



St John the Evangelist Bromley
www.saintjohnsbromley.com



Annual Vestry Meeting – Sunday 13th April 2025

Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting of St John the Evangelist Church, Park Rd, Bromley, Kent held on Sunday, 13th April 2024 at 11.28 am

There were 45 members and residents present: Revd Andrew McClellan (Chairman), Celia Charlwood, Moira Morgan, Peter Morgan, Jess McClellan, Steve Burnett, Mary Burnett, Kim Hitch, Beryl Hitch, Patrick Brinson, Caroline Thomas, Ray Sims, Ken Baigent, Matthew Leonard, Ghislaine Leonard, Tony Bentley, Fiona Bentley, Duncan Cameron, Jude Mackenzie, Roger Hitching, Elizabeth Hitching, Alistair Mackenzie, Elizabeth Bostock, Emma Kerr, Sue Helm, Amy Morez, Keith Buckley, Tomi Odukamaiya, Nathan Killington, Sue Buckley, Jenny Turner, Donna Oliver, Laura Mason, Linda Nash, Clive Nash, Edward Mason, William Pointing, Anthony Westall, Margaret Westall, Lesley Pyle, Katharina Hill, Paul Turner, Glynis Murton, Tochukwu Ekezie and Ujunwa Ekezie

1. Welcome and Opening Prayers

Rev McClellan opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. We are gathered to hear reports and elect officers for the coming year. He then led the meeting in prayer.

2. Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting held on Sunday, 21st April 2024

These Minutes were available immediately following the meeting last year and have been available on the church website and by post if requested in the weeks prior to this meeting. There were no questions or amendments. Peter Morgan proposed acceptance of the Minutes and was seconded by Jude Mackenzie. All were in favour. These were signed by Rev McClellan as a true record.

3. Election of Church wardens

Rev McClellan outlined the role of Church warden and emphasised the importance of the role. He expressed his huge thanks to Ed Mason and Liz Bostock for their work during their time as wardens as they stand down. The congregation expressed their thanks via applause.

There were two nominations to take over as Church wardens:

- Steve Burnett proposed by Celia Charlwood, seconded by Ray Sims
- Beryl Hitch proposed by Lynn Lea seconded by Elizabeth Bostock

There being no other nominations these candidates were approved unanimously and declared duly elected. AMcC welcomed them as churchwardens for the coming year.

The meeting expressed its thanks in a round of applause.

The meeting closed at 11.38 am.



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Annual Parochial Church Meeting – Sunday 13th April 2025

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of St John the Evangelist Church, Park Rd, Bromley, Kent held on Sunday, 13th April 2025 at 11.39 am in the Church.

There were 45 members and residents present: Revd Andrew McClellan (Chairman), Celia Charlwood, Moira Morgan, Peter Morgan, Jess McClellan, Steve Burnett, Mary Burnett, Kim Hitch, Beryl Hitch, Patrick Brinson, Caroline Thomas, Ray Sims, Ken Baigent, Matthew Leonard, Ghislaine Leonard, Tony Bentley, Fiona Bentley, Duncan Cameron, Jude Mackenzie, Roger Hitching, Elizabeth Hitching, Alistair Mackenzie, Elizabeth Bostock, Emma Kerr, Sue Helm, Amy Morez, Keith Buckley, Tomi Odukomaiya, Nathan Killington, Sue Buckley, Jenny Turner, Donna Oliver, Laura Mason, Linda Nash, Clive Nash, Edward Mason, William Pointing, Anthony Westall, Margaret Westall, Lesley Pyle, Katharina Hill, Paul Turner, Glynis Murton, Tochukwu Ekezie and Ujunwa Ekezie

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Andrew and Alison Dixon, Muriel King, Lynn Lea

2. **Minutes of the Annual Parochial Meeting held on Sunday, 21st April 2024**

These Minutes were available immediately following the meeting last year and have been available on the church website and by post if requested in the weeks prior to this meeting. There being no amendments required to the Minutes these were proposed for acceptance by Liz Bostock and seconded by Ray Sims and agreed to by the meeting. Signed by Rev McClellan as a true record.

3. **Electoral Roll Report**

On behalf of the Electoral Roll Officer, Celia Charlwood reported that this year, 2025, a new electoral roll was prepared and took effect on 29 March 2025.

The total number of members on our roll is now 107. This is a significant reduction on last year's figure of 131, but this always happens in years when a new roll is drawn up from scratch. Our old roll included a large number of people who have moved away from Bromley in the past five years. 20 new members joined the roll this year for the first time.

Being on the Electoral Roll does not make you a "member" of the Church; simply regarding St John's as your spiritual home does that. However, joining the electoral roll helps the Church show its strength. In addition, you are eligible to vote on Church matters, attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) and stand for election to the PCC. People can join the Electoral Roll at any point in the year.

4. Presentation of the Annual Accounts

Copies of the accounts had been available prior to the meeting via the church website, with hard copies available on request prior to this meeting. These are attached to and form part of these Minutes.

LP presented her report on the 2024 Annual report and Accounts. She thanked her co-treasurer Laura Mason and Simon Kirk who had again undertaken the examination of the accounts at no cost to St John's. LP and Laura both stand down as joint treasurers at the APCM. Alistair Mackenzie is taking over as treasurer.

LP commented that 2024 income was at a similar level to 2023 and reflected the continued generous support of church members, income from hall lettings and high interest rates still being paid on reserve funds.

LP used 2 slides to highlight the overall income and expenditure figures in the report and the financial position at the end of 2024. There was a healthy surplus on Unrestricted income and expenditure including expenditure on smaller projects. Additionally, St John's undertook capital projects including over £14,000 on an upgraded audio-visual system of which £5,000 was met from a Diocesan grant. There were no withdrawals from our Repair Fund.

St John's held total funds £223,060 at the end of 2024. LP explained the split of these funds between three different headings, what each part can be used for and where the funds were invested.

LP acknowledged the continued support of the Girdlers Company and thanked them for their donations totalling £3,150 in 2024.

There followed an opportunity for questions from the floor:

Anthony Westall asked about the new Church Hardship Fund. LP said that it doesn't form part of the 2024 financial report as it started in 2025 but would be reported on next year.

AMcC discussed the vital importance of the Treasurer role and expressed huge thanks to Lesley Pyle for her work in preparing the accounts and financial reports over the last seven years and also to Laura Mason for her work also as Co-Treasurer. The congregation expressed their thanks via applause.

AMcC also expressed his thanks to Alistair Mackenzie for taking on the role of Treasurer going forward.

5. Appointment of an Independent Examiner

Simon Kirk has expressed his willingness to undertake this role again for the coming year. He was proposed by Glynis Murton and seconded by Margaret Westall. All were in favour. Rev McClellan thanked Mr Kirk for his service and for continuing in this role.

6. Appointment of a Safeguarding Officer for Children and Vulnerable Adults

Safeguarding is a very important issue in our church life and AMcC expressed his thanks to everyone who undertakes this important work at St John's. Emma Kerr has agreed to continue in this role and was proposed by Moira Morgan and seconded by Nathan Killington. All agreed. Simon Kirk will continue in his supporting role as Deputy Safeguarding Officer.

7. Elections of Parochial Church Councillors

AMcC outlined the role of the PCC. He advised that the St John's PCC consists of 12 members and outlined the current members.

St John's is entitled to have 2 representatives on Deanery Synod and this role gives them a place on PCC. This role is currently undertaken by Tomi Odukamaiya and Tom Goodenough.

AMcC advised that four PCC members - Jude Mackenzie, Celia Charlwood, Nathan Killington and Keith Buckley - are coming to the end of their term.

In addition Duncan Cameron has asked to stand down from the PCC before the end of his term in order to focus more on practical matters concerning the fabric of the church building. AMcC expressed his thanks to Duncan for his support over the years.

This gives a total of five vacancies to fill on PCC this year. Celia, Nathan and Keith have expressed a willingness to stand again. Jude is not standing for re-election, and AMcC expressed his thanks for all her support particularly in issues regarding to recruitment of the new Families Worker and new Administrator. This leaves two vacancies on the PCC.

