

CHARLTON

ST LUKE AND ST THOMAS

ST LUKE WITH HOLY TRINITY, CHARLTON

Minutes of the Easter Vestry Meeting and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2019 29 April 2019 at 7.30 p.m. at St Luke's Church

Present: Ann Allega, Sonia Baidoo, Judith Barlow, Roberta Bassah, Elizabeth Buck, John Chipperfield, Amelia Cortez, Barbara Drew, Michael Griffiths, Deborah Jones, Alison Leggatt, Joan Lake, Revd Liz Newman, Richard Newman, Pat Orton, Revd Bennett Spong and Joseph Spooner.

The gathering began with prayer.

Easter Vestry Meeting 2018

- 1. Apologies for Absence** from both the evening's meetings: Revd Jean Griffiths, Peter Griffiths, Marjorie Hutchinson, Michael Passmore, Robert Simson, Kath Skinner and Oluremi Sodimu
- 2. Minutes of Easter Vestry Meeting 2018.** The meeting approved the minutes unanimously. Revd Liz Newman (chair) signed them as a true and accurate record of the Vestry Meeting held on 23 April 2018.
- 3. Appointment of presiding officer and tellers.** None were appointed on this occasion as they were not required - there are not more nominations than spaces.
- 4. Election of Churchwardens (two).** Two nominations had been received for the places: Richard Newman and John Chipperfield. There being no other nominations, Revd Liz Newman announced that they were both duly elected. She thanked Robert Simson in his absence for having served as churchwarden over the previous year.

Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting 2019

- 5. Minutes of the APCM 2018.** The meeting unanimously approved the minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting held on 23rd April 2018. Revd Liz Newman (chair) signed them as a true and accurate record.
- 6. Election of members of the PCC (nine).** Revd Liz reported that Churchwardens are automatically members of PCC as are lay representatives to deanery synod. Eight nominations had been received for the nine places on PCC: Sonia Baidoo, Judith Barlow, Roberta Bassah, Amelia Cortez, Jennifer Lodge, Pat Orton, Robert Simson, and Joseph Spooner. The meeting duly elected all eight persons to serve for the coming year. Revd Liz noted the possibility of additional members being co-opted, including one person who had indicated her willingness to stand but could not be present today. Liz thanked those people who are standing again and also to those who have served on the PCC over the previous year and who are now standing down: Ann Allega, Deborah Jones, Michael Passmore and Kath Skinner. Joseph sought clarification regarding the eligibility requirement to stand for PCC; Rick responded and noted there is a new form for next year which sets out the requirement in even greater detail.
- 7. Election of new Deanery Synod.** Elizabeth Buck and Michael Griffiths are currently lay reps to Charlton Deanery. A vacancy has arisen as the third Rep, Richard Newman, is now Lay Chair of Charlton Deanery and therefore automatically a member of Deanery Synod. The immediate vacancy is

for one year ahead of election for all lay representatives in 2020. Revd Liz observed that the new area dean together with a new lay chair offers the prospect of a very different deanery synod. In the absence of anyone coming forward at this time we will carry a vacancy into the coming year.

8. Financial report and presentation of accounts. Liz Buck and Barbara Drew reported on the church finances and the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2018 and answered several questions on them. Liz B qualified that we have received a grant for £4k for Fresh Expressions. In response to a query about the ‘major building’ expense (£20k), it was clarified that this was for the boiler and payments upfront for the proposed lighting scheme. Barbara confirmed part of the increase in donations as arising from catch up on reclaiming Gift Aid. [New gift aid envelopes would be helpful.] Balance on St Richard’s between income and outgoings is nearly closed, and this includes our having spent £2500 on the new internal doors. On a motion from Michael Griffiths and seconded by Amelia Cortez, ***the meeting resolved unanimously that the PCC approve the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2018, as circulated.*** Barbara Drew and the Treasury Team were thanked for their hard work during the year (*round of applause*).

9. Appointment of independent examiner. As James Amalan-Gnanaseelan had confirmed that he was prepared to continue as the examiner of our accounts, the meeting duly appointed him to act in this capacity. Proposed by Richard Newman and seconded by John Chipperfield. James was thanked for his help over the previous year (*round of applause*).

10. Annual report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council and the activities of the parish generally. Liz Newman introduced the 2019 Annual Report which is in the form of a 16-page booklet containing contributions from the Rector, Churchwardens, PCC Secretary, Treasury Team, Grants Committee, Charlton Deanery Synod and many others. Liz N recommended those who had not had the opportunity to read all these reports should take the time to consider the informative contents of the booklet. Rick noted that the final PCC of last year has received a list from the Rector which highlighted how busy the PCC has been in addressing governance, mission, finance and worship. There has been good attendance at all PCC meetings and business has always been conducted with respect. In response to a question about vermin in the church, Liz B was confident the battle is being won but there is always a risk they will reappear, especially with the imminent demolition of nearby Fred Styles House. – ***NB items 11 to 15, which follow, refer to contents of the 2018 Annual Report –***

11. Annual report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the churches of the parish. The report was received after a brief discussion on its contents. Rick Newman noted that the quinquennial inspection is imminent, with the only item outstanding from the previous inspection being the re-leading of the tower roof, which has been priced at £20k. Possible reinstatement of the flag pole on the roof may attract heritage funding. For the first time since 1951, English Heritage reviewed the status as Grade II* and in doing so amended the status to include recognition of St Luke’s as having exceptional historic merit. The churchyard wall is in need of repair following a car crashing into it and demolishing two gravestones.

12. Report on electoral roll. Rick Newman reported that the electoral roll has been completely revised, as is required every six years. Although it might be expected that the process would see the final total lower than the 90 on the roll this time last year, the electoral roll has actually increased to 97 despite many names being taken off the list. This is a reflection of positive growth and once again means the 2020 APCM will again elect up to nine members. The Electoral Roll has been displayed for the required fifteen days. It is not a public access document and will now be taken down. The electoral roll is stored securely in the office, in compliance with GDPR. Liz N thanked Rick for the work of revising the Electoral Roll.

13. Sides-persons. Liz Newman thanked Pat Orton and her team for the valuable duties they perform. Pat reported that her team need new people (could use 16, currently have 10). Men are positively encouraged to apply. She stated volunteers need to arrive by 9.30am once a month to help the team. Pat encouraged everyone at the APCM meeting to spread the word to recruit more volunteers.

14. Report on proceedings of Deanery Synod The current lay representatives Liz B, Michael and Rick reported on the three deanery synod meetings held over the previous year including plans for social justice projects in the area; e.g. East Greenwich legal centre, Greenwich food bank, GWNS and the schools Easter Project. Liz N identified the working together of churches in the deanery to be greater than the sum of their parts, with lots of new energy.

15 Other reports to be received. Liz Newman thanked all those who contributed material to the Annual Report this year. It included officers' reports – legal stuff, staff team reports, the mission action plan and reports from various activities.

16. Rector's report. Liz N gave a PowerPoint presentation to accompany her report as Rector. It has been a busy year with much achieved but still more to do. Buildings are a blessing in working for the Kingdom but coming up for 400 years old in its present form St Luke's needs to adapt for comfort and accessibility, flexibility, and room for growth. Hence the creation of the Masterplan Group to look at how St Luke's can be developed to be fit for purpose for the 21st century. Much consideration has also been given to developing St Richard's as a centre for mission that can serve its community and be a future centre for a new congregation. Development at Charlton Riverside could add up to 15,000 residents to an already large benefice and we need to find creative ways of reaching incomers, for which St Richard's should be able to play a part. St Luke's and St Thomas's work well together. Growing together is wonderful. Together we are stronger but it is vital that each church keeps its own identity. Our identities grows out of our stories which makes us who we are and beautiful in our own right. This extends to St Richard's as a church in its own right. Churches are called to strengthen and support one another. During the year our stewardship campaign asked what we can give back to God. We identified ourselves as stronger and while not financially rich we have funds that the PCC has agreed to use wisely. We will develop budgets and forward planning. We now have a grants committee, which is looking to supplement income from grants. We need to rely on God but have to take responsibility for ourselves in such as H&S, data protection, safeguarding, and building compliance, all of which can be boring and weighty but are ignored at our peril and risks endangering people who are vulnerable in God's eyes. We need to get our governance sorted. The service register has seen slight but steady growth since 2016. Wednesday lunchtime provides an average of about 12, several of whom do not come to St Luke's at any other time. We are helping people to transition from being a guest to being a host. Bennett and Liz N are setting up sessions for those who are new to St Luke's. The Mission Action Plan was launched in Sept 2018 after three months of dedicated listening to God, to ourselves, to others and to our context. What is this place that God has put us in and what is God calling us to be in the next three to five years? Top priority is to proclaim the gospel in word and action. Our values are that we strive to be joyful, living in loving relationship with God and our neighbours, to be good listeners, living out forgiveness through God's Grace, working for justice and celebrating diversity. Priorities are for us to be nurturing children and young people, sharing our faith confidently, and engaging with our community. Children: hundreds of children have been involved in the Benefice Schools Project masterminded by Liz B; assemblies at local schools; Youth Café at St Thomas's; Children's Church at St Luke's; an all-age interactive prayer station maintained by Sonia; and recently our first Messy Church session held at St Richards. We are looking to develop a holiday church project at St Richard's. Sharing our faith – discipleship plan is being put together to deepen faith; plans are underway for discussion group for those who don't see themselves as religious. Community engagement – we have been active in Charlton Together for housing justice especially regarding the long terms plans for the redevelopment of Charlton Riverside and the need to build a sustainable community. We must have a presence in this area of the benefice, as we have a pastoral and spiritual responsibility for the incoming community. Ash Wednesday saw Ashes to Go at Charlton Station. Other plans for more worship in the community, e.g. at Charlton House. Plans for a mental wellbeing project at St Luke's. Plans for an inaugural St Richard's Day at SRCC. Much encouragement is taken from our looking to develop a Friends of St Luke's Group.

Liz concluded by giving thanks to the many who make so much possible. She spoke of how her role as Rector is nothing like she thought it would be but never for a second has she regretted asking the Bishop of Southwark for permission to apply for this job. She spoke of enjoying being the rector and

feels it is just what she is supposed to do. She continues to delight in the people with whom she is undertaking this journey.

Date of APCM 2020. The meeting provisionally decided on Monday 27 April 2020.

Date of Archdeaconry Service and first PCC Meeting. Archdeaconry Service is set to be 16th May 2020 and first PCC meeting Monday 20 May 2020.

Closing Worship. After remembering Val May, a much loved member of the congregation who died earlier this year, Robert Bassah closed the meeting with prayer.

Ann Allega,
PCC Secretary (2018/19)