

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

**Minutes of the Vestry Meeting
Sunday 24th March 2019 at 12 noon in the church**

30 members of the electoral roll and residents of the parish were present.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Suzanne Roberts; Mary Thomas; Elizabeth Ainger; David Ainger; Stephen Thean and Stephen Spencer.

2. Acceptance of the minutes of the Vestry Meeting held on Sunday 22nd April 2018.

The minutes of the Vestry Meeting held on Sunday 22nd April 2018 were proposed by Rachel Woolf, seconded by Fola Faleti and unanimously accepted as a true and correct record.

3. Election of 2 Church Wardens

John Beauchamp thanked Janice Emslie and Suzanne Roberts for all their work as Church Wardens. Suzanne Roberts is to stand down as warden after 3 years; Janice Emslie is to stand for a further year.

Janice Emslie was then proposed by Suzanne Roberts and seconded by Katie Melville and unanimously approved.

There were no other candidates

4. Annual accounts and financial report for 2018 – Ralph Dunham

Ralph Dunham noted that it had been a challenging year, but the church has been able to maintain a stable level of funding and has met all requirements with a flat budget. Church giving is now stable and spread more widely across the congregation. There were a few unexpected expenditure items, notably around the buildings, but these costs have been met due to an increase in income from the church premises. Ralph thanked Natalie Beauchamp for her work. Ralph suggested that another balanced budget next year should be achieved, and that we should meet all our obligations too. Ralph expressed his thanks to the Finance Team and everyone else involved in finances. He outlined the next steps, which include improving our accounting package and migrating to the parish giving scheme. He informed the meeting that the accounts have now been signed off, after an independent examination, expressing his thanks to Jonathan Orchard and proposing his continuation for next year. This was seconded by Timothy Muller and unanimously agreed.

Mike Dana asked about the finance relating to the church weekend away: the level of donations and the net loss. Ralph responded that the giving generated a small surplus, which will likely be used for the next church weekend away, although this will be discussed at the PCC.

The meeting then closed.

**St Stephen's Church, Canonbury
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**Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Sunday 24th March 2019 at 2pm in the church halls**

Electoral Roll Members Present:

Mat Barber	Stuart Evans	Bo Sheppard
Marian Coleiro	Fola Faleti	David Titmas
Joy Faulkner-Mpeho	Lois Gallagher	Fran Trafford
Rufin Batota-Mpeho	Dan Gleadall	Vernon Trafford
Natalie Beauchamp	Ben Husser	Basil Woodd-Walker
Len Chalkley	Katie Melville	John Woolf
Marian Coleiro	Tim Muller	Rachel Woolf
John Creyke	Luke Robertshaw	
Janice Emslie	Libby Senez	
Lizzie Evans	Dave Senez	

Also in attendance:

John Beauchamp
Margaret Evans

1. Opening prayer

John Beauchamp opened the meeting in prayer.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Suzanne Roberts; Mary Thomas; Elizabeth Ainger; David Ainger; Sarah Strang; Ian Carson; Will Smart; Stephen Thean and Stephen Spencer; John Wilson and Rose Mwesigwa.

3. Acceptance of the minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Sunday 22nd April 2018 and any matters arising.

The minutes of the APCM Meeting held on Sunday 22nd April 2018 were proposed by Janice Emslie, seconded by Rufin Batota-Mpeho and unanimously accepted as a true and correct record. There were no matters arising. John Beauchamp thanked Margaret Evans for taking the minutes.

4. Electoral roll report – Vernon and Fran Trafford

John Beauchamp thanked Vernon and Fran Trafford for all their work. Vernon thanked John Beauchamp and Rose Mwesigwa. Vernon delivered his report: this was a year in which the Diocese of London required everyone on the electoral roll to complete an official form in order to re-register. An explanatory letter from the Vicar accompanied the Diocesan Application for Enrolment form, which was distributed to members of the congregation by hand, post or email. The number of names on the electoral roll for 2018-19 was 125. During the past year 11 people have joined our congregation and they each completed an enrolment form. The names of 40 people have been removed from the roll. The reasons for this include moving to another church, employment overseas, studying at university or elsewhere, and the death of a long-standing member of the congregation. 30 people did not return an enrolment form and their names were removed from the roll. The current total of completed forms is 96 and this represents the number of persons on our Electoral Roll.

