

St Peter's with St Mark's Hospital Church

Annual Meetings 2023

Monday 22nd May 2023 at 7.30pm

Annual Meeting of Parishioners (AMP)

Present: There were 36 people present, 6 of whom were not on the electoral roll.

Apologies: Apologies were received from 13 people.

The record of attendance and apologies is available on request from the PCC Secretary.

David Short opened by welcoming all to these meetings.

The meeting started with sung worship and David opened in prayer.

David shared a reflection from Galatians 3:36 'for in Christ Jesus you are children of God through faith'

- We are all in Christ. We share in His death and in His resurrection and we will share in His risen life. Jesus is the centre of everything we do together as a community – worship, devotion, lives (Love Jesus).
- We are children of God - part of the same intergenerational and intercultural family (v28). We are united in our faith – all are one in Christ Jesus (Share Lives).
- When we come to God through faith in Jesus we are welcomed into His family. We encounter His presence and power and then are sent out to join in with what He is doing (Transform Communities).

1. **Apologies** as above.

2. **Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners held on 23rd May 2022.**

Ian Knight proposed and Christine Berry seconded a motion that the Minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting of Parishioners be accepted as a true record. This was passed unanimously.

3. Election of Churchwardens

Franzi Cheeseman, who was stepping down as Churchwarden, thanked David, Catherine and family and all of the team who have helped her in this role. She mentioned how humbled she was by how willing everyone was to help fill ministry roles and further the mission of the church. David thanked her and made a presentation to her from everyone.

There was one nomination and there is at present a vacancy. David encouraged anyone interested in this vacancy to contact him so that he can tell them more about what is involved. Ian Knight was nominated by Brian Giddings, seconded by Jeremy Stevens.

As the number of nominations were less than the number of available vacancies, Ian Knight and was duly appointed as Churchwarden.

David thanked Ian for standing for the office of Churchwarden and prayed for him.

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners was then closed.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

This meeting followed straight on from the AMP.

Present: There were 38 people present, 6 of whom were not on the electoral roll.

Apologies: Apologies were received from 11 people.

The record of attendance and apologies is available on request from the PCC Secretary.

1. **Apologies for absence** – see above.

2. **Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 23rd May 2022.**

Lucy Bellinger proposed and Ian Knight seconded the proposal that the Minutes of the 2022 Annual Parochial Church Meeting be accepted as a true record, This was approved and carried.

3. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

4. **Declaration of Any Other Business**

There was no other business raised under this item.

5. Elections to the PCC and Deanery Synod

David Short thanked the outgoing members of the PCC: Abi Griffiths-Price, Anna Holloway and Richard Thorogood, who have all reached the end of their three-year term on the PCC. Alan Berry, whose three-year term also ended at this PCC, stood down earlier this year when he handed over the Treasurer role to Brian Giddings. All were thanked for their commitment and contributions.

The following candidates for the PCC were proposed:

Candidate	Proposed by	Seconded by	Period of Office
Marlene Bryant	Franziska Cheeseman	Claire Bronnimann	2023-2026
Martin Flynn	Lucy Bellinger	Ian Bellinger	2023-2026
Brian Giddings	Ian Knight	Heather Goodland	2023-2026
Sandra Young	Anthony Holland	Susan Fleet	2023-2026

The following candidates for Deanery Synod were proposed:

Candidate	Proposed by	Seconded by	Period of Office
Marlene Bryant	Kira Holland	Catherine Short	2023-2026
Martin Flynn	Lucy Bellinger	Ian Bellinger	2023-2026
Brian Giddings	Ian Knight	Heather Goodland	2023-2026
Sandra Young	Andrew Fleet	Paul Carter	2023-2026

All of the above members of the PCC and Deanery Synod have been appointed for a period of three years.

As the number of nominations for PCC and Deanery Synod (4) matched the number of vacancies, the above were duly appointed.

Howard Goldsmith was also standing down from PCC due to family commitments, giving rise to a casual vacancy. He was thanked for more than 23 years on the PCC, most of those as Vice Chair. This has given rise to a casual vacancy for a period of one year. Franzi Cheeseman offered to carry on as Vice Chair and fill this vacancy on the PCC for one year.

Candidate	Proposed by	Seconded by	Period of Office
Franziska Cheeseman	Kira Holland	Jayne Goldsmith	2023-2024

As there were no other nominations for this PCC casual vacancy Franzi was duly appointed.

David took the opportunity to remind the meeting of the purpose of the PCC and invited people to pray for the work of the PCC in the coming year, and the vacancies that may arise next year. If anyone was interested in standing for the PCC, David asked that they let the wardens or himself know during the year. Typically, four vacancies a year are available to be filled, which allows for fresh thinking and perspectives on a regular basis, and allows as many people as possible to be involved in this important work. The PCC oversees good governance

for the church, and discusses and makes decisions on a range of matters, both the big picture things and the small details of church life.

The appointments to the PCC were warmly received from those present. David prayed for the PCC, both newly elected and outgoing members, thanking God for their service to the Church and for all of the PCC as they continue to seek to serve in many different ways to the glory of God.

