

APCM - Wednesday 24th May 2023, start 7.45pm Minutes

Started with worship led by Jonathan & Vicki Smith for 15 minutes

Welcome

Jane Fryer introduced evening as chair.

Greg Cushing opened in prayer. He said it was good to see so many people turn out. This evening is all in the frame of worship. He read from an address from the first vicar of All Saints Peckham, Rev. T.J. Gaster in 1887. He said it was a one off to have 11 people standing and that this shows that there is a hunger and a passion.

The Meeting of the Parishioners: election of Churchwardens

GC called for a round of applause for Liz Fothergill and Raphael Pedro who are the current churchwardens. He said they have been a big blessing and they have been great leaders. The church has rested legally on their shoulders during the interregnum. Both Liz and Raphael have put themselves forward to stand. No others have put themselves forward. Liz and Raphael were unanimously elected as churchwardens.

Opening of APCM:

JF announced that there would be 11 people standing for the PCC.

She notified everyone that questions can be submitted through Slido and she invited questions.

June Brown, Lucy Sawyer, Eian Stedford, Brian Craig and Naomi Davis were coming to the end of their terms. June Brown, Eian Stedford and Naomi Davis were standing down. Lucy Sawyer and Brian Craig were standing for re-election.

The following people were standing for election:

Susan Aryee
Brian Craig
Graham Gordon
Jennifer Griifin-Walters
Susannah Hardyman
Carly Hutchinson
Timothy Orimakinde
Josh Pedro
Lucy Sawyer
Viv Thatcher
Theresa Williams

As there are 11 people standing and only 4 places, there will be a vote. Anyone present at the meeting who is on the electoral roll can vote. Each person has up to 4 votes per paper. Three people are to be elected for 3 year terms and one person for a 1 year term. People were invited to pause and spend the next 5 minutes to vote.

Apologies

Val Kensington
Gordon Kensington
Abigail Virgo

Approval of 2021 minutes

RO proposed and RP seconded. Unanimously approved.

PCC report

Finance report

EO thanked Gareth who does most of the work and gave thanks to God who makes it all possible.

Total income was £430,587. There were £333,086 in donations. £55,150.00 in Gift Aid. £37,611 trading income. There was a £120,000 drop in income for the year. Total expenses were £484,044. There were £214,223 staffing costs. £116,936.00 in Diocesan payments. The Diocesan share is decided by the PCC each year. There is no set amount. It enables smaller churches to pay for clergy. In return for this, Southwark Diocese paid for Jenny Dawkins' stipend and housing costs. There are also Buildings and Admin costs, and External Giving and Mission. Not in accounts are the many hours of time spent by church members in mission and we haven't tried to put a figure on this.

Reserves have deleted year to year. Free reserves (which means that we spend these on what we want) dropped from £52,573 to £13,229 from 2021 to 2022. Position in 2023. In February, we had a gift day where we explained our financial position. We needed more money to appoint a youth worker, build up reserves and pay for building repairs. We have now appointed a youth worker. Giving has increased from £19,500.00 monthly to £22,000.00. £3,000.00 extra through Gift Aid. £13,000.00 one off donations received. Thank you for your generosity and God's provision. The accounts now balance but we have more to do to build up reserves and meet repairs.

Proposal to appoint Stewardship to continue to deal with accounts. EO proposed. RP seconded. Unanimously approved.

Ministry Reports;

Services, Worship & Prayer

Jonathan Smith spoke on our church services, worship and prayer. Good stuff has happened. People have volunteered their time. We had had people volunteer as worship leaders, singers, tech people and it has been wonderful to be part of this team. He said he went to the Online HTB Leadership Conference where the theme was “Looking up and looking out”. Looking to Jesus as the author and perfecter of our faith. Every good thing that we have and do comes from the goodness of God. Worship nights focus on the looking up. We’re just scratching the surface. There is more to come. He had a picture of going into the countryside and seeing the stars and how it is different to looking at the sky here in London. Let the Holy Spirit help us look up and clear our vision.

