

**St John's Episcopal Church**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**Sunday 17th November 2024**

Associate Rector, David Bagnall, welcomed 69 members to St John's AGM.

David welcomed all, with thanks for giving up Sunday roast as this is an important milestone in the life of the church. This AGM is peculiar as it happens during a vacancy. Associate Rector is in charge of day to day work of St John's but Jean Grier, Michael Barlowe, and Alistair Dinnie are in charge of vacancy.

Apologies received from Kenneth Boyd, Almut Boehme, Kevin Ludwick, Nancy van Kirk, and Eden Anderson.

Clephane Hume recorded members of the congregation who have died this year. Opened the meeting with prayers and read the Roll of the Dead - Olive Grace, Ruth Geig, Jane Kinnaird, Andrew Law, Josee Mobbs, Jean Starr, Bill Warrack, and Daivd Young.

David welcomed Giles Longstaff, our new Director of Music, and thanked for filling in today.

Approval of the minutes of last year's AGM on 19th November 2023. There being no questions asked, these were proposed by Clephane Hume, seconded by Liz Morrow and passed unanimously.

The Associate Rector's report was accepted with no questions raised.

The Lay Representatives' report was accepted with no questions raised.

The Church reports were accepted with no questions raised.

David thanked everyone who had submitted a report.

In the absence of the Treasurer, the Annual Accounts were raised by Iain Herbert on behalf of Kevin. Following recent discussions with our audit team, the recommendation is to postpone the presentation of the accounts to an EGM to be scheduled for January. The work to draft and audit the financial account is substantially complete. However, the balances (loans and intercompany debt) between St John's and CDEL needs attention. It is critical that Vestry takes time to reflect, discuss and agree on the next steps. St John's is operating safely as a going concern. The EGM is scheduled for 26th January 2025.

After questioning, Iain confirmed:

- The St John's Finance Committee and Board of CDEL will be part of the process.
- The CAF loan is £235,000 and tax implications will be reviewed as part of the process.

- There are plans for a Stewardship campaign for congregational giving; however, we need to be clearer how members can give to St John's.
- Anyone wishing to give should contact the office

Jean Grier intimated that this is only information that has come to light in the last few days and will be fully discussed at the Vestry meeting in a couple of weeks.

Election of Lay Representative and Alternate Lay Representative:

- Nancy van Kirk was proposed for Lay Representative by Eileen Thompson, seconded by Grace Durham and was elected unopposed.
- Siobhan McGovern was proposed for Alternate Lay Representative by Susan Spilbury, seconded by Harry Clarke and elected unopposed.

Election of constituent Vestry member:

- Jill Taleyarkhan was proposed by Jill Stavert and seconded by Josephine MacLeod.
- Anne Martin was proposed by Tony Falconer and seconded by Austin Reilly

Voting will take place by secret ballot at the end of the meeting at the back of the church and results will be notified by email to those signed up to receive the weekly e-news.

David responded to a question as to "why are we only electing one member?", to explain that no one is retiring and Vestry needs to be a minimum of 3 people and a maximum of 6 with the option to co-opt people if necessary.

Michael Barlowe gave an update on the vacancy process and procedures. Michael highlighted his biography with his role in oversight. He stated that he has developed a wonderful bond with people of St John's, and that it's a pleasure to serve wonderful people, whom he thanked. He also expressed his gratitude to the Congregational Study and Profile Committee.

Robert Philp reported on the Congregational Study and Profile Committee and its preparatory for recruitment of the new Rector. They aim to identify where we are now, what are our strong and weak points as a church and what could we do better? It is not just a process for Vestry or the Profile Committee but for the whole congregation. They want to hear your views, what is your experience, and what are your hopes for the future? Committee members were asked to stand up so they could be identified and members were asked to share their thoughts with the group. Consultation with the congregation will be held on 15th December informally over coffee and mince pies, followed by two formal sessions on 12th January after the service and on the evening of 21st January evening. The message is don't hold back.

Whitelaw Wells were unanimously re-appointment as auditors.

## AOCB

- Discussion whether Vestry candidates can give speeches to the meeting, agreed this section of the constitution requires review.
- In response to a question regarding Liturgy, agreed that this would be reviewed if sufficient appetite from the congregation.
- As a result of a question to hold future meetings in the hall, a vote was taken whether the next AGM should be held in the church or the hall. Since there was no majority, this will be reviewed before the next AGM.
- In answer to a question about it sometimes being difficult for members to find someone to speak to, agreed that Vestry members and Clergy would be more prominent and visible.
- Michael confirmed that more regular updates would be issued by the Congregational Study and Profile Committee, the process has only just started and things will be accelerating.
- In reply to a question about the role of Vestry members, it was explained that Vestry is the management committee of the church, and that Vestry will have a significant role in the appointment of the new Rector.

Jean, as interim chair of Vestry offered a vote of thanks to David Bagnall, to the clergy team (particularly during this time of vacancy), and to the office staff.

There being no other competent business, the meeting closed with The Lord's prayer.