

## **APCM Minutes**

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2020 at 7:45pm

Online (YouTube/Zoom)



## **Introduction and Worship**

*YouTube premiere, live-streamed from All Saints Church*

Jenny Dawkins outlined the practicalities on the online meeting and explained that although this APCM relates to 2019, it is put in the context of the challenges of 2020. Jonathan Mortimer prayed for the evening ahead before handing over to Jonathan Smith to lead us in two songs of worship.

Jonathan M noted the relevance of Isa 43:19 for our current situation – God promises a way forward in the wasteland and streams in the desert. He gave thanks to God for ways in which we have perceived these – through new people and gifts; financial provision; new ways to worship and connect; and a convicting wake up call from God, to grow in our vision as “All”, “Saints”, and “Peckham”. He challenged us to catch something of Jesus’ compassion for those suffering different kinds of discrimination, including racism. In a season of loss, Jesus is calling us to connect.

Jenny shared her sense of communal calling into ‘proximity’ and ‘presence’, to be put into the hands of Jesus and ‘kneaded’ into our community (c.f. parable of the yeast). To be less about events and more about presence; less about big and more about unbreakable; less about a large community and more about loving those around us by name.

Geurline Griffin came forward to receive thanks (and flowers) for 21 years’ service as churchwarden. She prayed for the meeting ahead, giving thanks for God’s provision for All Saints during 2019 and over many years. A video for Geurline was shown with photos and messages from current clergy, and former churchwardens and congregation members.

## **Meeting of the Parishioners (‘Vestry Meeting’)**

*Zoom meeting*

Jenny welcomed everyone to the Zoom meeting at 20:15, requesting videos on but muted, with questions asked via the chat function. Jonathan M explained that Andy Clarke was standing for another term as churchwarden, and that Raphael Pedro was also standing to replace Geurline. He expressed his gratitude to Andy and Raphael before asking whether there were any other nominations for the role. There were none, so Andy and Raphael were duly appointed, to applause from those present.

- ✓ Andy Clarke and Raphael Pedro are appointed to the role of churchwarden.

## **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

*Continuing on Zoom, from 20:20.*

### **1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received prior to the meeting from Gordon and Val Kensington, and from Andrew and Liz Fothergill. Further apologies were invited on the Zoom chat, but none were received.

## 2. Approval of minutes from the 2019 APCM

The minutes of the 2019 APCM were proposed by Rachel Trimble and seconded by Roger Orr as an accurate record of the meeting. There were no questions arising from the minutes.

## 3. Finance

### 3.1. Financial Report

Damien Dacey (PCC Treasurer, together with Rob Peel), reported that approx. 75% of our income in 2019 came from the congregation (~60% standing orders, ~10% one-off donations, and service offerings). The remainder was mostly from gift aid, plus hall hire and grants. The largest portion of expenditure was staffing, at around 45%, followed by the Parish Share which supports ministry in the Diocese. 10% of the previous year's budget is assigned to local and international mission partners (All Saints All Around the World), which equated to 8.9% of the 2019 budget. 11% of the budget was spent on maintenance. Overall in 2019 there was a surplus in unrestricted funds of £6799. The Site Development account had a surplus of £1759, resulting in an end of year total of just over £99k.

Damien thanked everyone who had responded to the challenge of COVID-19 with generous giving, adding that only a small deficit of £4k is forecast for 2020 – a great blessing under the circumstances. The 2021 budget is aspirational, to match 2019, and includes interns as well as small rises in the Parish Share and staff pay.

Jenny then invited questions (via chat) relating specifically to 2019:

- Andrew Weston asked whether 2018 had been an unusually good year financially, as the total income in 2019 had been significantly lower. Damien responded that yearly income does fluctuate. **Post-meeting research revealed that the key reason was because of the difference in restricted giving funds related to site development and projects like the refugee project and foodcycle (2019 restricted: £41,134 and 2018: £162,932).**
- Asha and Mike Panesar-Bourne requested clarification on staff wage benchmarking, to which Tom Hardyman (Operations Director) responded that this is based on market rates, and that there were no increases in 2019.

### 3.2. Appointment of Auditors (Independent Examiner)

Damien proposed that Stewardship continue in this role. Rob Peel seconded this proposal, which was unanimously agreed by a show of hands.

- ✓ Stewardship are re-appointed as Independent Examiners for All Saints Peckham.