Children & Youth

Becky Addae and Toby Lockyer spoke on Children and Youth.

Becky said she has the best job in the world. God did amazing things in 2022. It was full of little moments. A birthday card was sent to a child who had become disconnected and they felt part of the church and came more regularly and was supported. It has been brilliant to have so many volunteers.

Toby said that 2022 was a formative year. We said goodbye to Ruth. He took on his role while studying. There was no festival to attend this year but we had lots of little events. There was more engagement in groups and on Sundays. He expressed a thank you to volunteers who have helped in groups and prayed for our youth.

CAP & Small Groups

Rachael Mulema spoke on CAP and small groups. In 2022, (referring to herself) she said that one of the CAP debt coaches went on maternity leaves for third time but after 8 months came back to a new role. The CAP centre closed down when Winnie left but reopened when Rachael came back. CAP’s been back for 4 months. The CAP *Job Club* has stopped but we are planning to run the CAP *Life Skills* course. It has been found that people who attend the *Life Skills* course tend to stay within the church.

Meg took on the role of coordinating homegroups. We found that less than half of the members of the church were members of homegroups. We are looking to see why. What are the barriers to joining? Although they’ll always have a homely autonomous feel, we’re hoping that all the home groups will be a bit more synchronised, perhaps studying the same material, so that there is a general feeling that all home groups feel a vital part of the large church family.

Racial Diversity & Belonging

June Brown and Eian Stedford and Hermione Thompson spoke on Racial Diversity and Belonging. June and Eian have been co-chairing the RDB group. 7 of us started the group in a difficult place. We have worked hard and worked through different objectives and worked with Kate Coleman. In the second part of the year we worked on the RDB strategy and we presented this to the church.

Fruit from RDB Strategy:

1. Theological confidence and prayerful grounding in God's Vision and Plan for a multi-ethnic family
2. Deeper relationships of love in our church community.
3. Wider doors to welcome everyone.
4. Diversity and representation throughout church leadership.
5. Speaking and acting in the community to promote God's kingdom vision for racial justice.

Priority Actions:

1. Mobilise the church in Prayer for diversity and inclusion, including participation within monthly prayer meeting.
2. Annual public recommitment to be a church that promote racial diversity and belonging.
3. Promote greater participation in more diverse, inclusive small groups.
4. Support development of diverse and inclusive welcome.
5. Develop new leaders from under-represented groups.

June is stepping down as co-chair and Hermione will be stepping in to replace her.

ES said that we progress together. It will take all of us as a community to go forward together.

Electoral Roll

Eleanor Orr said that we have 268 names on the electoral roll for 2023. This is 10 fewer than for 2022. 35 names have been taken off. Most of these we know have moved away or joined other churches. Hannah Steele became clergy so was taken off the list. There are 25 new names, one of which is a young person who has become old enough to join. If you know someone who has joined the church, you can encourage them to join as the Electoral roll will be reopening following the meeting.

Fabric & Buildings

GH expressed thanks to Jim (site manager) and Mark Johnson who does a lot of work in the gardens and Becky who has a great ability to organise and the guys who turn up to gardening club.

We have not been able to spend money on regular maintenance on buildings. We are beginning to have a backlog of maintenance. The screen showed pictures of guttering which needs maintenance, the damaged Apse, and rotten window frames to hall. The Quinquennial inspection is due which will highlight needs of repair. We are budgeting £20,000.00 at the end of year for this. We are likely to ask the PCC to spend £10,000 on repairs.

Questions

Jane Fryer invited questions.

Mary Rennison asked if there are plans to have youth come onto PCC. JF said anyone can come onto the PCC from age 16. A few young people were approached but did not stand. We are looking to talk about ways to engage young people, and as a first port of call, inviting some to audit a PCC meeting.