In addition to the three PCC members standing for re-election, we have two new nominees, bringing the total to five as follows:

Name	Proposer	Second
Elizabeth Bostock	Beryl Hitch	Celia Charlwood
Keith Buckley	Caroline Thomas	Tina Hill
Celia Charlwood	Linda Nash	Peter Morgan
Nathan Killington	Emma Kerr	Jude Mackenzie
Alistair Mackenzie	Sue Helm	Keith Buckley

There being no other nominations all 5 were duly elected.

AMcC expressed his thanks to these five and all PCC members for their service.

8. Report on the Fabric of the Church

Ray Sims outlined the main fabric projects undertaken this year.

Main projects completed in 2024 were:-

- Extra 10 metres of linked chain barrier in the car park to protect our neighbour's fence. This extra barrier has already been damaged and will need attention.
- We installed in the car park, with considerable time and effort, two lockable, metal wheelie bin stores to contain our garden waste. This was necessary because we had found strangers putting their rubbish in our bins!
- We fitted 40 acoustic panels to the ceiling of the church hall. This has reduced the previous sound echo by 40/50% and made larger gatherings more comfortable.
- We installed a new sink unit in the lobby between the church and the hall. Thus enabling washing up to be done whenever the kitchen is occupied.
- We built and fitted out our new servery providing the new St. John's Coffee bar. This is a mobile unit and compliments the plan to provide more flexible facilities in the Church building.
- Thanks to a generous donation by a member of our 8.30 congregation we have replaced the curtains in front of the organ and the side chapel. Duncan Cameron acquired them and did all the work entirely unaided.

Ray expressed his thanks to the entire fabric team who, with the exception of materials costs, provide all of the labour and creative skills saving the Church Funds a considerable amount. The congregation expressed their thanks via applause.

In addition to these projects, with professional help we constructed a new partition wall, with sliding door, in the Church Rooms Lobby. This allows for separate events to take place in both Church and Church Rooms, whilst maintaining a joint toilet facility for safeguarding purposes.

Ray also outlined the audio visual upgrade project which has resulted in vastly improved sound and vision and provides much better streaming of our services. We have proved that as a result a number of our congregation are with us thanks to their introduction via our YouTube channel. This is an ongoing project managed by Paul and moreover has been achieved for no more than about £15,000 which is at least £20,000 LESS than other quotes. Ray expressed his thanks to Paul for his continued work on this.

In between all of the above various minor but essential tasks were carried out. Fabric Committee is working on some exciting and progressive projects which they hope to introduce over the coming months.

Fiona Bentley asked why in the AV upgrade the control desk hasn't been moved and asked whether the aesthetics will be improved. Ray said that this is still ongoing and there is a small amount of work still to be done. Paul Turner outlined some of the reasons why the control desk has remained larger but confirmed that there was still some tidying up work to be done. Ray also emphasised the fact there are sometimes unexpected issues when taking on fabric projects and Paul explained that cost and time benefits meant that it was better to reduce the amount of wiring that was moved.

Anthony Westall expressed his support in keeping the desk where it is so that Paul can see what is going on.

Kim Hitch reiterated Anthony's point but asked whether a wooden end piece could be added to improve the aesthetics. Ray confirmed that this could be considered.

Ray asked congregants to speak to fabric committee members if they had ideas on fabric items which could be improved in the church.

Attendees expressed their thanks to Ray Sims for his continued hard work by a round of applause.

9. Vicar's Report

The Vicar's report is contained in full in the Annual Accounts and AMcC did not intend to read it out to the meeting but he did encourage everyone to read it for themselves.

AMcC expressed his thanks to everyone who undertakes jobs at St John's and also to those who give to the Church.

AMcC reflected on the importance of Palm Sunday and the relevance of holding the APCM on Palm Sunday – both looking back on the previous year and looking ahead to the year to come. He reflected on the importance of those taking on new roles at St John's including new wardens, new staff members and a new Treasurer and the fact that this is all building towards more growth for the church.

He outlined the key strands of the new Diocesan strategy – change, serve, grow and how this has shaped our ministry at St John's over the last year.

He asked congregants to thank all of those who serve at St John's and this was expressed through applause.

10. Any other Business

None had been advised prior to the meeting.

On behalf of the meeting Kim Hitch expressed his thanks to Andrew and Jess for all of their work at St John's and there was a round of applause.

Meeting concluded at 12:26pm with the Grace.