6. Appointment of Independent Examiners of 2023 Accounts

Richard Thorogood proposed and Sue Fleet seconded that Verdant Accountants be appointed to carry out the independent examination of the Accounts for 2023. The proposal was carried with one abstention.

7. Reports on Fabric, Goods and Ornaments; Safeguarding; the PCC and Deanery Synod

The Reports on Safeguarding; the PCC; the Deanery Synod; and the Fabric Report had all been distributed in advance with the Agenda in order to save time. After those present were offered the opportunity to ask questions in relation to these, the Reports were duly noted for the record. The Reports will be filed alongside the meeting minutes to form part of the meeting record. Copies are available on request from the PCC Secretary.

8. Electoral Roll Report

Adrian Young, the Electoral Roll Officer, reported that the number of names on the 2022 roll, as reported at last year's APCM, was 169. Since that meeting 7 names have been added and 10 have been removed, including 5 who had died and 5 who had moved church. The number of names entered upon the church electoral roll in 2023 is 166. Of those 52% reside in the parish and 48% do not.

9. Finance Review for 2022

The Treasurer, Brian Giddings, presented a Financial Review of 2022 which was based on the Annual Report and Financial Statements for 2022, previously made available to the members via the website and hard copies where required. St Peter's and St Mark's operates as one Charity – members of our PCC are the trustees. He thanked Alan Berry for his help as Gift Secretary and for his support.

The following key factors affecting 2022 were brought to the attention of the meeting:

- Costs have increased.
- Salaries have increased.
- Costs related to repair and improvement works at St Mark's
- Investments had not performed as well as predicted.

The mission tithe amount and mission partner charities were presented. The inclusion of Alpha Liberia on the presentation slide was queried, as Alpha Liberia was no longer a mission

partner due to the increasing difficulties in transferring money overseas. Brian agreed to investigate whether an amendment to the Annual Report is required.

A question was raised regarding the inclusion of a donation to the Evangelical Alliance as part of the mission tithe. David explained that this organisation equips the local church, e.g. in the areas of young adults and intercultural mission. It is for the Mission Action Team to decide if they should become a mission partner.

Brian Giddings proposed and Alan Jell seconded that the members accept the Annual Report and Accounts including the amendment as a fair representation of the Parish finances for 2022. This was carried unanimously.

David Short thanked Alan Berry and Brian Giddings on behalf of everyone for all their hard and faithful work as Treasurer throughout the year and in preparing these reports. David also thanked all those involved in putting the Report together, especially Sandy who has done an immense amount of work to bring everything together ready for the meeting this evening.

10. Any Other Business

There was nothing notified.

This concluded the formal meeting, which was closed with prayer by David Short.

Review of the Year.

This year we focussed on our International Ministry headed up by Geoff.

Geoff invited Jenny, Natalie and Jason to be interviewed.

Jenny arrived nearly 2 years ago, Jason and Natalie arrived about 6 months ago.

Jason admitted it is hard to adapt to life here, especially arriving in the winter in the UK. It was very difficult to get used to the shorter days and the cold! However, he shared that there hasn't been much of a culture shock and he likes the environment and Natalie said she quite likes living here. Jenny is enjoying living here, although the winter is challenging, she and her family really enjoy the summer. Jenny has come to faith since being in the UK. Geoff asked about her spiritual journey. She explained that in Hong Kong everyone is often very busy, but in the UK she felt she had more time and a friend introduced her to St Mary's and Christianity Explored which she really enjoyed. At the end of the course she came to faith and is now doing a Christian foundation course.

Geoff asked what had made them feel welcome? Jason shared that although everything had changed around them, when they came to St Peter's that it didn't matter where they were from everyone was very welcoming and when he came here he felt like he was coming home. Natalie also felt the warmth from people, who talked to her and said it really feels like a family, not like a

very big church. Jenny also felt that she was made very welcome – she has made very many friends and feels very blessed. Geoff commented that often it is just our presence and our smile that is so important in making people feel welcome.

The final session of the Welcome Course looms already – Jason, although he is still very nervous to talk to people and struggles to remember names, appreciated that the course was an opportunity to meet together with other people from Hong Kong and also to have more confidence to talk to people from St Peter's. Through this kind of sharing, he knows more about living in the UK and understands more about the cultural differences.

Natalie found that the Welcome Course was a great chance to meet people and make friends, which she doesn't get an opportunity to do at work. It has been a great help to learn how to reach out to people from here and understand how people live here.

How could we improve our welcome? Jason, Natalie and Jenny have already said how well we do welcoming people. Natalie said, that often people are nervous talking to people they don't know in a place they are not familiar with – her advice is that we be patient and persevere, keep doing what we are doing. Jason said that it makes all the difference to be in a welcoming church because it makes it easy to be a Christian when there are people who accept and embrace difference.

Geoff said 'it isn't rocket science' just be nice. It's not just about opening our doors but opening our hearts.

Geoff closed the session in prayer that we would all continue to have a welcoming heart to all people, but especially those who are different to us. God help us to do this.

David reiterated Geoff's prayer and asked us to welcome everyone and reach out in friendship to everyone, even those we have known for years.

The meeting was closed in prayer.