John Beauchamp noted that the church can still accept people onto the electoral roll.

5. Report of the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council – John Woolf

John Woolf, referring to the written annual reports, outlined the range of issues discussed by the PCC including:

- Migration of 'Concrete' to The Salmon Youth Centre
- Elders team
- Revision of Mission Action Plan
- Richard Cloudesley 'Sustainable Churches' initiative
- Visit from St Stephen's, Luanda
- Implementing the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
- Church weekend away
- Policy on accepting lottery funding
- Financial reports and annual accounts
- The work of Urban Hope and Manna and the preschool childrens work project.

As regular items on the agenda, John Woolf informed the meeting that we receive:

- Quarterly management accounts and approved a budget for 2019
- Reports from Deanery Synod representatives
- Health and Safety updates
- Safeguarding reports
- Reports from other sub-committees – Mission Giving, Staffing, Buildings
- Reports from Vicar and Church Wardens.

John Beauchamp noted that John Woolf will stand down as PCC secretary this year after 3 years. John Beauchamp thanked John Woolf for his work as secretary.

6. Election of PCC members and officers

i) Appointment of Warden Assistants

John Creyke, Rufin Batota-Mpeho, Stephen Spencer, Vernon and Fran Trafford, Suzanne Roberts and Mary Thomas were proposed as Warden Assistants by Natalie Beauchamp, seconded by Lizzie Evans and unanimously approved.

ii) Election of PCC members (1 for 2 years, 4 for 3 years)

John Beauchamp informed the meeting that those coming to the end of their terms this year were:

John Woolf

Katie Melville

Natalie Beauchamp

Elizabeth Ainger.

Those who have resigned this year:

Katy Evans

Rufin Batota-Mpeho

Timothy Muller.

John Beauchamp thanked them all and outlined the vacancies: 4 roles for 3 years; 1 for 2 years; 2 for 1 year.

Candidates proposed for 3 years:

- Joy Faulkner-Mpeho was proposed by Vernon Trafford, seconded by Stephen Thean and unanimously approved.
- Lizzie Evans was proposed by Len Chalkley, seconded by John Creyke and unanimously approved.
- Natalie Beauchamp was proposed by Janice Emslie, seconded by Rachel Woolf and unanimously approved.

- Rachel Woolf was proposed by Lizzie Evans, seconded by Timothy Muller and unanimously approved.

Candidates proposed for 2 years:

- Katie Melville was proposed by Janice Emslie, seconded by Libby Senez and unanimously approved.

Candidates proposed for 1 year:

- Elizabeth Ainger was proposed by Bo Sheppard, seconded by David Ainger and unanimously approved.
- Suzanne Roberts was proposed by Janice Emslie, seconded by Natalie Beauchamp and unanimously approved.

iii) Appointment of Electoral Roll Officer

- Vernon and Fran Trafford were proposed by Janice Emslie, seconded by Stuart Evans and unanimously approved.

iv) Appointment of sidespersons and vergers

Mary Thomas
 Marion Coleiro
 Luke Robertshaw
 Vernon Trafford
 Fran Trafford
 James Eddo
 Stephen Spencer
 Stephen Thean
 Jide Fediora
 Bodunrin Fediora
 Bo Shepherd.

They were proposed by Rachel Woolf, seconded by Timothy Muller and unanimously approved.

7. Annual accounts and financial report for 2018 – Ralph Dunham

John Beauchamp informed the meeting that this item was previously delivered at the Vestry Meeting. John added that the spread of giving has changed: previously, a substantial amount was given from a small cohort but now we have a broader and more stable giving base. Katie Melville thanked Ralph Dunham and the finance team for all their work.

8. Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2019

John Beauchamp informed the meeting that this item was previously delivered at the Vestry Meeting, thanking Jonathan Orchard for his work thus far.

