

**Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of St Michael & All Angels, Summertown
held in church on Sunday 19 May 2024 at 11.15am**

1. The Rev Gavin Knight opened the meeting with a prayer of St Theresa of Avila. 21 members of St Michael's were present.

2. **Apologies** were received from Rachel Bryans, Suzanne Dalton, Nigel Hamilton, Debbie Hamilton, Steve Hunter, Janet Johnson, Graham Kerr, Lesley Noakes.

VESTRY MEETING

3. **Election of Churchwardens**

Jonathan Scheele, nominated by Mary Perryman, seconded by Ruth Fowler

Graham Kerr, nominated by Claire Sadler, seconded by Patsy Williams

Elected *nem con*, as churchwardens

GK thanked Ann Stedman for her year's work as Churchwarden.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

4. **Minutes**

Juliet Field proposed and Bridget Davidson seconded that the minutes of the Vestry meeting and APCM held on 21 May 2023 were a correct record. Agreed *nem con* and signed by Gavin Knight.

5. **Presentation of Reports**

Electoral Roll: there are **99** on the ER of the Parish, revised during April 2023 (2023: **101** / 2022: **113** / 2021:**110** / 2020:**113** / 2019:**107**)

Safeguarding, Fabric, Deanery Synod, PCC and Finance Reports were presented, together with the Vicar's Reflection on the year. Please see below for financial commentary.

Approval of the reports was proposed by Jonathan Scheele, seconded by Ann Stedman, and passed *nem con*.

6. **Elections and appointments**

Election of members of the PCC

Lesley Noakes, nominated by Janet Johnson, seconded by Juliet Field

Nigel Hamilton, nominated by Claire Sadler, seconded by Sarah Scheele

Ann Stedman, nominated by Rachel Bryans, seconded by Malcolm Sadler

Elected to the PCC *nem con*

GK reminded the meeting that others can be co-opted to the PCC during the year as there are six vacancies.

He noted that there was also an opportunity for St Michael's to elect another **Deanery Synod member/s**, and Juliet Field urged those present to consider taking on this role to provide a balanced membership of Synod. Irim Sarwar agreed to make a short presentation to the congregation to an interest from potential candidates.

Appointment of sidesmen "welcomers"

Suzanne Dalton, Ruth Fowler, Susan Halstead, Debbie Hamilton, Nigel Hamilton, Annetta Harvie, Mary Horwitz, Eve Lee, John Lee, Ali McIntosh, Alyson Peberdy, Mary Perryman, Malcolm Sadler, Ann Stedman, Michael Taylor, Ray Witchard

Appointed *nem con*.

GK thanked Debbie and Nigel Hamilton for their organisation of the Welcomers rota, and reminded all those present of their individual responsibility to welcome.

Appointment of Auditor

The PCC Treasurer recommended the re-appointment of King Loose, of South Parade, Summertown and this was proposed by Jonathan Scheele and seconded by Emma Wilkinson.

Appointed *nem con*.

7. Financial Review

WB presented his reports to the meeting, and guided those present to the Short Summary of Income and Expenditure which showed the situation best, and to the narrative report in the accounts. He noted that 2023 ended with a small deficit but that 'baseline' income and expenditure were almost balanced. However, this meant that St Michael's was not building up funds for future mission and outreach. Actual Parish Share paid in 2023 was less than the Deanery had asked of St Michael's; had the suggested amount been paid, the accounts would show a significant loss. Broadly speaking, WB indicated that Stewardship giving, sundry donations and Gift Aid covered the Parish Share, and all other income (mainly church and hall rentals) covered maintenance, heating, music expenses, administration, cleaning, etc).

GK concluded that the cost of keeping the doors of St Michael's open were significant and not only did work need to be done to control expenditure, but also consideration needed to be given to the efficiency and effectiveness of all spending.

GK thanked WB for his support for the Parish and all his work on the financial affairs of St Michael's.

8. AOB: Questions from the congregation

Future Priorities 'St Michael's 2030': Jonathan Scheele introduced the letter that he, Graham Kerr and Ann Stedman had produced to start the process of St Michael's looking over the horizon to meet what is coming. He explained the five broad areas of focus and the need to look beyond the PCC membership to develop and clarify ideas and resourcing. He asked for feedback over the next few weeks; for volunteers to form a small group (12-15 people) to meet before the summer recess, with a view to having draft proposals by early to mid-October, so that a formulated plan and priorities to be unveiled at Christ the King.

Michael Taylor asked if input would be sought from the whole congregation to which GK replied yes, as many voices as possible would validate the process. GK asked that any feedback submitted as part of this process be done in a positive light.

Mary Gurr advised that detailed demographics and poverty indicators for the parish be considered when looking ahead.

Bridget Davidson asked that input be collected from those locally who use the church; along the lines of "What would you do if the church wasn't here?"

GK thanked JS for taking a lead in this process, and asked those present to contact JS to become involved.

Parish Share: the allocation of the Parish Share within the Deanery is a hot topic and GK trusts the Deanery will progress to an 'offer' system soon. Irim Sarwar confirmed that the Deanery Synod had passed a motion to begin this process, with the Deanery Treasure due to meet all Parish Treasurers as part of the development.

Bishop's visit: Michael Taylor asked that the question and answer session with the Bishop after the service on Sunday 9 June be designed to cover the issue of risk-taking in church life.

Curate: David Field asked if St Michael's would have another curate soon and GK replied that a stipendiary curate had been promised by the Diocese for next year.

Community Engagement: Juliet Field noted the need for St Michael's members to engage with initiatives of the community, as well as expecting them to participate in St Michael's activities and feed in to its processes. She mentioned as specific examples the provision of a defibrillator within the area and the Summertown Arts Community.

Area Dean: Ann Stedman led the congregation in thanking GK for taking on the role of Area Dean. She asked GK to reassure the meeting that St Michael's would remain his priority, which he did. He explained that his AD role is to sustain the parish system, in which he is a great believer, by working under the jurisdiction of the Archdeacon to support the Deanery's clergy, lay leaders, non-stipendiary and retired clergy.

Admin restructuring: GK noted that St Michael's was at crossroads in terms of membership and the number and age of people willing to step up to take on roles and tasks. Additionally, in the light of GK's appointment as AD and Leah Mattinson's recent resignation, St Michael's needed to be realistic about its human resources to ensure effective and efficient operation. Carlos Caban had also resigned for health reasons, so the Standing Committee would meet urgently to review the situation, draw up job descriptions and advertise the posts, mindful of the need to have an admin interface with the local community.

GK recorded thanks to Leah for her work for St Michael's over the last 8.5 years.

9. Vicar's Business

GK ended the meeting by recording his gratitude for all people do to share the life of Christ in Summertown.

GK closed the meeting at 1240 hrs with a Prayer