Winnie asked if people could be nominated based on skills so that we have more diversity. Mark Johnson said he had asked if he could be on PCC as there is a need for more people with learning difficulties to be on PCC but did not hear back. GC said he spoke to him on Sunday and encouraged him to stand but he did not put a form in. A reminder that anyone is welcome to stand but does need to find a proposer and seconder and then present a completed election form for the APCM.

Ioanna asked for a breakdown of the fruits of Listening For A Change. We asked for experiences of people in respect of racism. To bring more awareness of diversity. More diversity in small groups and volunteering. We invested in the services of Kate Coleman which was useful to the process. Not a sprint but a marathon. There may be difficult conversations. Everyone needs to feel loved and welcome and nobody should feel that they are an 'other'. Ioanna noted that there are several small group leaders but only two leaders of colour. June Brown said that people at the front have been much more diverse, leading services, preaching and welcoming. Change will take time but things are happening. GC said that we hope to grow our small group numbers and in so doing will need new leaders, which we hope will express our diversity more. Similarly, we need a diversity of groups to meet needs and we need groups for those with learning difficulties. Viv mentioned coming to terms with those with issues such as with sight who do not feel seen and they sit on the sidelines. Ruth said that the church weekend away saw experience of what God is doing in us. Zoe spoke very honestly at the morning service. This is not something which will happen in a linear way. We have some key strategic aims but we also have responsibility to be family week in week out. We need to keep asking questions like: are we being more welcoming? June Brown said that Gareth Hepworth has started a disability inclusion group. GH said he felt that as RDB was important to address, disability was also important. Four people have started to meet to discuss issues. It is in the early stages. He suspects there are a large number of questions and not enough answers yet. The group is meeting again soon. We need to see where we are going before opening up wider.

Results of PCC election

Elected

Brian Craig
Jennifer Griffin-Walters
Josh Pedro
Theresa Williams

Deanery Synod Report & Election

Roger Orr said the Deanery Synod is a collection of local churches in the Camberwell Deanery. Nine churches broken down into smaller groups. Four meetings (Synods) a year

discuss various things. A mix of lay members and clergy. Anthony Madu and Olivia Brambill are also members. We enjoy meeting together. We recently met for dinner. We meet in churches. We have discussed Lay ministry, church of England schools, support for vulnerable families, providing warm spaces. At Greg's Installation Service, most churches in the deanery had people attending.

Jane Fryer said we had 5 spaces. Roger Orr, Anthony Madu, Olivia Brambill and Viv Thatcher were standing for election. There were enough people standing for the spaces available.

Roger Orr, Anthony Madu, Olivia Brambill and Viv Thatcher were elected onto the Deanery Synod.

Vision, what next?

GC said he is listening and speaking to people. From conversations he has noticed there have been a few tough years and pain is still felt. Walking in and through pain and using the pain we feel for his glory. We may not feel it at the time. We have a glorious future.

We have appointed a new Youth worker. There were 4 applicants. 2 were shortlisted. Toby was appointed.

We are going up and going out. The great commission in Matthew 28 says to go and make disciples of all nations. In wanting unity we can focus on unity. The best way is to look up and look out. The people we are trying to grab for Jesus is everyone out there regardless of race, colour, disability. If we go out for everybody, we have everybody in here together, which in turn enforces our view of unity – namely that church should provide everyone with a sense of belonging. He sees passion at All Saints to go out and meet people. He prays that the pain all of us feel will help us to get outside of these walls. There is no new clear plan/church vision yet but it will involve outreach and evangelism.

GC ended with John Wesley's Covenant Prayer and encouraged us to shout Amen at the end if we feel it.

I am no longer my own, but yours. Put me to what you will, place me with whom you will. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be put to work for you or set aside for you, Praised for you or criticized for you. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and fully surrender all things to your glory and service. And now, O wonderful and holy God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, you are mine, and I am yours. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, Let it also be made in heaven. Amen.

JF Thanked everyone for their enthusiasm and passion.