

**Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting**  
**St. Peter's Church, Yateley**  
**7.00 p.m. 18th April 2023**

**Present:** There were 75 attendees.

**Apologies:** John Moloney, Katie Urban, Colin Hill, Sheila Hill, Stuart Bailey, Neil Parkes, Ishbel Thomson, Vera Grey, Jess Unadkhat, Alex Unadkhat, Sheila Reed, David reed, Karen Jones, Neil Jones.

**Welcome.** Tim welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened with prayer.

Tim introduced the Business Review by explaining how following a long period of change a review of how to restructure the relationship between the church and the businesses was carried out by Richard Quarterman. The review took eighteen months and also involved a change to the structure of the office and how things are done. Tim paid a great tribute to Richard for all the time, work, and expertise he brought to the review.

### **Business Review.**

#### **Creation of the Business Board.**

- The Business Board is a sub committee of the PCC. It delegates authority to the PCC, reports back and has been given greater autonomy than the basic doings of the church.
- The key change is that Sue and Jen, managers of the businesses, are now full members of the board, attending all meetings and being much more involved.
- There are six Board members – Richard Quarterman, Chair, Nick Norton, Finance, Lynn O'Mahony, HR, Ian Hayes, IT, Jen and Sue, business managers.
- The Board has been meeting regularly since July and has had very constructive discussions.

#### **Terms of Reference**

- To manage day-to-day work.
- To act as support for the businesses.

#### **Up-date of Businesses.**

#### **Discoveries.**

- Discoveries is doing very well with an encouraging growth of income.
- Great importance is placed on community outreach, not just finance, with support for Hope Hub, the Food Bank, glasses for India etc., and the instigation of fund-raising events such as Brite Nite and the fashion show.
- The volunteer team continues to grow and young people doing their Duke of Edinburgh Award and work experience are welcomed in both Discoveries and the Café.
- The Upcycling Group has stalls at the May and Christmas Fayres selling goods reworked from items that could not be sold in the shop.

#### **Café 46**

- Some new furniture has been bought.

- Discussions on how to structure staffing have been held. As a result, Melinda Gowen has been promoted to Deputy Manager.
- More work is being done to sort out the garden to make outdoors more attractive.
- Now able to supply special events such as birthdays, celebrations etc., and a menu is now available.
- A Pastoral Care Team for the Café is about to be launched. Chris Page is working with Jen to build up a team which will enable there to be someone in the Café to come alongside people and make it even more welcoming.

#### **Working on.**

- The Board is constantly looking at how to forward the businesses and had an awayday to put together some thoughts.
- There is an HR representative on the Board looking at improving HR processes and the appraisal process has been up-dated.
- Richard thanked Maureen for her assistance.

#### **Numbers.**

##### **Discoveries.**

- Sales: 2020, £93k; 2021, £112k; 2022, £160K; 2023, forecast £178k. 2019 was similar to 2022.
- Covid had an impact as the shop was closed for large parts of the year, but it is now building up again.
- Into 2023 – costs have increased, staff costs have increased due to the increase in the National Living Wage, and utility bills are also raised.
- Although sales are increasing there is pressure on the profits, forecast to be £74k as opposed to £66k last year.
- Discoveries also pays £18k recharge per annum into the Land Fund to help repay the loan, and also contributes to office costs. There is a projected £50k profit as opposed to £42k last year.

##### **Café**

- The sales are increasing consistently, steadily, and well and the Café is still seeing new customers coming in.
- Costs are different for the Café as it has to pay for the food.
- 2022-2023 will see staff and utility costs going up which will have an impact on profitability. 2023 is expecting to break even
- The Café pays £12k recharge with £6k office costs, which make the accounts look like a loss. The Café is not making a lot of money though the business is increasing, due to the rise in costs.

##### **Future Direction**

- Both businesses are starting to grow and attract new customers.
- Improvement to ambience and facilities of both businesses.
- Better use of garden and outside facilities.
- More explicit engagement with community causes and charities. 10% of profit is donated to local community charities. This applies to both businesses although at present it is only Discoveries that is making a profit.
- Repayment of the loan by 2026 increases the opportunity for further development. While this needs to be discussed with the PCC it will improve the overall financial situation.

- More volunteers always needed -please!

Richard thanked all the volunteers in the Café and Discoveries saying the business model is dependent on the volunteers.

Tim offered a “very big thank you” to Richard and all the Board members, saying that yes the volunteers make it happen, but so does the Business Board.

