



**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting
& Annual Parochial Church Meeting**
Sunday 1st May 2021 – 12.15pm

Annual Parish Meeting

1. Revd Graham Hunter (GH) explained difference between the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Parochial Meeting,

Election of Churchwardens

2. "We have two nominations for the positions of Churchwardens, namely, Ann-Marie Nye and Larre Olajide. I propose that they be duly appointed by our consent through show of hands" After brief commendation from GH (godly, willing to take risks, prayerful, working alongside GH), they were unanimously elected by show of hands.
3. The meeting closed.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Minutes of Last Meeting

1. Minutes of last meeting were approved & signed.

Vicar's Introduction

2. 3 Peaks: GH spoke about his recent trip to complete the 3 Peaks Challenge – climbing Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon in three consecutive days. He shared some reflections:
 - a. It's harder on the way back down! Climbing the mountain is hard, but no-one prepares you for how difficult it is making your way back down. We shouldn't be surprised or alarmed that this period of recovery after the intense pandemic period is challenging. We are in a 'recovery year', and this may continue for some time. 'Steady as she goes' is the name of the game.
 - b. You need to climb the mountain to get a view of your surroundings. When you're in the midst of the climb you can't always see your way clearly, but when you're at the top you can see how far you've come. A period of retreat – getting away from the busyness of everyday life is essential if we want to get a better and clearer view of your surroundings. A period of retreat is valuable for all of us in our Christian life – even if it's just about a walk in the park without the distraction of your phone – so that we can review our landscape and surroundings. Where are we? Where have we come from? How are we doing in the priorities of our life? These are questions we can consider when we climb our metaphorical or literal mountains.
 - c. Put your feet where others have walked before. The compacted snow from other people's foot-steps was easier to walk on than the fresh and loose snow. Similarly, we don't need to reinvent the wheel or pioneer in this season. Do what other Christians have done before: read the bible, pray, spend time with Jesus, gather in your church family, do the everyday stuff of mission: giving, serving, having compassion, seeking justice, worshipping God.





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3. 4 Priorities: GH then summarised the key priorities highlighted in our new Mission Action Plan.
 - a. Flourishing Worshipping Community – Christian life is much more than coming to Sunday services, but it's not less! It's really important that we keep the habit of meeting with one another every week for worship, bible teaching and prayer.
 - b. Relentless Concern for Kids & Youth – we continue to maintain a special focus on mission and ministry amongst children and youth. Midweek Kids Connect groups and the new Older Youth Connect group are really encouraging developments.
 - c. Beacon Project – the needs of our neighbourhood can be overwhelming, and it's important that we develop a strategic plan for responding to local need with compassionate generosity but also seeking justice. Developing an overarching project to hold together various streams of work will be a significant development in the life of our church over the coming years.
 - d. #LoveHoxton – the building remains a significant concern, with repair liabilities totaling over £1million. Working with the Diocese to find a way forwards will be another central priority in the next year.

Celebration

4. The Annual Report & Financial Statements had been circulated digitally, along with other papers for the meeting.
 - a. Electoral roll reduced to 118 due to high volume of people who have left the church, and those who have joined may not yet have completed electoral roll applications.
 - b. GH encouraged people to read the Vicar's Introduction for brief highlights of the report.
 - c. Finance – we were largely buoyed up by generous Government grants to support heritage. We will be running another INVEST campaign in May. Premises rental income has been down, and we're facing a difficult period with rising costs.
 - d. There were no questions of comments.
5. GH thanked all the staff and volunteers who had served over the past year.
6. There was a brief time for 121s and testimony.

Action

7. Larre Olajide, Stephen Millar & Vera Kesewah continue as Deanery Synod representatives.
8. The list of nominees for appointment to serve as elected members of the PCC were as follows: Anita Masih, Alice Howell, Maria Demtriou, Olivette Thompson, Barizoge Neenwi, Daniel Pratt. These were duly appointed by show of hands. (Proposed & seconded variously by Stephen Wastling, Anita Masih and Graham Hunter)
9. Our Independent Examiner, Chris Goodhead FCS of KnightGoodhead Accountants was re-appointed.

Close

10. GH closed the meeting in prayer.

