



ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH EAST TWICKENHAM
Minutes of the Annual Church Meeting, Monday 25 April 2022 via Zoom
(Incorporating the Annual Vestry Meeting and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting)

Annual Vestry Meeting	<p>Chair's Welcome – Rachel Bedford</p> <p>Reflection – Rachel Bedford</p> <p>Rachel led a reflection about humility and committing our work to the Lord. She read a passage from 1 Kings 8 about Solomon dedicating the Temple to God.</p> <p>Apologies for Absence Received from: Jez Barnes, Ann and Peter Boyle, Helen Chen, Jo and Tony Dixon, Sandra Jennings, Loretta Kiritharan, Louise Messer, Shirley Peace, Janette and Les Taylor, Jan Walker, Lis and John Watson.</p> <p>Election of Church Wardens – Meeting of parishioners/annual vestry meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rachel was pleased to announce that Colin Matthews and Sarah Gough were willing to stand for re-election as Church Wardens for a further term. On behalf of the congregation, Rachel thanked Colin and Sarah for their outstanding support, commitment and hard work as Church Wardens. Colin and Sarah were proposed, seconded and duly re-elected to continue as Church Wardens for a further term. <p>Conclusion of Annual Vestry Meeting.</p>
Annual Parochial Church Meeting	<p>Minutes of the 2021 APCM</p> <p>Minutes of the 2021 APCM had been previously circulated.</p> <p>Vote: Are the church happy to formally adopt the APCM minutes from 2021? Proposed: Confirmed Seconded: Confirmed There was one abstention.</p> <p>The 2021 Minutes were adopted through the process of approval by exception.</p> <p>Election of lay people to the PCC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rachel thanked all PCC members serving over the past 12 months. She particularly wanted to thank those stepping down, namely,

	<p>Loretta Kiritharan, Marvette Uto-Uko and Jasmine Morse-Woolford. Gifts of thanks were on their way to each of them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rachel explained that it was a requirement in church canon law for one-third of the lay PCC membership to rotate off. There were 11 vacancies and 11 nominations, 8 of which were re-elections (Chris Askwith, Helen Chen, Jeannie Mee, Jen McCole, Louise Messer, David Sandford, Mike Wainer and Ross Yarrow). There were three new nominations from Maggie Chan, Amelia McLauchlan and Mark Myddelton. It was noted that Amelia, Maggie and Mark had been proposed by Zac Jopling and seconded by Helen Chen.• Rachel said that the Rubric stated that if the number of candidates was not greater than the number of spaces to be filled, the candidates would be duly elected.• Rachel presented a summary overview of PCC members. Colin Matthews, as PCC Chair, expressed warm thanks to all those who had contributed in any way over the last year and led prayers for all those on the PCC.• Each of the new candidates were welcomed and introduced themselves.• A slide summary of Senior Welcomers / Sides People was presented. Rachel paid tribute to each of those individuals and thanked them for their valuable work. <p>Adoption of the Electoral Roll</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rachel gave thanks to Annie Notman for her hard work in making sure that the electoral roll was kept updated. Those present noted that the electoral roll stood at 552 (compared to 539 in 2021) (defined as regular worshippers over the age of 16). <p>Accounts for the year to 31 December 2021 – Matt Baird</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Matt paid thanks to Emma Tidy for her invaluable help with the accounts, especially as this was her first year in post.• Matt highlighted a few points. He explained that 2021 had been a year of rebuilding.• Finances were stable although there was a contingency plan for falling income.• Regular giving had held up. There was a limited gift day opportunity although the Church had benefited from a one-off legacy.• The staff team had been built back up to its full complement this year. Communication costs had risen because of online services, etc. although all agreed that the additional spend had resulted in a comms upgrade.• The church had undertaken some much-need maintenance work.• The deficit of £48k was balanced by cash deposits resulting in a break-even position.• The budget assumed growth in congregation and activities (a slide detailing the extensive range of ministries was presented).• 2021 income was roughly the same as the previous year.• 2021 expenditure included giving to the Common Fund, spend on activities, supporting linked charities, global engagement, etc.
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- Direct spend was detailed outlined in the context of Covid recovery and following a period of understaffing.

Q&A

Q: *A question was asked about the risk of falling reserves, given rise in staff costs.*

A: *Matt explained that the budget assumed an increase in giving, based on the increased numbers joining St Stephen's.*

Q: *Another question was asked about the Church of England pension fund which historically had not performed well (in a context of rising energy costs, etc.)*

A: *This would be investigated and closely monitored. Staff salaries had risen 2½% in line with inflation.*

Vote: **To re-appoint our auditors (MGI Midgley Snelling LLP).**

Proposed: Matt Baird

Seconded: Paul Sulma

All in agreement to appoint the above auditors.

Reflection on 2021

Rachel described some of the highlights of the past year including the church picnic, Christmas in person, welcoming newcomers, especially families from Hong Kong.

The church was now holding five services including a midweek reflection. The 6pm service especially had been reinvigorated, boosted by regular socials. Children's activities included a successful Holiday Club. Seniors' activities were also thriving with a return to Monday Lunches and the successful *By Still Waters* service.

There had been a fresh approach to prayer with successful and well-attended *Kingdom Come* and *Worship Unplugged* events.

Under the vision of *growing disciples*, Rachel cast vision for at least 5 new life groups this year.

Looking forward, there were plans for a new teaching series on sharing faith. As Youth Pastor, Josh was booked to share the St Stephen's youth model with other youth leaders.

Under *Transforming Communities*, Fiona Smith was leading the response to the refugee crisis. The church was also developing a network of those involved in fostering and adoption. Yvette Dixon was re-launching the Richmond Sunday Lunches initiative with the first one planned for June.

St Stephen's continued its aspiration to be a *resourcing church*. Caroline Montgomery shared her vision for replicating the *Refresh* model with other churches. This included writing a book incorporating suggested material.

Mike Wilkinson thanked staff members for all their hard work.

Minutes of the 2022 Annual Church Meeting

	<p>The APCM meeting concluded with a closing blessing at 21:30.</p> <p>PCC members reconvened. Office holders were confirmed as follows:</p> <p>Colin Matthews – Chair; Matt Baird – Treasurer; FAB Chair; Sarah Gough – M&M Chair; Jen McCole – P&S Chair; Standing Committee comprised Committee Chairs, Brenda Begg, Jez, Rachel and Nicola Patel as a non-voting member. Nicola Patel – PCC Secretary with admin support from Caroline Perry.</p> <p>Colin outlined the ethos of the PCC and explained the work of the Committees.</p>
	<p>Date of the next APCM: Monday 17 April 2023 at 7.45pm</p>

Signed by the Chair as an accurate record

Date _____