9. Safeguarding report

John Beauchamp delivered the report on behalf of Suzanne Roberts, referring to the annual reports. The main points were as follows:

- Suzanne Roberts is church safeguarding officer
- Diocese provide a clear safeguarding framework and policy
- We support vulnerable children and adults in Urban Hope and Manna and put appropriate safeguarding measures in place
- PCC adopted the Diocesan safeguarding policy in May 2018
- Reappointed Suzanne Roberts, also Joy Faulkner and Lois Gallagher as childrens champions

- Diocesan safeguarding audit and action plan was completed and presented to PCC in September
- PCC will readopt the safeguarding policy at its next meeting and action a safeguarding audit during 2019.

John Beauchamp thanked Suzanne Roberts for all her work.

10. Receipt of written reports of church activities in 2018

John Beauchamp asked the meeting if there were any comments on the reports. The meeting agreed that the summary report was very useful. Fola Faleti, referring to page 2 of the annual report, noted the importance of raising environmental objectives within the PCC. He suggested we include the line: 'we are conscious of what is happening environmentally and take this seriously'. John Beauchamp noted that this was on the MAP, but we could include an environmental statement within the PCC objectives.

John Beauchamp reflected on the fact that we have had a full year of church activities, achieving a lot and forging and enhancing meaningful relationships with St Stephen's Luanda and St Mary's Eritrean church.

Katie Melville welcomed the completion of the church steps. John Beauchamp highlighted the buildings report, noting everything we have achieved. Fola Faleti asked if we have written to Cloudesley thanking them for all their help; John responded that we have, and we write to them every time they give us money, stressing the importance of this relationship. Stuart Evans informed the meeting that a thank you event is scheduled to mark the completion of the steps. John thanked Stuart for his years of service on the Buildings Committee; the whole meeting expressed their thanks. Stuart thanked the meeting and said he was happy Richard Senez will be taking over as Chair. John thanked Richard for his help thus far, especially on the lighting and fire alarm.

The written reports were proposed by Joy Batota-Mpeho, seconded by Rufin Batota-Mpeho and unanimously accepted as a true and correct record of church activities for 2018.

11. Report of the proceedings of the Deanery Synod – Fola Faleti

Fola Faleti referred to the written report. He encouraged members to take an interest in Deanery activities: there are a lot of activities but not enough members. Fola will provide more reports to encourage attendance. The Deanery Synod brings all churches together and encourages connectivity.

Margaret Evans asked when the Bishop of Stepney will be appointed; John Beauchamp thought sometime later this summer.

12. Report of the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church and signing of Terrier, Inventory and Log Book

John Beauchamp stressed the need to look at the inventory over the next few months. Members of the meeting were happy to delegate responsibility to the PCC.

13. Mission Action Plan revision – John Beauchamp

John Beauchamp outlined the MAP, which has been revised again for the coming year. The MAP reaffirms our desire to be a community that is growing in Christ and serving the community. The core values we aspire to:

- Diversity and inclusion
- Theological and liturgical breadth
- Practically demonstrated love
- Risk taking and an openness to new ideas
- Commitment to learning and growing as followers of Jesus

- Engagement with the local community
- Speaking out for justice
- Working in partnership with churches and other local organisations
- Modelling and encouraging environmental responsibility

John noted the key priorities:

- Prayer and worship - we see this as the heart of all that we are
- Diversity and inclusion – we are a church for all
- Communication - we seek to be open and collaborative
- Ministry – we are all part of ‘the body of Christ’
- Safeguarding and Health and Safety – we want to be a ‘safe place’

John outlined what we have achieved over the past 3 years:

- A programme of social events and concerts
- A church weekend at High Leigh in October 2018
- Appointed a preschool childrens worker and developed this work including exploring ‘child in the midst’ theology, improving the crèche and facilities, offering community parent and baby support, starting ‘Messy Church’ and an early years Sunday ministry.
- Relocated the church office; Installed a new sound and video system; Rebuilt the Church steps; Installed a fire alarm; Completed quinquennial repairs..
- Established an environmental responsibility group and developed and started a carbon reduction programme of work for our building, including LED lighting, solar panels and insulation.
- Created and distributed ‘Season of invitation’ fliers.
- Run discipleship and nurture courses.
- Elders group established
- Launched a ‘Praying Together’ initiative.

