

Minutes of the Parish of Hackney Annual Meeting

Tuesday 20th May 2025, 7.00pm, St. John at Hackney, Hackney Church House

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

1. The Minutes of the 21st May 2024 Meeting of Parishioners were confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting and unanimously accepted.

Proposed by Ben Coombs, seconded by Nate Hayes.

2. Election of two Churchwardens

Nominations had been received for Sam Lawson Johnston and Jennifer Jamie.

Sam Lawson Johnston was proposed by Ben Coombs, seconded by Graeme Nicoll.

Jen Jamie was proposed by Josh Olomolaiye, seconded by Ayo Afolabi.

There being no other nominations Sam and Jennifer were duly elected.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Present: Rev'd Al Gordon, Rev'd John Parmiter, Rev'd Jackie Parmiter, Temitope Taiwo, Gideon Akpovi, Keziah Akpovi, Jacquie Driver, Nate Hayes, Cyril, Nai, John Roe, Gill Roe, Lucy Stott, Andy Hughes, Finn Rowden, Lily Shergill, Charles Idu, Fisayo Sonuga, Jon Buckmaster, Dylan Page, Greg Dawson, Nat Dawson, Linda Harris, Esther Gyeni, Yvonne Tapper, Martyn Bearfoot, Al Marsh, Zac Lloyd, Isak Petersen, Mareli Taylor, Campbell Sibthorpe, Graeme Nicol, Josh Olomolaiye, Ayo, Ben Musson, Vera Preedy, Candy Oluwajana, Deborah Smith, Polly Lorimer, Leroy Logan, Josh, Anntoinette Bramble, Yolanda Ameny, Abby Garcia, Mbuwemi Nyirenda, Matt Orr, Danielle Jinadu, Jonny Stott, Harrison Pugh, Tasha Duursma.

Apologies for Absence: Jennifer Jamie, Sam Lawson Johnston, Ellie Page, Gloria Gaspard.

1. The minutes of the 21st May 2024 Annual Parochial Church Meeting were confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting. Proposed by Graeme Nicoll, seconded by Olufisayo Sonuga and unanimously agreed.

2. Election of Lay Members to the PCC

At the 21st May 2019 Parochial Church Meeting the decision was taken that the term of office of representatives of the laity on the PCC shall be one year, to the conclusion of the next APCM. This decision shall be reviewed at least once every six years.

Rev'd Al thanked all those who had served on the PCC and would not be re-standing for election at this meeting.

There are 15 places for lay representatives' laity on the PCC, 15 nominations were received. All nominees are eligible for election; all proposers and seconders are on the electoral roll of the parish. As there were the same number of nominations as spaces available, all were duly elected:

- Natasha Duursma

- Gloria Gaspard
- Graeme Nicoll
- Zoe Huggins
- Michelle Fontaine
- Yvonne Tapper
- Josh Olomolaiye
- Anntoinette Bramble
- Olufisayo Sonuga
- Sophie Howard
- Ben Coombs
- Ebube Egwuonwu
- Ayo Afolabi
- Desmond Brown
- Leroy Logan

Ex-officio PCC members are:

Clergy: Rev'd Al Gordon (Rector), Rev'd Naomi Maxwell-Babatunde (Associate Rector), Rev'd Vera Preedy, Rev'd Nate Hayes, Rev'd Farida Pashi, Rev'd Temitope Taiwo, Rev'd John Parmiter, Rev'd Jackie Parmiter.

Churchwardens: Sam Lawson Johnston, Jennifer Jamie.

Licenced Lay Ministers: John Roe.

Lay Members of Hackney Deanery Synod: Linda Harris, Andrew Busk, Alastair Marsh, Polly Lorimer, Ellie Page, Karen Pluess, Esther Opuku-Gyeni.

3. Presentation of the Annual Report, including Activities of the Parish, Proceedings of the PCC, Electoral Roll, Fabric Report, Financial Review, Deanery Synod Report

A copy of the draft Annual Report and Accounts 2024 was made available to all present prior to the commencement of the meeting.

Activities of the Parish

Rev'd Al presented a video which summarised the key activities of the Parish.

Notable Highlights:

- Services: in a period of growth and quiet revival – God is moving across the board. Reopened a service at St Lukes led by Rev'd Vera Preedy which is averaging 30-40 attendees and has created time and space for pastoral care and community post the service. Hackney has created additional space via a 9.30AM family service. People are coming to faith and getting baptised across young adults and families are being changed.
- Lighthouse has seen both locations grow, Hackney is currently averaging 100 attendees (c.80 previously). Rev'd Al highlighted the local charities that are aiming to cherish the community and share God's love.
- Emerging Generations: Keziah shared insight into the countless stories that are taking place, including the successful launch of the 9.30AM which has welcomed 93 children on week 3, children that are learning the father's love. Youth has been taking place at St Barnabas on a Friday evening – one of the several touch points with youth from bible study to drop ins.

Proceedings of the PCC

The PCC met 4 times during the year, as well as at Focus.

Electoral Roll

There are 345 names on the electoral roll, revised in April/May 2025, the decreased observed vs. 2024 (552) is due to the electoral roll reverting to zero.

Fabric Report

The Quinquennial Inspection for St. John at Hackney to be conducted in 2025. The Quinquennial inspection recommendations for St. Luke's, Homerton have been made and are in the process of being implemented, for example there is ongoing work to provide a heating solution. The use of buildings by HCEL is for inviting guests, corporate hires and throughout the week the car park operates as a pay and display via JustPark.

Jacque noted the £250k budget focussed on repairs and maintenance required to maintain the buildings.

Deanery Synod Report

Linda Harris shared a summarisation of the happenings at the Deanery Synod meetings, which convened three times over the course of the year. The topics raised and discussed included Generosity, the charter for valuing children and the Hackney and Islington programme (HIP) which aims to encourage partnership between churches planting and partnerships.

Safeguarding Report

Yvonne Tapper shared that safeguarding remains at the heart and mission of the Church. The team have ensured that posters are visible throughout the premises e.g. bathroom cubicles. Yvonne noted the importance of DBS checks, which are being implemented for those leading groups and those serving on kids/youth.

Rev'd Al noted the safeguarding report and thanked Yvonne.

Presentation of Accounts

Rev'd Al thanked Jacquie, Josh and Graeme for their continued work. Congregational giving, the primary source of income, has increased despite the headwinds (£1.37mm). Once accounting for expenditure, a net income of £273k is expected.

Appointment of Auditors

Jacque recommended that Brewers be appointed again.

Proposed by Polly Lorimer, seconded by Graeme Nicoll and passed without objection.

The 2024 Annual Report and Accounts (draft subject to audit) were adopted by the APCM. Proposed by Josh Olomolaiye, seconded by Graeme Nicoll and unanimously agreed.

Questions and Comments

Question: What has the turnout been at the 9.30AM Service?

In Response: Attendance has been encouraging, already welcomed 200 attendees and observing parity between the 9.30 and 11.30AM services.

Question: Can the papers please be circulated ahead of the meeting?

In Response: Papers are available upon request a week before. We welcome questions if there are any further questions post your opportunity to review.

Question: Can we create space at Focus for those that are new to faith?

In Response: Yes!

Question: For those that are not local to Hackney, is there the possibility to have a central group?

In Response: There is work currently being done on creating more space to facilitate the continued growth.

Question: The £273k net income, where did this come from?

In Response: The main driver has been giving and the hiring of facilities.

Question: Are we expecting a deficit for Focus 2025?

In Response: No, we intend to bring 500 people (FY24 399) and have thankfully found donors that will help Saint break-even. It was noted that finances should not be a limiting factor in attending, there is a bursary fund intended to help those that could otherwise not afford it.

Question: Did Renaissance break even?

In Response: Yes, this year the cost was met by donors and ticket sales.

Any Other Business

Lay Vice Chair, Anntoinette Bramble, encouraged the group to imagine what happens when we pray, welcome someone, persevere – to imagine the power of Christ in each of us. We may be individually limited but together we are powerful.

Rev'd Al thanked the retiring members of the PCC: John Fyson, Tolu Obafemi, Peniel Gebreselassie.

Rev'd Al closed the meeting with prayer.