

# The Parish Church of St John the Baptist Greenhill

(The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St John, Greenhill, Harrow - A Registered Charity)

Sheepcote Road, HARROW, Middlesex, HA1 2JE  
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**Annual Meetings, Sunday, 26th May 2024 at 11.00am or at the conclusion of the 10.00am Service, whichever is the later, in the Parish Church of St John the Baptist Greenhill, Sheepcote Road, Harrow, Middlesex, HA1 2JE**

## AGENDAS

### [A] Annual Meeting of Parishioners

**The following may vote. 1. Those on the Church Electoral Roll**

**2. Those recorded on the Local Government Electors Register as living in the Parish**

01.00 Apologies for Absence.

02.00 Approval of the Minutes of the last meeting - 21st May 2023 - Herewith.

03.00 Choosing of Churchwardens.

### [B] Annual Parochial Church Meeting

**Those who are on the Church Electoral Roll may vote**

**The Parish Clergy may also vote except on item 08.00**

04.00 Approval of the Minutes of the last meeting - 21st May 2023 - Herewith.

05.00 Report on the changes in the Church Electoral Roll since the last meeting.

06.00 To receive the Annual Report of the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council and the activities of the Parish generally.

07.00 To receive the Annual Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council.

08.00 Election of 8 representatives of the Laity of the Parish to the Parochial Church Council - 4 for 3 years, 3 for 2 years and 1 for 1 year (periods of service to be decided by lot).\*

09.00 Appointment of the Independent Examiner for the Accounts.

10.00 Annual Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church - Herewith.

11.00 Annual Report on the Harrow Deanery Synod - Herewith.

12.00 Development of St John's Church Annex - Progress.

13.00 Vice-Chairman's Remarks.

14.00 Any Other Business (Advance notice appreciated, but not essential).

15.00 Close.

\* Subject to any resignations received by the Secretary of the Parochial Church Council before or at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, when such vacancies will also need to be filled.

Please note Sidesmen and Assistant Churchwardens are now appointed by the Parochial Church Council.

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners  
of the Parish of Greenhill for the Election of Churchwardens, held in the  
Parish Church Sheepcote Road Harrow, Middlesex, HA1 2JE  
at 11.33am on Sunday, 21st May 2023**

**Present:** The meeting commenced at about 11.33am with prayers with the Revd Barry Hingston, Vicar in the chair. There were 21 members present. 2 apologies for absence had been received. The Chairman thanked those present for staying behind to attend the meetings.

**The Minutes** of the previous meeting held on the 1st May 2022, having been circulated, were taken as read and were approved unanimously.

**Choosing of Churchwardens:** He expressed his thanks to Mr Peter Polkinghorne and Mrs Catherine Still for their services as

Churchwardens and to their families for supporting them. In accordance with the Churchwardens Measure 2001 nominations in writing had been received from Mr Peter Polkinghorne and Mrs Catherine Still by the Vicar before the meeting. As no further nominations had been so received, the Chairman declared them elected as Churchwardens for 2023/2024 and gave his consent to the choice. This was carried with acclamation.

The meeting then resolved itself into the Annual Parochial Church Meeting at about 11.37am.

*Peter Hawkins, Clerk to the Meeting.*

**Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of the  
Parish of Greenhill held in the Parish Church, Sheepcote  
Road, Harrow, Middlesex, HA1 2JE on Sunday, 21st May 2023**

**Present:** The meeting commenced at about 11.37am, with the Revd Barry Hingston, Vicar in the chair. There were 21 members present. 2 apologies for absence had been received.

**The Minutes** of the previous meeting held on the 1st May 2022, having been circulated, were taken as read and were approved unanimously.

**Church Electoral Roll:** The roll was revised and not renewed this year. There were 2 removals during the year and 4 additions. The roll was therefore reported as standing at 102 members against 100 members last year. The Chairman thanked the PCC Secretary for his work on this.

**The Annual Report of Parochial Church Council (PCC) Proceedings and Parish**

**Activities Generally:** (This report is received by the meeting and not approved by it. This is done by the PCC, which is the charity and the same applies to the accounts, which follow). This report was presented to the meeting by the chairman and as there were no questions was received nem con. The Chairman thanked the contributors to the report and the PCC Secretary for bringing it together.