## 4. PCC membership

### 4.1. Size of PCC

Jonathan M explained that following much discussion, the PCC had proposed, “To reduce from the 2021 APCM onwards from 13 elected lay members to 9.” The PCC also includes the clergy (currently Jonathan and Jenny), two church wardens and Deanery Synod members (usually two but could be up to six), resulting in a total proposed membership of 15. The majority of the PCC had felt that a smaller number would make meetings more workable. The new Vision Support Groups have facilitated wider involvement to sharpen our vision in different areas, in addition to the External Giving Committee, HR and Finance groups, which continue. After an opportunity for questions, a vote was taken, which passed by a majority, with one dissent noted in the chat.

- ✓ To reduce from the 20201 APCM onwards from 13 elected lay PCC members to 9.

#### **4.2. Deanery Synod election**

Roger Orr and Olivia Brambill stood for election as lay members of the Deanery Synod and were duly elected.

#### **4.3. PCC election**

There were six candidates standing for six vacancies for the PCC representatives of the laity. No other nominees came forward at the meeting, so the following people were duly elected:

June Brown  
Eleanor Orr\*

Naomi Davis  
Lucy Sawyer

Emma Lidbury \*  
Eian Stedford

*\*To serve until the 2021 APCM – RT.*

### **5. Reports**

#### **5.1. PCC activities**

Jonathan M shared some PCC highlights of 2019: the appointment of an architect for the Site Development; seeing God’s provision financially (Jonathan also thanked the treasurers **including the outgoing Ed Brecknell** and Richard Carey); setting up Vision Support Groups for different areas of ministry. He added that there had been disappointment in not having planted, but that we have seen God’s hand in **that in hindsight**. The PCC was also involved in the Weekend Away and the launching of the new intern scheme.

#### **5.2. Electoral roll**

Eleanor Orr (Electoral Roll Officer) reported that there are 297 people on the electoral roll, a net decrease of 12 from 2019 (309). In this unusual year, with a low-key online revision process, only 5 new people have joined the roll. 19 people have left the roll due to moving away or joining another congregation. Currently 29 people on the electoral roll live within the borders of All Saints’ small parish, although most live within a couple of miles from the church building. Eleanor encouraged people to contact the church office to join the roll as it re-opens after the APCM.

#### **5.3. Students**

Abie Hepworth (Students and Children’s worker) shared that despite some cancellations of regular events in 2020 due to COVID, she was thankful that students seemed to be settling in quickly, getting connected and involved, particularly in the tech team. The Branches discipleship group has continued to meet virtually.

#### **5.4. Youth**

Ruth Samuels (Director of 0-25 ministry) explained that 2019 was a year of groundwork, in order to build on strong foundations in 2020. She desires to see the church valuing young people and building intergenerational fellowship and discipleship. Her team also has a big vision for outreach. Young people have been encouraged to join the evening service and the Verses group has developed gifts in leading worship. More recently (2020), Toby Lockyer has joined us on internship from St. Mellitus and a strong structure for discipleship has been developing. The 2020 Limitless festival online was appreciated by the young people.

#### **5.5 Children**

Abie reflected on the recent online activities (weekly zooms for school aged children; holiday club) and children's participation in online services (prayers; church news), commenting that some have been able to engage more visibly in this new setting.

#### **5.6. Worship**

Jonathan S reminisced about singing together in the same building in 2019 and reiterated his greatest desire which remains that we worship Jesus, as He is the only one worthy of our praise.

#### **5.7. CAP**

Racheal Mulema thanked God that the CAP head office had enabled new clients to receive help quickly. She shared that the growth of the Connect Team in 2020 had been an answer to prayer, as every client has been buddied up with someone from All Saints. She expressed a need for someone to join Magda Peel to start up a new Job Club on zoom.

#### **5.8. Deanery Synod**

Roger Orr (Deanery Synod lay representative) explained that the Deanery Synod comprises of clergy and laity, with lay members elected every three years. The new chair ("Area Dean"), Sandra Schloss, was licensed by the Bishop over Zoom during lockdown. Jonathan M had been taking on **some** of this work during the vacancy. The Deanery Synod has met four times since the last APCM, exploring the Deanery's role in the wider Diocesan vision, with Jane Steen; knife crime with Ben Lindsay from "Power the Fight"; "Robes" (ministry to rough sleepers); church ministry during COVID-19; and young people's mental health challenges.

#### **5.9. Fabric**

Tom H reported that work had been done on the gutters, drains and front wall repair, with the design and installation of a new fence by Rob Orchardson. In 2020 Jim Rennison has built a new ramp and started work on a wildflower meadow. Tom thanked Jim and others who have done great work around the site.

