

St Mary's APCGM

Opening and prayer: As St Mary's is in interregnum the meeting was chaired by Reverend Canon Elaine Jones (Toxteth and Wavertree Area Dean) who opened the meeting and welcomed 10 adults.

Reverend Ruth Pryce opened the meeting with a prayer

Appointment of secretary: Elaine Atherton was accepted as secretary for the meeting

Election of Deputy Church Wardens: Rita Taylor (Jnr) and Andrew Pryce were voted in unanimously

Minutes of the 2022 APCGM

Copies of the minutes for the 2022 APCGM had been distributed earlier and were accepted unanimously by the meeting

PCC Elections:

St Mary's allows for 9 PCC members plus co-opted members.

At present there are 7 members of the PCC

Ruth Pryce

Rita Taylor (Snr)

Rita Taylor (Jnr)

Philip Gresty

Irene Pyle

Joyce

Dave

Co-opted – Lin Donaldson

Both Irene and Joyce had come to the end of their term and were duly re-elected onto the PCC unanimously, with Lin Donaldson unanimously voted back in as Co-opted member.

This still leaves 2 vacancies which it is hoped will be filled in due course.

Trustees Report

The PCC are the Trustees of St Mary's Church and a copy of the report was made available to members at the meeting.

Andrew Pryce compiled the report and gave a verbal summary of the main points.

The PC has the responsibility of promoting the mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of St Mary Wavertree Church building.

The Electoral Roll currently stands at 59. Like all parish churches, St Mary's relies on its volunteers to help in providing a place of worship and a place where its community can be valued.

This year we have been able to meet in Church again and more recently have started to offer wine at Communion.

The PCC has met 7 times. Being in interregnum has obviously affected the way the PCC operates and much of our time has been spent ensuring Sunday services are covered. Thanks were given to Paula and Rita for organising cover and also to Joyce and Elaine for agreeing to play for many services. Thanks were also given to Ruth for preparing so many services, this is greatly appreciated by all.

At present there are 13 people on PCC including co-opted members and thanks must also be given to those who give up their time for this. As we are in interregnum there is no Standing Committee operating, but there is a core leadership team in place. This team has not met separately, but has preferred to conduct business via the whole PCC.

Thanks also given to Liz for continuing to work with the children on a Sunday morning, coming up with some really creative ideas and apparently having boundless energy!

Thanks also to Irene for continuing as Treasurer, a role which requires a lot of behind the scenes work. Her reports are always comprehensive and easy to follow.

Other items (apart from standing items) which have been discussed during the year include:

- Fit for Mission (thanks to Elaine Jones for presenting this)
- Quinquennial Report (Thanks to Paula for addressing the items)
- Tithes – we agreed to rationalise this and support 3 charities this year: Claire House, Crisis and Samaritans Purse. We also agreed to donate proceeds from the Christingle service to the Children's Society.
- Reports from Deanery Synod (thanks to our 3 reps)
- Safeguarding Training (thanks to Lisa for this) Most PCC members have now completed training.

We have continued with all-age family worship on Sunday's with Parade service on the second Sunday in the month. We decided to discontinue Facebook services and the 9.15 service as it was felt to be too much to continue during an interregnum.

Outreach – St Mary's has always been proactive in reaching out to the local community. This year we have been pleased to be able to recommence certain groups such as Lilyfields, Foodbank and Pilates. We also carried out a leaflet drop in October advertising Christmas services in particular. We have recently advertised Lilyfield as a Warm Space for all. Thanks go to Bill for updating our website to advertise these items.

We continue to take part in Group Council events as they occur, along with Holy Trinity and St. Bridget's and St. Thomas's. Unfortunately for a variety of reasons there have been fewer meetings this year.

We have maintained good links with Heygreen school, again thanks go to those who have worked hard to continue this relationship.

Youth Groups - Rainbows and Guides have continued to meet regularly with good numbers. Brownies is due to restart early in 2023. We are very grateful to the leaders of these groups for their continued hard work. Liz has continued activities for the children on Sundays – numbers of children have been a bit down but we have had better numbers on Parade Sundays. We have also geared some services more towards children, a particular success being our Christingle Service which was extremely well attended.

Our all-age Family Worship normally takes place at 10.30 am on Sunday mornings when the average attendance is 20 – 30.

Living in Love and Faith, a book and course produced by the Church of England on identity and sexuality were used in the summer as part of our Zoom House Group.

Reverend Elaine thanked Andy on behalf of the meeting for producing an excellent report.

Treasurers report – given by Irene Pyle

A copy of the report was handed out at the beginning of the meeting.

An independent examiners report was carried out by Kevin Knowlson and signed as an accurate record of accounts for 2022.

Irene explained the items of income and expenditure and gave the end of year balance in the General and Restricted Funds.

