**Vestry and Annual Parochial Church Meeting 21st May 2023**

Apologies to the Meetings – apologies were received from Miriam Brittenden, Alexander O’Riordan, Katie Peel, Rob Hayward, Jane Earl and Nathaniel Darling.

To start, the Rector welcomed everyone to the meeting, and explained the structure of the morning. Grey text on a white background

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**Vestry Meeting**

1. The Rector opened the meeting by thanking both Francelise and Annadale for their service as churchwardens. With Francelise choosing to step down at this Vestry meeting she was particularly thanked for her contribution in making the role a relational, positive and supportive one. Francelise would like to carry on as a member of the PCC and would seek a nomination at the APCM.
2. Election of Churchwardens

It was proposed by Dean Bail and seconded by Patricia Bing that Annadale Ramanoop should be elected as Churchwarden.

The meeting unanimously accepted this proposal.

1. The meeting closed.

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

1. **Attendance** was 28 plus two Clergy and two churchwardens.
2. **Introduction:** Fr. Richard Springer welcomed people to the meeting. He explained that the APCM was split last year as a result of the delayed accounts.
3. **Electoral Roll**

The Electoral Roll currently stands at 79 up from 67 last year. Approximately 20 regular worshippers are not currently on the electoral roll and will be invited to join during the upcoming year.

25% of the electoral roll are people within the Parish boundaries. The vast majority of those living outside the parish boundaries are local and able to walk to church. A focus for the church is to work on keeping the congregation a local one to this parish and part of Tower Hamlets and city borders, while always being welcoming and inclusive of people who come from further afield.

1. **Thanks to the PCC**

Alexander O’Riordan and Ivonne Lojan Maldonado were stepping down from the PCC – after 12 months and three years respectively. Both were thanked for their contributions to the PCC. As reported in the Vestry meeting, Francelise Mamilonne is stepping down from her role as Churchwarden and she too was thanked for her contributions serving the church and on the PCC.

1. **Elections of PCC members**

Francelise Mamilonne Proposed by Annadale Ramanoop, Seconded Rowena Loverance - elected

Allan Ramanoop Proposed by Fiona Lawrence, Seconded James Conlon - elected

Paul Kellaway Proposed by Tricia Bing, Seconded Philip Hogan - elected

Annadale Ramanoop Ex officio – Church warden

Richard Springer Rector

Angus Ritchie Assistant Priest

Robert Hayward Treasurer

Jane Earl Secretary

It was noted that upon her ordination as deacon in the Church of England on the 1st July 2023, Caitlin Harland would automatically become a member of the PCC as a member of the clergy. The meeting noted that Patricia Bing has agreed to continue to be on the Deanery Synod but that a replacement was being sought.

1. **Fabric Report**

The Fabric Report in the Annual Report was noted, and no questions or comments were raised. Buildings Steward, Fiona Lawrence was thanked for her work in this area of church life. The Rector explained the formation of the Buildings Sub-Committee, chaired by Joel Harland and currently attended by Fiona Lawrence (Buildings Steward), Katie Peel (Operations Director), Jane Earl (PCC rep) and Alex Sherratt (Quinquennial Architect). The sub-committee enable the PCC to manage the significant workload and decisions surrounding the management of the building. Recently the latest Quinquennial Inspection was completed and the Sub-committee were deliberating on its findings.

1. **Finance Report**

The Financial Statements have been published and circulated for ten days before the APCM. No comments and questions were raised. The meeting was encouraged to engage in the finances of the church throughout the year especially in light of a sub-committee being setup to support the work of the church. Katie Peel was thanked for her work in this area of church life. The Rector highlighted the need post-pandemic, in the context of the cost-of-living crisis and a building renovation project for the PCC to think seriously with the congregation about financial sustainability including congregational giving alongside trust and foundation fundraising and the income the building should generate. The Rector explained the formation of the Finance Sub-Committee which has not yet met but would include the Treasurer, Operations Director, Katie Bail (Administrator), a PCC rep (tbc) and accountant, Isabella Sebastian. The names of sub-committee members would be added to the website

1. **Deanery Synod Reports**

The Deanery Synod report in the Annual Report was noted, and no questions or comments were raised for Tricia Bing, the PCC Deanery Synod Rep. The Rector thanked Tricia for her representation of the parish in this role and it was noted that Tricia would be keen to step down if another rep could be found. The PCC will agree to a replacement as an item at their first meeting after the APCM. The meeting was encouraged to attend Deanery Synod meetings and these dates would be advertised to the Sunday congregation.

1. **Safeguarding update**

The Rector thanked Miriam Brittenden for her hard work as Parish Safeguarding Officer. The PSO has the unenviable task of encouraging and chasing volunteers who serve in the church to complete relevant safeguarding training and insisting on changes to make things safer for all and especially children, young people and vulnerable adults. The Rector outlined three levels of training that should be completed by people depending on their role in church – basic, foundation and leader. Slides were shown that informed the meeting of the wide range of roles that require safeguarding training. An upcoming training at foundation level led by the PSO and Elizabeth Stout (Children & Families Pastor) would be delivered for those required to do it for children’s ministry and anyone else who might be interested in July 2023.

1. **Renovation Project presentation and discussions**

The Rector introduced the Renovation Steering Group to the meeting. The presentation text is attached to these minutes.

After the presentation which covered introductions and the consultation stage to fundraising plan timeline, the meeting broke into small groups to consider two questions:

1. What’s your immediate reaction to the presentation? What does it make you think and feel?
2. Secondly, have an open conversation about renovating the church.

After the discussion groups the meeting attendees were encouraged to complete the congregational survey at home (by taking a hard copy or completing it online). They were also strongly encouraged to think of one person not at the meeting who they would get to complete the survey.

The Rector concluded by targeting the 300th birthday of St George-in-the-East in July 2029 as a date by which the church could celebrate a newly renovated building.

The meeting closed with saying the grace, at 1.00pm.