#### **5.10. Outreach**

Jenny shared that she had seen God's providence with hindsight in not yet having planted. She reported a good Alpha course at the Hope Pub at the start of 2019, as well as an apologetics evening and continuing engagement with Harris Academy and Peckham citizens. We are all sent with His good news into the world every day in our workplaces, communities and families, with a ministry of reconciliation, as studied in our 2019 Lent course. In 2020

outreach has continued with online conversations and an online Alpha course. Christmas 2020 will provide opportunities for everyone's involvement with different gifts. We continue to keep our eyes open to future planting opportunities, although this is unlikely to happen until the majority of us can meet together again.

Jenny thanked everyone who had presented reports.

## **6. Site development**

Gareth Hepworth (Site Development Group Chair) displayed two images of the proposed plans which had been developed by the end of 2019. Our architect, Malcolm Fryer, completed his initial concept work at the start of 2020. Gareth highlighted the two main influencing factors: the vision for growth; and space for children's/youth work. On the former, he explained that the fundamental limitations of the church building point to a strategy of multiple services and/or planting. The SD group believes that we should utilise our buildings during the whole week, in order to maximise our impact in our community. On the latter, he admitted that the initial plans need further work in order to address their suitability for children and young people, adding that there are ongoing conversations between the 0-25 ministry team and the architect and stressing that the plans are not finalised.

A meeting is arranged with Southwark planners on 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov, for their initial response. **(Secretary's note: this was subsequently put back to later in November).** Gareth explained that the front of church (Blenheim Grove) is in a conservation area so there are some restrictions. There is currently a shortfall of £75k to move to planning, although we could split the costs by doing the work in stages (tbc). The main current risks are lack of permission from the Council and lack of funds. The current pandemic causes further uncertainty over the model to release the value of the old hall in order to build a new hall, as well as on what our priorities should be. Jenny thanked Gareth for his faithfulness in this role.

## **7. Perceiving the new things of God**

Jonathan M spoke of new priorities for 2020-21, including God's heart for the poor, and encouraged more people to join the Connect Team. The Read Mark Learn support group studying the Bible in church is a good place to direct people to. The Listening for a Change process is inspired by the vision in Rev 7:9 of Jesus uniting all people and all peoples in heaven, and the desire that his Kingdom come on earth. Rev Dr Kate Coleman has agreed to help us as an external facilitator on this journey, which starts by listening and learning in order to facilitate change. Some will be invited to an evening on 12<sup>th</sup> November with Kate. Racism is only one form of discrimination, and is a gospel issue – the battle belongs to the Lord.

Jenny D emphasised connection and thanked small group leaders across all generations. She wants to see everyone who wants to, connect with a group, as well as to see everyone connecting to God through worship and prayer. We are completely dependent on God in everything we do, as it is only in Him that we are transformed. The next PCC will have a focus on prayer and every Thursday will focus on prayer throughout the church.

## **8. Questions**

Jenny invited anyone to ask questions via the chat.

- Jane Lindsay-Nyoni asked how to get involved in Listening for a Change, to which Jonathan M replied that everyone needs to be involved, but that some people will be contacted very soon. Jenny added that anyone can join the anti-racist learning group, lead by Mike & Asha and starting on 10<sup>th</sup> November, by emailing the church office.
- Ruth Kennedy asked whether the staff team feels fully supported and what we can do to help. Jenny responded that she couldn't be more thankful for the amazing church team and in particular the tech team. Jonathan M encouraged genuine feedback on the chat during services. Jenny D invited anyone to get in touch for a catch-up, as she misses being able to do this at church.
- Susannah Hardyman expressed her gratitude for the MOLO team.
- Viqui Burt asked whether specific giving for hardship was continuing. Jenny responded that this restricted fund was now spent but that people are instead being pointed towards Foodcycle and Foodbank which are both up and running again. There is still a general church hardship fund. Jonathan M reiterated the CAP ministry and encouraged people to support the CAP Christmas hamper appeal.
- Tim Mungeam asked whether there are any issues specific to Peckham that we can help with. Jenny responded that they are always looking out for these, together with the CAP team and children's/youth team. There is need for practical support for pupils at local schools and they are seeking Jesus' wisdom on where to invest as we can't do everything. She further encouraged us all to be 'kneaded in' to our community where we're aware of needs, and to communicate these with the staff team.
- Rob and Magda Peel reported that a couple of mission partners have stepped down, and requested any ideas for new mission partners to be sent to the ECG.
- Several people expressed thanks to the staff team and Jenny thanked everyone for their partnership in transforming our neighbourhoods.

Jonathan S led us in reading Psalm 121 together and encouraged us all that God will never let us down. Andy Clarke and Raphael Pedro closed the meeting in prayer at 21:34. Jenny invited anyone to stay for further questions but none were raised.