There are 5 restricted funds – The Refurbishment Fund, the Lilyfield Fund, the Youth Group Fund, the Children's Work fund and the Disability Friendly fund.

Irene gave an account of the church's assets and liabilities. The church Hall when sold raised £37,749 however £30,000 was advanced to refurbish the Hall on a 60 year lease.

The current account balance stands at £15,749 with an outstanding balance of £22,000.

Irene spoke further about various grants for heating etc, but felt while these were good they could not be used for many of the other things the church needs.

A discussion ensued on the method of giving with various ideas proposed by Dave and Francis Rayner. Irene accepted all ideas but said that the church plate giving still remained the highest. This was agreed by the meeting.

Revd. Elaine thanked Irene for her work as treasurer. Irene stated she was happy to speak to anyone who had any subsequent questions to speak with her at any time.

Appointment of Independent Examiner

Irene reported that Kevin Knowlson had agreed to continue as Independent examiner and this was accepted unanimously.

Safeguarding – given by Lisa Andre

Lisa reported that all safeguarding was up to date with no issues arising. Revd. Elaine asked if all trustees had been checked and Lisa assured her this had been done. Revd. Elaine then thanked Lisa for her hard work.

Wardens report – given by Rita Taylor (Snr)

Rita thanked everyone for their work and help during the interregnum. She spoke highly of the visiting vicars we have had with particular thanks to Ruth for her dedication and hard work. During the year we have worked hard to encourage people. We have had weekly film nights in the hall and although unable to have our usual Christmas and Summer fairs, we have managed to raise funds through raffles, the 100 club and other means.

Rita thanked the wardens and said she was sure the PCC would wish to thank them for their hard work.

Rectors report

As we are still in interregnum, the report was given by Revd. Ruth Pryce.

Thankfully the Church has been open as usual this year, although wearing masks is still an option if people prefer.

During Lent, the congregation were encouraged to join house groups held over Zoom.

Ruth attested how grateful we were to local clergy who have supported us through the interregnum with special thanks to Liz Roberts from St. Bridget's.

During 2022 there were 9 Baptisms, 1 wedding blessing, 2 weddings and 3 funerals.

A number of ladies from St Mary's have been enrolled into the Wavertree branch of the Mothers Union.

Ruth thanked a number of people for their help within Church:

Liz McKinney's links with New Heys School, pupils have visited St. Mary's to learn what being a Christian is about and how the Church works. Ruth also thanked Liz for her youth work in Church and on a Sunday morning. The number of children varies between 1 and 7 each week.

Bill Farrell was thanked for his time working on and maintaining the Church website.

Elaine Atherton for giving her time to help us with music in church, and Joyce Leece not only for playing in church but for coordinating the services and music with visiting clergy.

Rita Junior continues her work with Rainbows and is hoping to start a Brownie section in the near future.

The Church was open over the weekend following the death of Queen Elizabeth 2nd for private reflections. A special service was also held in her memory.

A 'back to school' service was given where children were encouraged to bring their school bag to church for a blessing, a small gift was also given to them.

Harvest was well attended with donations given to the Food bank and Toxteth Women's centre.

Remembrance Day was also well attended with the service ending at the cenotaph.

We held a café style Christingle service again well attended. Collection was taken and people were encouraged to take a collecting tube to bring back on Mothering Sunday. These collections are to be given to the Children's Society.

Due to heating costs it was decided that during the winter months the services would be held at the back of the church building. This has received very good feedback as well as saving money.

Christmas services were well attended by both church and non church members and we send a thank you to members of Holy Trinity choir who came to join our choir for the carol service.

Over the Christmas period, we collected items for 'bags of hope' for the homeless in Liverpool as requested by the Big Issue company. We have also continued to support the foodbank, Toxteth Women's centre and the homeless throughout the year, inviting representatives from each to a Sunday service to talk about their work.

Since Autumn we have had a weekly showing of the film 'The Chosen'. About 12 people have attended each week and this has been very enjoyable.

Rita and Rita have organised regular raffles throughout the year, raising much needed funds,

We have offered our back of Church space as a 'warm space' during winter, this happens on Monday morning along with Lilyfields.

Ruth thanked all those who have volunteered on the various rotas Rita has put together.

Offering wine at Holy Communion was discussed at PCC and this is now an option for people if they wish it.

We continue to work through the interregnum, there have been some challenges, but overall and enjoyable year.

Ruth gave thanks to the many helpers in Church, mentioning Paula Major Gayter., Rita and Rita Taylor, Irene Pyle. Thanks also given to the PCC for all their help, guidance and commitment.

Ruth ended by looking forward to the coming year, hopefully when we will be in a position to have a new incumbent, but with her promise that with our help, support and prayer she will continue to lead us as best she can.

Revd. Elaine thanked Ruth for her informative report

The meeting was closed with prayer by Revd. Elaine

DATE OF NEXT MEETING TO BE CONFIRMED