

St Stephen's Church, Canonbury 17 Canonbury Road, London N1 2DF

Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Meeting Minutes

Sunday 20th September 2020

John Beauchamp led us in Prayer

The first part of the meeting began at 11.07am

Present in Church: James Eddo, Rachel Woolf, Natalie Beauchamp, John Beauchamp, Marian Coliero, Mat Barber, Janice Emslie, Mary Thomas, Suzanne Roberts, John Creyke, Ralph Dunham, Bo Shepherd, Dennis Mwanze, Joy Eni, Susan Rice, Len Chalkley, Anna Sheppard, John Lowe,

Present on Zoom: Rose Mwesigwa, Fola Faleti, Carol Mellor, Katie Melville, Vernon Trafford, Fran Trafford, Timothy Muller, Lizzie Evans, Georgie Hutchinson, David Ainger and Elizabeth Ainger.

1. Apologies for Absence

None

2. Acceptance of the minutes of the Vestry Meeting and APCM held on Sunday 24th March 2019

Suzanne Roberts Proposed and John Lowe Seconded the minutes as a true reflection of the meeting. Thank you to John Woolf for these.

3. Electoral Roll Report and appointment of Electoral Roll Officer for 2020

Vernon Trafford (supported ably by Fran Trafford) thanked for their work on this.

Report summary: 5 people removed from the Electoral Roll (moving within the UK or overseas) and 6 people added to the Electoral Role (returned to the congregation, joined the congregation from the catchment area, regular attendee reaching electoral role age.)

Overall, this increased the names on the Electoral Roll from 96 to 97.

Bo Shephard proposed and Janice Emslie seconded that Vernon Trafford should be electoral role officer for the coming year.

Unanimously agreed by congregation at church and on Zoom.

4. Report of the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council including report of the fabric, goods and ornaments of the Church.

Thanks to Joy Faulkner-Mpeho and Rachel Woolf for their work as co-Secretaries in the past year. The PCC was thanked for their service from March 2019.

No questions about the PCC Report from church or Zoom participants.

Janice Emslie and John Beauchamp reported that the buildings and 'goods and ornaments' are in good order – no major repair works needed or building issues apart from the existing works needed on the tower.

The first part of the meeting ended at 11.15am

The second part of the meeting began at 11.21

1. Elections

• 2 Church Wardens

Janice Emslie thanked for her role as Church Warden over the past three years, particularly as she has done the role single handedly for a year. Suzanne Roberts also thanked for her role as Vice Chair of PCC and Safeguarding efforts in the past year(s).

Presents all round!

Nomination for Susan Rice to become our new Church Warden. Nominated by Katie Melville and Seconded by Janice Emslie.

No other nominations for the post of Church Warden. Support needed from the congregation to help Susan in this single role.

Unanimously agreed by congregation at church and on Zoom.

• 2 Deanery Synod Representatives

Thanks to David Ainger and Fola Faleti for their many years of service as Deanery Synod Reps. Both are standing down this year.

One nomination for Anna Sheppard – nominated by Rachel Woolf and seconded by Marian Coleiro.

No other nominations for Deanery Synod Representatives.

Unanimously agreed by congregation at church and on Zoom.

• 4 PCC members

Thanks to those retiring from PCC this year. Suzanne Roberts, Katie Melville, David Ainger, Will Smart, Fola Faleti and to Ralph Dunham and Elizabeth Ainger coming to the end of their terms but seeking reelection.

St. Stephen's has 4 vacancies for 3 years and 1 vacancy for 1 year.

PCC Nominations:

Elizabeth Ainger nominated by Suzanne Roberts and Janice Emslie for 1 years

Ralph Dunham nominated by David Ainger and Suzanne Roberts for 3 years

Timothy Muller nominated by Lizzie Evans and Basil Woodd-Walker for 3 years

Unanimously agreed by congregation at church and on Zoom to elect these individuals.

6. Finance report for 2019 and appointment of Independent Examiner for 2020

Pre COVID, St Stephen's finances were healthy, good reserves beyond 3 months expenditure. Contribution to Common Fund, plus Mission Partners, Church activities, Buildings and support to The Manna and Urban Hope.

Regular giving is, by majority, mainly through standing order and direct debit and has remained the same throughout COVID.

Income from premises hire significantly lower than previous years, this may rise as lockdown eases but uncertain.

Expenditure is below expected.

Ralph Dunham is in the process of preparing the third quarter accounts. These will be available for the newly elected PCC soon for review and adjustments

The Manna operated throughout lockdown, securing funding having rebuilt reserves in 2019.

Urban Hope made use of the government furlough scheme and have accessed funding throughout lockdown for their operation.

Finance Committee – Ralph, John Beauchamp, Will Smart, Timothy Muller, David Coffey and Libby Senez thanked for their service. The committee has lost Will Smart, Libby Senez and Timothy Muller – please for anyone who wants to join this

Jonathan Orchard – thanked for his work as our independent examiner for the past year and proposed to do the same for accounts next year. Proposed by Ralph Dunham and Seconded by John Lowe. Unanimously agreed by congregation at church and on Zoom.

Rose Mwesigwa was thanked for her work on the church finances and accounts.

Kate Ainger, Mat Barber, Anne Cartwright thanked for their work on the Urban Hope and Manna accounts.

No questions from the congregation or on Zoom

Ralph Dunham proposed the acceptance of these accounts (full details available in Annual Report), seconded by Rachel Woolf. Unanimously agreed by congregation at church and on Zoom.

7. Safeguarding Report

Thanks to Suzanne Roberts, Manna staff and Mat Barber for arranging the DBS of activity volunteers. St Stephens uses the Diocesan framework adhered to and aims to hold standards to the safeguarding best practices – please refer to safeguarding report in annual report.

Summary: Training at all levels will be undertaken in the coming year as a priority.

Questions? None from the congregation in church or Zoom

8. Reports of church activities in 2018

Detailed in Annual Report

No questions from church nor Zoom

Proposed by John Creyke and seconded by Mary Thomas. Unanimously agreed by congregation at church and on Zoom.

9. Deanery Synod Report

Comprehensive report from meetings in 2019. David Ainger and Fola Faleti thanked for report and service

Brief explanation re: Deanery Synod and its purpose (Stepney and diocesan vision and policy)

No questions in church or on Zoom

10. Open Forum

1. Maisonette – questions around the process of reviewing the current tenants in the Maisonette and who manages this from St Stephens. Discussion re: voluntary contribution of tenants in the Maisonette and whether this can aid some need St Stephens has for a number of volunteer roles. Standing Committee has responsibility for this and it is already on the SC agenda to review this at next meeting.

The meeting ended at 11.42am

It was followed by a Bible reading and short reflection from John Beauchamp.