Ranjan and Sam offered a short time of prayer, saying that every Tuesday they meet as part of the Ministry Team and plan the week ahead. This morning they were drawn to John ch. 17, Jesus’s farewell to his followers and his prayer for them, and for us as the future church. Ranjan gave a response to the reading saying that one of the jobs of the clergy is to be watchmen over the church. He prayed “Bless us with that love, that power, that unity to build the Kingdom here”, and closed with the Lord’s prayer.

Tim said that one of the great privileges of the past year had been to welcome Sam and Ranjan in their roles. They are to be priested later in the summer.

### **Annual Parish Meeting.**

This is a separate meeting at which the Churchwardens are elected.

**Minutes of the last meeting.** There being no errors or omissions the minutes were signed as a true record.

Proposed: Sue Harkins. Seconded: Sarah Quarterman. All in favour.

### **Election of Wardens.**

The aim of the Parish Meeting is to appoint the Churchwardens. There were two nominations for the position of Churchwarden, Linda Hoskins, nominated by Maureen King, seconded by Brenda Stook, and Ian Hutchinson, nominated by Maureen King, seconded by Katie Urban. There being no other nominations, Linda and Ian were duly appointed. Tim said that the job of churchwarden is varied and unusual, the brief saying, “ whatever is needed”, and support for the Vicar. He said Linda and Ian are awesome in their support and caring and do the job brilliantly for which he gave them heartfelt thanks.

The meeting closed with prayer for Linda and Ian led by Judy Divall.

### **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

#### **Minutes of the previous meeting {5<sup>th</sup> April 2022}**

The minutes were approved and signed as a true record.

Proposed: Michael Duncalfe. Seconded: Desmond Thuambe. All in favour.

#### **Matters arising – all in the reports.**

- Tim thanked everyone who had contributed to the reports.
- One of the things that had to be done as part of the Business Review was to restructure the office. As a result, Maureen has been appointed as Office Manager, assisted by Naomi Brown, and Katie Urban is now Buildings and Facilities Manager.

#### **AOB**

There had been a question about Youth Provision. Over some time a dedicated Youth Worker has been sought to work with the young people, and it was thought that a person had been found, but this fell through so the search continued. Tim is currently having very

positive conversations with someone, but this must be kept confidential. The person could possibly be in post within a few months but is presently still employed elsewhere.

### Electoral Roll Report

The Electoral Roll stands at 243 as opposed to 244 in 2022. The Roll has grown by approximately 10% over the past five years and is due to be reviewed in two years' time.

### Election of Parochial Church Council

- Each year four people out of twelve on the PCC are elected; every year there are people who step down or who have completed two terms and need to take at least one year's break.
- Leaving this year – Joyce Fisher, Nick Norton, Jess Unadkhat, Margaret Keane, and Amy Lyburn; they were thanked for their service on the PCC.
- A massive thank you was given to Nick who did an extra year to see the church through the reorganisation, and who is now the Finance representative on the Business Board. He was presented with a gift as a mark of appreciation. Martine was also thanked for lending Nick for an extra year.
- Tim gave a personal Vicar's thanks to Nick. He said that he oversaw the changes resulting from the Business Review, and dealt with the difficulties of the pandemic, going through incredibly complicated applications to receive c£100k in furlough payments and grants. The present figures are down to Nick, and he deserved huge thanks.
- Nick replied that it had been a pleasure but incredibly tough and hard work. Seven years was long enough! He thanked Maureen for all her help and support.
- Ruby Fearon has agreed to be the new Church Treasurer.
- There was no election as the numbers of nominees fitted the vacancies.

Nominee	Years	Proposed	Seconded
Richard Page	3	Maureen King	Katie Urban
Sylvie Collins	3	Maureen King	Nick Norton
Ruby Fearon	3	Richard Page	Glenda Simpson
Rebekah Cole	3	Chris Cole	Samuel Dinsmore
Carolyn Sallis	2	Maureen King	Katie Urban
Michael Head	2	Maureen King	Gillian Weeks

### Election to Deanery Synod

- All Deanery Synod members were required to stand down this year, and for elections to take place.
- Standing down – Chris Cole and Sarah Quarterman. Tim gave thanks to them and all Deanery Synod representatives.
- Deanery Synod reps are ex-officio members of PCC and represent St. Peter's at Deanery, and sometimes Diocesan Synod.
- The following nominees were appointed:

Nominee	Years	Proposed	Seconded
Janet Young	3	Maureen King	Gillian Allan

Steve King	3	Gillian Weeks	Christopher Lintott
Henryk Urban	3	Meryl Branson	Gillian Weeks
Stuart Bailey	3	Nick Norton	Meryl Branson

- Other ex-officio members of PCC are Linda and Ian as churchwardens, the Clergy, and Maureen, Katie and Gill who can attend as appropriate, but not vote as they are employed by the church.
- The PCC meets nine times a year, and Tim said he wanted it to be a PCC with a sense of ownership and leadership in the church. He thanked all those prepared to do this.

Diane Martin led prayer for the PCC and Deanery Synod members.

### **Presentation of the Annual Report**

- It is a requirement that the Annual Report and Accounts be formally approved and adopted at the APCM.
- Reports from all the activities that take place in the church are presented in a separate booklet and Tim said that everyone should read it and be encouraged.
- The Annual Reports and Accounts of the Parochial Church Council for the year ending December 2022 are available in print and on the web-site. They contain reference and administrative information, the Annual Report, Statement of responsibilities of members of the PCC, the Independent Examiner's report, Statement of Financial Activities {SoFA}, Balance sheet and notes to the financial statements.
- Slides illustrating the financial position of the church were shown, these including a breakdown of the income and expenditure.
- Paul Chamberlain, Independent Examiner, said he had been very impressed by the figures and thanked the church as a whole. He said that there are challenges to the budget going forward, not least the increase in the cost of utilities, which have doubled.
- Slides were shown looking at the budget for 2023, and the proposed development of an Additional Needs toilet was mentioned.
- Tim said that we are praying for God's provision, and that we should be very grateful to God as we have a degree of financial stability of which other churches would be very envious.

**Proposal - Formal Approval of the Annual Report by the APCM.**

**Proposed: Nick Norton. Seconded: Sarah Quarterman. All in Favour.**

### **Appointment of the Independent Examiner.**

Paul Chamberlain had given real encouragement and was very positive on the way the financial processes had been put through, especially as some things need constantly monitoring to stay up-to-date. He said that Sarah Quarterman and Nick Norton had done amazing work, and he thanked them.

**Proposal: The Appointment of Chamberlains as the Independent Examiner.**

**Proposed: Sarah Quarterman. Seconded: Ranjan Emmanuel. All in favour.**

This concluded the formal business of the APCM.

### **APCM Vicars Report**

I wonder where you were at teatime on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019 four years ago last weekend. Many of us were watching TV as Notre Dame in Paris caught fire and was badly damaged especially the roof and the spire. I have loved this building for decades: there are photos of me outside as a teenager, as an adult, with my children. It is a building that dates from 1163 from a similar era to the foundations of the building we stand in. And we had a fire too. Now I don't know what debates went on when the design for a replacement St Peter's was discussed by PCC and at an APCM, but I suspect there were heated contributions by many and there are heated debates about how to rebuild Notre Dame.

Should they make the spire a replica of the 19th-century design by French architect Viollet-le-Duc or should they make it some modernistic and a new design for a new era.

*One debate I read says Eager architects from around the world flooded Instagram and Twitter with their visions of Notre Dame restored with contemporary flair. There were glass roofs, slick, twisting spires and garish Disney castle towers. But someone else noted If crowning Notre Dame today with a reimagined, modern steeple is controversial, Viollet-le-Duc's spire also caused an uproar in 1859. What do you do? Someone else commented We say that all Paris, it's something like gruyere. Like a cheese, there's a lot of holes.*

One thing I am certain of, when it is finished someone won't like it and will tell people why.

I think that the Church of God is now in that very important discussion as to what the future looks like and what we are going to build. The destruction of covid has been compounded with the financial crisis. Globally, nationally, and locally the church asks the same question: what will the new Church that emerges from the ashes actually look like? I read an article which says that the Church has got focussed on politics and ideas and has lost the Focus on the Core Mission. What is the core mission? And how do we hold it in tension with all the other things we have to in order to keep St Peter's happening?

We're looking at finally equipping St Peter's with a toilet for those with additional needs. We think we have identified where and how, and we will work out what and how much. I've been saying to the PCC that there are four parts to a project:

- 1 – What is the ultimate simple desire?
- 2 – What does that desire look like in practice?
- 3 – What do we need to put into place to make the desire a reality?
- 4 – Do it.