**The Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council (PCC):**

Regarding the accounts Mr Simon Patrick, Treasurer said that half the income comes from the Planned Giving Scheme plus the Income Tax recovered on it. Income is also received from three properties. However, rent is not being paid on 20 Manor Court and eviction proceedings are in progress. The other two properties 76 and 77 Moore House were re-let during the year, both at a higher rent. At this point the Revd Ajay More (Associate Vicar) mentioned the Naya Jivan Bishop's Mission Order at St Andrew's, Kingsbury for which he was responsible in addition to his duties at St John's and for which we hold a restricted account in our books for their money. This does not affect our own accounts in any way. The Chairman expressed his thanks to Simon for his work. As there were no questions, the accounts were received nem con.

**Election of Representatives of the Laity of the Parish to the Harrow Deanery Synod (HDS):**

There were two places available to the parish on the HDS for three years and two nominations from Mr Peter Hawkins and Mr Tim Mackenzie. As there were no further nominations from the floor the Chairman declared Mr Peter Hawkins and Mr Tim Mackenzie elected for three years. Deanery Synod members are also ex-officio

members of their Parochial Church Council.

**Election of Representatives of the Laity of the Parish to the Parochial Church Council (PCC):**

There were four places available due by rotation (for three years) plus one vacancy (for two years) and two vacancies (for one year). There was one nomination from Miss Vicki Swinchatt. As there were no further nominations from the floor the Chairman declared Miss Vicki Swinchatt elected for three years leaving three three year and the short term vacancies unfilled. The Chairman expressed his thanks to the PCC for their work over the past year.

**Appointment of Sidesmen:** This is now done by the Parochial Church Council following an amendment in the Church Representation Rules in 2020.

**Appointment of Assistant Churchwardens:**

This is now done by the Parochial Church Council following an amendment in the Church Representation Rules in 2020.

**Appointment of Independent Examiner:**

Mr John Cuthbert was thanked for his work in examining the accounts to the 31st December 2022. Mr Simon Patrick then spoke on this matter pointing out that although John Cuthbert was an accountant by trade (now retired) he ceased to be a member of his professional body on retirement. If, as expected, the Annex Project goes ahead this year the PCC will receive funding of £750,000 or more. This will mean that the accounts next year will have to audited/examined by a professional charity auditor. He therefore recommended this matter be left for now until we know more as the PCC can appoint the auditor/examiner if the annual meeting does not do so. If for any reason the Annex Project does not go ahead then Mr John Cuthbert will be considered as a candidate at the time.

**Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church:**

This report by the Churchwardens, was circulated after approval by the Parochial Church Council. Mr Peter Polkinghorne made the comment that it was similar to the report of last year and that the rails for the entrance ramp were part of the Annex Project and that he was aware of some problems with the North Doors of the Church. The report was received by the meeting nem con.

**Deanery Synod Report:** A written report on the proceedings of the Harrow Deanery Synod for

2022 was circulated beforehand. Mr Peter Hawkins (PCC Secretary and Deanery Synod Representative) added that at the first meeting of the Synod in 2023 the subject was "Modern Slavery" It appeared that for most Parish Churches that this was in fact a Safeguarding issue. The report was received by the meeting nem con.

**Chairman's Remarks including the Proposed Development of St John's Church**

**Annex.:** The Chairman (Barry) mentioned that some negative aspects of the pandemic remain. However, numbers attending Church were more or less back to 2019 figures. The Electoral Roll was marginally up, the mid-week Communion attendance, which is now on line, was 8 to 9 whereas it was 2 to 3 in the Church before the pandemic. Evensong was re-started last year, Messy Church is back and so are the concerts. The small house groups have not yet re-started. Schools contact is back with an excellent Carol Service in 2022. He reported that the Revd David Byrne is healthy and well in his retirement and expressed his thanks to the Revd Ajay More (Associate Vicar) for taking on the Naya Jivan Bishop's Mission Order at St Andrew's, Kingsbury. Regarding the Development Project he mentioned that the overall project was started in 2014. Since then the new Victoria Hall was opened in 2021 and a new heating system was installed in the Church which is very effective. On the matter of the Annex there have been various delays which have cost us money (building costs inflation). However, a faculty and planning permission for the Annex were obtained in 2022. We are now at the Technical Design Stage for tendering, and we are looking to a Tender Estimate with tenders in early July and a contract in August. Construction is expected to take six to eight months to complete the project. The Annex will give us an upgrade to the electrical input to the Church which will enable the Vestry Kitchen Project to be completed. It will also give us separate assessable toilets, a coffee area and a small meeting area. There were no questions.

**Other Business:** There was no other business.

The meeting then closed with prayers at about 12.17pm and the Chairman thanked us for taking the time to stay behind for the annual meetings.

*Peter Hawkins, Clerk to the Meeting*

# **REPORT ON THE FABRIC GOODS AND ORNAMENTS OF THE CHURCH - THE ANNUAL FABRIC REPORT**

## **Preliminary.**

A Quinquennial Inspection took place in 2019 and a review of the work required is underway. The bulk of the urgent items have been addressed. The next Quinquennial Inspection will take place in 2024 after the development project is completed.

## **Outside.**

The land around the Church is well kept and the garden has been maintained to a high standard by volunteers. See a separate report on their work.

The roof, gutters and drainpipes have been regularly cleaned and inspected.

We have not seen a serious recurrence of the rat issue.

The ramp at the north door has been the scene of two accidents in 2018.

In order to prevent recurrence, the installation of a handrail is being scheduled as part of the redevelopment works.

Work has been undertaken (and in 2024 completed) to fix a leak in the Vicar's Vestry.

## **Inside.**

Work on a small kitchen in the servers' vestry is

awaiting the new power supply to be completed.

The organ was tuned in January and September and faulty pipes attended to.

The development works are due to start in 2024. The development works will be covered elsewhere.

The Buildings Committee has not met due to shortage of members.

## **Goods.**

There were no goods gifted during 2023.

## **Conclusion.**

Although there is still work required to keep our church in good repair, as is always the case with a building of its age, we hope that we can keep the building functional and in good order in the coming year.

We thank all who have contributed to the maintenance of the building and its grounds, making it a welcoming and pleasant place of worship.

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Cath Still and Peter Polkinghorne,  
Churchwardens. March 2024

## **HARROW DEANERY SYNOD ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023**

The Deanery Synod met for three sessions during the year with a time of worship led by the host church or school, who were invited to give a profile of the parish or school and its mission and ministries before the Synod prayed for them. Hosts also kindly provided refreshments. At each meeting reports were tabled or presented on the recent sessions by those elected to the Diocesan and General Synods. There was also a short business meeting held using the Zoom Software. During the year a new triennium started, and elections were held in preparation for the opening meeting.

The first meeting was held on 8 February at St Alban's North Harrow with the theme of "Modern Slavery – what is it and what can we do about it?". Pattie Gercke, Development Worker for the Compassionate Communities Team of the Diocese, gave a presentation on Modern Slavery.

Modern Slavery is a serious crime in which people are coerced or deceived into a situation where they are exploited for the purpose of making a profit. The offence is punishable by up to life imprisonment under the 2015 Modern Slavery Act. She described the various forms of slavery, the victims, the signs to look out for, the resources available, and what we in the parishes can do about it. She then answered questions.

At the Parish APCMs new lay representatives on the Synod were elected. Elections were made for the Triennium. John Dolling was elected as Lay Chairman; Robert May as Secretary; David Green, Barry Hingston, Ajay More and Emma Webber as Clergy Members of the Standing Committee; Mary Abbott, Toby Partridge and Clive Scowen as Lay Members of the Standing Committee; Derek Taylor-Mew as Independent Examiner; John Spencer as Representative on

Bereavement Care Management Committee and Clementina Pagano as Foundation Governor of St John's School Stanmore. The three representatives on Harrow SACRE (Standing Advisory Committee for Religious Education) had agreed to continue and were confirmed (Revd James Power, Alison Stowe, and Mary Abbott).

A meeting to discuss Synod business was held using the Zoom software on 15 June. Five applications for a grant from the Deanery Mission Fund had been received from St Mary's Kenton for notice boards, All Saints Harrow Weald for sound system improvements, St Peter's West Harrow for Messy Church equipment, Re:Generation Schools Work for equipment and materials and Holy Trinity Wealdstone for outreach events.

These were all approved. The Deanery Accounts for 2022 were received and approved, subject to Independent Examination. Toby Partridge was confirmed as the Deanery representative on the Area Finance Committee.

The triennium opened with the 4 July session, which was held at St Mary the Virgin Kenton and started with a Eucharist. Bishop Lusa Nsenga-Ngoy addressed the Synod and answered questions. Synod agreed to co-opt the Headteachers of two Church of England Schools to be members of the Synod. – Jo Hester at St John's Stanmore and Daniel Norris at St Jerome's

Harrow.

The third meeting was held on 23 November at Bishop Ramsey Church of England School Ruislip. Dr Hilary Macaulay, