

The Parish of All Saints West Dulwich

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

11.30 am on Sunday 11 May 2025

Attendance: Kenneth Awoonor-Renner, Jeremy Baker (Secretary), Stuart Beadnall, Eleanor Beamond-Pepler, Will Birch, Ronnie F Butler, Liz Cleary, Harvey Eagles, Elizabeth Flood (Chair), Rebecca Hickey, Ruth Holton, Richard Keagan-Bull, Peter Mueller, Edwina Nummey, Carole Penrose, Bronwen Pepler, Norma Prior, Christopher Putt, Charles Ray, Moira Roberts, Angie Sharma, Valerie Sheridan, Sara Jane Spratt, Vivienne Webster, Cathy Wiles, Robin Yates and Sally Zimmermann

Apologies were received from: Simon Lewcock, Isobel Clarke, Ollie Clarke, Carole Glasson, Harriet Greene, Julian Greene, Alice Hole and Ann Holley.

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the APCM on 20 May 2024 were approved without any amendments.

2. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

3. The Annual Report and Financial Statement

In the absence of the Treasurer, Simon Lewcock, the Chair reported that, following problems in completing the accounts in previous years, the 2021 and 2022 accounts had been completed, examined and submitted to the Charity Commission. The 2023 accounts had not yet been agreed by the PCC but a draft had been sent to the Independent Examiner. The draft showed a surplus of £33,000 but the reclaimed Gift Aid and revised service charge payments by the Nursery would increase this. The surplus was much higher than expected in part because the expense of gas and electricity costs had been addressed. This healthier financial position would mean that the church could now extend their work with the local community.

The Chair explained the position following the closure of the 4All charity: the PCC wanted to ensure the continued operation of two drop-in clubs for older people on the Peabody estates and the community choir, Sing4All. The church had agreed to subsidise these for one year and had recently agreed to underwrite any deficit for the coming year. The managing committee for the clubs and the members were working hard to fund raise. Alison Watt-Cooper in particular was thanked for her hard work in supporting the club and the PCC was grateful to the committee members for taking turns to accompany the leader whilst her assistant was sick.

It was remarkable how much the church had achieved during the interregnum including work on recovering Gift Aid and determining the correct service charge for the nursery. In answer to questions, the Chair said that the new systems in place meant we now had a much better

idea of how our money is spent. The church has not had to cut back on any activities but the PCC have been extra cautious on our spending – especially in relation to the heating system. The Finance Committee is reviewing charges for lettings and checking what other local venues charged for similar facilities. Some of the concerns raised were not supported by the data. The 2023 accounts would be distributed when approved by the PCC.

4. Churchwardens' buildings and fabric report.

The report was included in the Annual Report and Angie Sharma introduced it. Less had been spent this year than in the previous year and most problems had been resolved. A comprehensive schedule of maintenance work was to be introduced. Questions were raised about the condition of the vicarage. The APCM was informed that this was the responsibility of the diocese. Some damage to the garage may have been caused by the oak tree in the church grounds but the PCC hoped to preserve it (although it was not subject to a tree preservation order). Felling it could have adverse consequences on the church building and the PCC would appoint an arboricultural adviser. Another question was about the lighting of the South Path. This was operated separately from other lighting and was currently working correctly. The PCC were also considering changing our architect who was based some distance away in north London

5. Appointment of the Independent Examiner for 2025-6

On the recommendation of the Treasurer, John Helm of Tandem Accounting was re-appointed Independent Examiner.

6. Electoral Roll report

The Electoral Roll had to be completely revised every sixth year and the Chair reported that it now stood at 56 members, down from 146 last year. Many of those listed on the previous Electoral Roll were not known to the current PCC and may have moved away. (The Chair explained that there were rules preventing the removal of names from the roll except when requested by the enrolled person, or when that person was known to have died or moved away.) Since the number had dropped below 100, ASWD was entitled to elect no more than nine lay members to the PCC and fewer deanery representatives so that we could not this year appoint any new members, although those whose terms had not expired could continue.

7. Deanery Synod

Kenneth Awoonor-Renner reported that the deanery synod had met four times during the year. The deanery had provided a variety of speakers and any members of the congregation could attend meetings. Moira reported that she had been co-opted to the leadership team which designed the annual programme. There were no questions arising.

8. Open discussion

Ruth Holton mentioned that all the members of the Junior Choir were in year 5 at school so there was an urgent need to recruit more children.

9. Any other business

The PCC will discuss how best to prepare to support the new incumbent. The induction was organised by the diocese but the PCC had suggested which special guests should be invited to it. The meeting thanked Cathy, Elizabeth, Amanda and all the staff for their hard work during the vacancy.

10. Closing Prayers

Cathy led the meeting in prayers.