The thing which takes the time in number 2. We know what 1 is – build a loo. We know that 3 and 4 will follow on once we have answered number 2 if you'll excuse the pun. We have looked at 5 different locations. We now need to get plans in place. We need to make decisions. And then, only then, will we get on with the job with numbers 3 and 4.

We go back to the questions from earlier. What is the core mission? And how do we hold it in tension with all the other things we have in order to keep St Peter's happening? We know what the desire is for the work at St Peter's: to build the Kingdom. We all agree on that. What people will disagree on is what that looks like. In Paris they know they want a spire.

Globally, nationally, and locally the church asks the same question: what will the new Church that emerges from the ashes actually look like?

The article I read said this: *The Church needs to focus on the core mission: Which means the future church will have to stand as an alternative to the culture, not an echo of it.*

*Cool won't cut it*

*Hype won't cut it*

*Fun won't cut it*

*Real will.*

It's about a focus on the core purpose of church: introducing people to a relationship with Jesus, with each other and life-changing discipleship, It's the one thing that church can offer that the world doesn't.

The article said *Churches that focus on this will grow. Churches that get lost in politics, ideology, hype, or anything off mission won't—at least not the long term.*

The challenge to us at St Peter's is that we take our eyes off of how things used to be done or how we think things ought to be done and get on with doing the things God has asked us to do. We have a Vision. We have a PCC who I am seeking, increasingly, to be a place where we talk about direction rather than drains. We know what the job is: to build the kingdom

Let's stop whinging and get stuck in to getting on with the job. Let's focus on what matters, what really matters. A word which came back repeatedly when we looked at the subject of a Vision

for St Peter's was Authentic. Being authentic. We will not grow deep roots in Word and Spirit if we are not authentic. Jesus' parable of the Sower talked about those who sprung up quickly because they were on rocky ground and had no roots. Their growth was not authentic. We will not be truly seeking God in our Prayer and Worship unless we are authentic. Our worship will be as hollow and lifeless as the whitewashed tombs Jesus spoke of the Pharisees being. We will not reach out

in the presence and love of Jesus if our lives are not authentic. Authentic, distinctive Christian discipleship is costly in terms of our time, our energy our talents and our money. If we stop giving of our time, our energy, our gifts, and our money and then say "the Church has gone to pot" then who is responsible?

I have said before: the difference between a disciple and a volunteer. A volunteer says, "what's the job ... ok, I'll do it" The disciple says, "I'll do it ... what's the job?" It is so exciting when we see people on fire for Jesus, authentic, distinctive disciples who are more focussed on the Gospel

being preached and living out lives fixed and focussed on Jesus. An authentic church is not one

where they have flashy tech, or the content of services is erudite and the preaching profound or the quality of music would mirror a big conference.

My training vicar was, to be honest, pretty hopeless. He was far from erudite, and his preaching was so-so and we relied on dear old Meg on the piano but as an authentic man of God Charles drew people to him and pointed them to God.

Yes we need good preaching - Of course we do! Yes, we want our worship to be organised and not chaotic. Yes, we want our music to be of a good quality. But these things must be authentic. Without authenticity they are just acts, just show. What kind of experience of coming into St Peter's will help people move into an authentic faith? When people come to church, they're not just looking for information—they're looking for transformation.

2022 was a year when we came out of the pandemic, blinking into the light. We have had to compose ourselves and identify where we are in 2023 and what is around us. In retrospect, last year felt like one of those films where the remnant of a people who have come through a catastrophe, find themselves on a new planet, working out what resources they have and how they build afresh because all they knew had been wiped away.

Inevitably some wasted time wishing for the past. Some spent their time trying to do things which were impossible to achieve with the limited resources available. Others just got with it: with doing the quiet, slow job of building.

I don't know what spire they will end up with on top of Notre Dame. Does it matter? What matters

is that the mission to rebuild afresh, to make the building fit for purpose, that draws people together who want it to be the focal point for life across Paris and France. What matters is that the building is authentic, reflecting the history as well as the modernity of Notre Dame and, whether people like it or not, to get on with rejoicing that they have a building to use to worship in and draw people towards. That's the mission.

The challenge for us is to know what the mission is: to be building the Kingdom of God - whatever it looks like, and for St Peter's to be an authentic representation of the Kingdom of God at the heart of Yateley where we are authentically Rooted in Word and Spirit, where we are authentically Seeking God in Prayer and Worship, and where we are authentically, Reaching out in the Presence and Love of Jesus.

**The meeting closed with prayer.**