



## **2023 AGM and APCM minutes**

Minutes of the 2023 St Paul Old Ford annual general meeting (AGM) and annual parochial church meeting (APCM) held during the Sunday service on 23 April 2023. All 117 on the electoral roll were eligible to vote.

### **AGM**

#### **Opening prayer**

Rev Darius Weithers (DW) opened in prayer.

#### **Election of churchwardens**

There were 2 posts and 2 nominations. Tim Murray and Melanie O'Reilly were elected unopposed.

DW gave thanks to the outgoing churchwarden, Corrine Louis, who had done an amazing job and will remain as a PCC member.

AGM closed.

### **APCM**

APCM opened.

#### **Minutes from last year**

The minutes from last year's AGM and APCM were approved and are available on our website.

#### **Any other business**

No other business, so the meeting moved to a summary of official reports of activities in 2022.

#### **Annual report 2022**

All of the reports in the annual report are available via QR code and on our website, as well as in a printed version of the annual report.

## **Vicar's report**

DW spoke to his report, noting it as an opportunity to celebrate 2022 which was a challenging but fruitful year. For instance, the PCC operated without the services of either a treasurer or a secretary as PCC members pulled together.

The St Paul Old Ford (SPOF) staff team has seen its fair share of changes too. SPOF prides itself on being an open and welcoming church which loves to share, as shown by the men's breakfasts, the Big Christmas Dinner, welcome lunches and more.

2022 saw numbers physically attending church start to increase again, although we still live stream services on our YouTube channel.

DW expressed his gratitude to everyone who makes the work of SPOF happen, often behind the scenes, thanking those in the office every week: Divya, Trevor, Kay, Sharon, and a special thank you to the pastoral team of Anne, April and Chris. He also mentioned those who cook for the welcome lunches, the welcomers, ushers, readers, AV team, Sunday school leaders (especially Ceri for organising), Janet, Doris and Joan for their flower arranging, Jean, Doris and Mike for chalice duties, as well as Jacqui and Dom for refreshments on Sunday.

## **Churchwardens' report**

Tim spoke to his report, noting 2022 marked some return to business-as-usual after the demands of the vacancy.

The churchwardens continue in their role of supporting the vicar and helping make decisions in the leadership of SPOF. He similarly acknowledged that the role would be much harder without Divya as venue manager who does so much every week to keep the church on its financial feet and overseeing the continual upkeep and maintenance of the fabric. Hourly paid bank staff are key to this, so thanks to them too.

## **Finance report**

Tim reported that the post of treasurer is vacant. This means a full set of accounts is not yet available, but the PCC has already seen the budget and a rough account. This will be finalised and available online soon.

Ceri Durham proposed that Brothers, a local firm, be appointed as the official auditors. This was seconded by Rob Adamson and carried.

## **PCC appointments**

DW announced the following.

Matthew McKay was elected unopposed.

Ceri Durham has agreed to exceptionally extend her appointment for one more year (despite having served her 3-year term). This was unanimously accepted.

Gerry Spiteri is standing down after giving real support, for which he was thanked.

## **Q&A**

Questions were welcome from the floor.

### **Cafe**

DW explained that we have received two grants which will enable us to re-open the café in some form soon, and we are currently advertising for an experienced part-time cook. We are also in discussion with a local market vendor who may in future rent our food prep area for some days a week. DW stressed the need for a financially viable opening of the café.

### **Saturday prayer**

DW confirmed Saturday morning prayer meetings continue on Zoom, noting it has been a positive outcome of COVID to allow people to join in even when they are out of the country.

### **Genesis**

DW confirmed that the Genesis barge has been taken back by the diocese, but noted that the St Columba community continue to hold regular meetings in the SPOF building.

### **Curate**

DW confirmed that Dave Pilkington moved to Cumbria and there are no current plans for a curate. However, April and Billy remain key members of the clergy team, for which they were thanked. DW noted that all of Billy's work is unpaid.

### **PCC**

DW confirmed that PCC members must be over 16 years old and have been on the electoral roll for 6 months.

### **Prayers**

Heather asked whether the clergy and pastoral team visiting the sick could make sure to ask if they would like prayers said for them in church. She personally found this very comforting, as we are a church family who meet together in fellowship.

Darius thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed.