



ST MARGARET'S CHURCH

To know and share God's transforming love with one another,
our local community and the wider world

Minutes PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING held at 8pm in the Parish Office on Tuesday March 11th, 2025

Present; Revd Hannah Gordon (Chair), Tom Sanderson Julia Thompson, Jill Lindsay, Jon Hill, Kat Wicksteed, Ray King, Rosalind Lunberg, Revd. John Wates, Janice Whittle, Lucy Wales, Nigel Smith, Jen Smith, Eamonn Davern,

1. The meeting commenced at 8pm with a prayer and reading Corinthians 12 4-27

2 Apologies:

Apologies were received from Madeleine MacCallum (attending the Deanery Synod)

Stewardship

3 The Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 21st January 2025 were approved and signed by Rev. Hannah Gordon.

Matters arising not on the agenda:

Fire Drills

Insurers do not insist on a fire drill being held in the Church, however the Premises Team will arrange a drill for The Orchard. Jen will update Duty Church Wardens' Instructions.

PCC Training

The Archdeacon Revd. Moira Astin will deliver a joint training session for St Margaret's and St Peter's Woodmansterne on 25th June.

Community Outreach Project

Kat Wicksteed described a proposal for St Margaret's to support the WellCare Project as part of planned Outreach activity to promote a *Christian 7 days a week agenda*.

Several activities are being considered, the first proposal is a request for volunteers to conduct some routine maintenance on the WellCare Centre garden.

Kat proposed that PCC agree to donate up to £500 for the purchase of materials.

The proposal was unanimously seconded by the PCC, with an amendment that the upper limit could be raised in the event of individual donations.

Bigger Thinking

4 Vision Day Feedback

Over 40 people attended the Vision Day from all sections of the Congregation including children and youth. Hannah delivered slide presentation summarising feedback obtained from participants in a session to consider their perspectives on St Margaret's. These reflections will be used to support PCC discussion on preparing the future Parish Vision. Following a discussion at the January PCC Ray King has reviewed outstanding actions from the Truscott Report. Many were now redundant due to the time since the report had been produced or had been superseded by subsequent developments. Items of continuing relevance would be considered in the development of the future Church Vision over the next year. An organisation chart will be created by Ray as he works on Church Suite

Action: *Hannah to circulate Vision Day slides to the PCC.*

Stewardship of our Resources

5 Safeguarding

No issues had been referred since the previous PCC. St Margaret's completed a Safeguarding Audit as required by the Diocese in advance of the March 12th Deadline. Hannah will contact the Diocese to obtain the overall Southwark results for circulation to PCC. She also advised that in response to the questionnaire issued to the Congregation on Safeguarding Sunday 67% of respondents agreed with the statement that *Safeguarding was everyone's responsibility*. Hannah will analyse results and report back to a subsequent PCC.

Action: *Hannah to obtain summary of the Diocesan Safeguarding Audit and circulate to PCC*

6 Annual Report and Accounts

Hannah presented the 2024 Annual Report and Accounts to PCC. She advised that next year the Report will include a 2 page summary to be completed with input from PCC. The new Treasurer Andrea Dunhill will be invited to the May or July PCC to discuss financial management. John Grant will again examine accounts at year end. A new Independent Examiner will be appointed for next year, a company has been contacted to examine the accounts from next year. PCC will need to approve this appointment; details will be presented at the first meeting of the 2025-2026 PCC.

In response to questions about budget management, Hannah advised that the PCC Standing (sub) Committee must agree on large purchases if required during a period between PCC meetings, these are subject to specific authorised spending limits. The accounting system is to be rationalised with the number of budget heading categories being reduced. Deborah Mathews (Parish Administrator) and Andrea Dunhill conduct monthly reviews of transactions, including banking reconciliations through the accounting system.

Ray King proposed adoption of the Report and Accounts and a Vote of Thanks to Martin Mabbutt for his long-standing support for the Parish as previous Treasurer and continuing to prepare the

Accounts for several years following his standing down from his previous role.

These proposals were unanimously seconded by the PCC.

Hannah will present a summary of the Report and Accounts at the APCM.

7 Premises Update including Church Lighting and AV

The **Live Streaming** function has now been installed. Worship leaders will need to advise people attending services of areas of the Church where they would not be visible on camera, a note will also need to be prepared to be displayed on screen. The possibility of Streaming the 9 am services will be explored, possibly using a fixed camera, with access through a link. More volunteers are needed to operate the system.

Actions: *Jon Hill will produce a description for people operating the Streaming equipment.*

Hannah will draft a notice clarifying safeguarding issues related to live streaming.

CES have been selected to design the **lighting renewal project** and will be formally appointed at the first meeting of the 2025 -2026 PCC. An initial meeting with the Design Consultants has been arranged for March 25th, Hannah and a project sub-group will discuss production of a Design Brief. The Design Brief will be referred to PCC for approval prior to *A Statement of Need* being prepared for an application for Faculty. All contact from the DAC (Diocesan Committee) will be channeled through Hannah and Jon who will prepare the Faculty application.

A preliminary discussion has been arranged with architects to discuss **improving access to The Orchard.**

Jon Hill proposed, and Ray King seconded a proposal for Church Wardens to commence the process for identifying new architects to be selected from the Diocesan Approved list for work arising from the Quinquennial Inspection and the commission for the lighting project. The proposal was unanimously agreed by the PCC.

Planning for our Future

8 APCM Planning

The APCM will be held in the Church after the 10:15 service on April 6th. The Secretary confirmed the status of current PCC representatives and advised that two members were ending their first three-year term. They were both content to serve a second term and had submitted nominations. . In the event of further candidates wishing to seek election voting would take place at the APCM.

9 Electoral Roll

A full Quinquennial (5 yearly) review of the Electoral Roll was required this year. Therefore, all members of the Congregation who wanted to remain on the roll were required to re-register, together with those wishing to join for the first time.

So far 101 people have registered on the new Electoral Roll, a list of the new Roll was required to be displayed in the Church Porch two weeks before the APCM when registration will be closed until after the APCM. The previous Roll was 162. Hannah advised that it was no longer necessary for couples being married in the Church to register, and several members of the Congregation had passed away in the last year.

Subject to the final number of people registered on the Electoral Roll (at closure prior to the APCM) there may still be a vacancy for a 4th St Margaret's representative on the Deanery Synod. The Parish was previously entitled to 4 representatives based on the number of people registered.

Action *The Secretary will check the Deanery Synod representation rules and confirm the position.*

Post meeting addendum: At the closure of the Electoral Roll prior to the APCM 128 people had registered. As parishes with an Electoral Roll of more than 125 are entitled to 4 Deanery Synod representatives there was still a vacancy (to now serve for one year). The vacancy will be advertised at the APCM. Hannah is happy to speak to any members of the Congregation interested in the role.

10 Easter Plans

Following St Margaret's hosting a joint Communion service with St Peter's Woodmansterne on Ash Wednesday a further joint Communion will be held at St Peter's at 7pm on *Maundy Thursday*. *Good Friday* services will be held at Mugswell Mission Hall at 9 am and in the Church at 2pm. Hannah will be preaching at an interdenominational service at Woodmansterne Baptist Church at 10:30 am.

The *Easter Sunday* joint Communion Service will take place at 10am.

11 AOB/Date of Next Meeting

Parish Conversation

The Archdeacon has written to Hannah to thank members of the Congregation who had volunteered to be interviewed as part of the recent "Parish Conversation".

The first meeting of the 2025-2026 PCC will be held on May 13th in the Parish Office at 8pm.