularly.
10.5 An *After-Work meeting* on the 2nd Tuesday of the month has just started with 20-30 people attending.
10.6 In May 2023 the first baptisms will take place.
10.7 A provision for those with Mental health needs is being planned.
10.8 Richard asked for prayer that the acoustic improvement work will begin soon and that their plans to open the church to the public on a regular basis will be able to go ahead very soon.

**11.0 St Augustine's Wrangthorn update**
11.1 Adrian Smith (Associate Rector) explained that they have started to offer *a Community space* on Wednesday every week. The hall is opened and food is served to 18 -20 local people.
11.2 Helen Roberts, the student worker for Church@HPC, explained that they also offer community meals. She thanked the St George's students for their support of this project and asked for more prayer for the team there.

**12.0 Interviews**
12.1 Eve interviewed Miriam Hurley and Ethan Owen who explained their roles.
12.2 Miriam, as a small group leader, explained the importance of the small groups as a place for community in a large church.
12.3 Ethan, a professional musician (Joseph in the nativity play) highlighted the importance of sung worship.
12.4 Two interns, Maria O'Hagan and Callum Bailey were interviewed and explained their roles: Maria with Tots, children's groups and youth nights and Callum with leading worship, including student nights and with Lighthouse.

**13.0 Prayer and Blessing**
13.1 We divided into small groups to pray, reflecting on the importance of St George's to each of us and on what we are thankful for.
13.2 The Rector closed with a blessing.

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