John stressed that what we have discovered over the last couple of years is that our initial 2016 MAP was probably too ambitious. We are already a busy community and finding time and energy for the range of things in the MAP has not been possible. The PCC struggled to sustain MAP groups to head up development in each area, so the current revision seeks to sustain what we have achieved and focus on a few achievable goals for the next 2 years before we start to develop the new MAP for 2021-2026 during 2020.

John Beauchamp opened the meeting for questions and comments. Natalie Beauchamp thanked Lois Gallagher for all her hard work; John Woolf thanked John Beauchamp for all his hard work driving the MAP.

Vernon Trafford proposed, Bo Sheppard seconded, and the meeting unanimously agreed to adopt the MAP revisions.

14. Vicar’s remarks

John Beauchamp, referring to the written report, delivered his vicar’s report. The salient points:

- 2018 was an extraordinarily packed year.
- Many church activities and special events: Visit from Angola, church weekend, link with St Mary’s Eritrean church, centenary of world war one, along with festivals and more.
- Lois beginning her work as preschool childrens worker, exploring child in the midst, messy Church and much more, drawing new families to the church.
- Changes in the project staff, particularly after Joy and Alex left Urban Hope, Mat and Anna bringing new vision and opportunities.
- Karen starting at Manna after Rachel left.
- Joel at Urban Hope provided continuity and worked incredibly hard to help new staff; true with Manna staff

- Work on the building: Church cupboards, fire safety, steps, quinquennial repairs, LED and solar projects.
- Quinquennial work—actioning a structural survey of spire. An extensive project on the base of the spire is a possibility

John Beauchamp continued: we are a busy place with many people involved in the life and ministry of the church. Thank you to all of you who do so much. John particularly thanked Janice and Suzanne as wardens for all the support they have given him; Margaret for her partnership in ministry; all who speak and lead in our worship morning and evenings; the elders for their support and prayer and reflection; the great bunch of musicians; all the staff; and so many others who do so much to make St Stephen's what it is.

John noted that he ended his vicar's report with some verses from Colossians 3:

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

John noted that, in our divided and troubled times, we as the church have the opportunity to model something different. Never in recent history has it been so important for the church to speak prophetically into society. Through us as individuals, through us as a church in this parish, through us as part of the diocese of London and the national church, and particularly through our high profile national leaders, the good news needs to be heard by our nation. As political institutions collapse, as earthly leadership fails, we as the church need to show what it means to look beyond the earthly and put our trust in the God who does not fail us no matter what. Christianity should be a counter-cultural faith; a faith that challenges society and culture and the way of the world. These words from Colossians in many ways sum up that radical manifesto; a manifesto that each of us are called to adopt and live by and share with others. John finished by repeating the words of Colossians 3.

Margaret Evans, and the whole meeting, thanked Natalie Beauchamp for helping with the finances through managing Church and hall lettings and doing great work in the church.

15. Open Forum

John Beauchamp informed the meeting that this was a chance for all church members to raise issues of concern and ask questions. Anything raised will go to the PCC.

Bo Sheppard raised the issue of flower arrangers' loss of shelves. John Beauchamp responded that we can do a review of this; what we store and how we store. John Creyke noted that similar concerns have been expressed before.

Joy Batota-Mpeho raised the issue of diversity and inclusion: what mechanisms and how are we ensuring and looking at the ways in which St Stephens reflects the community in which we are embedded? Are we being open?

Katie Melville raised environmental issues, the 'Eco-Church' conference and expressed her desire to explore this through the PCC.

Margaret Evans raised the issue of community organisation, CTC with whom Joy works. Canonbury Responds is looking at building links with the wider community. PCC should take a look at how we see ourselves as part of a local community.

16. Closing prayers

Ben Husser closed the meeting in prayer.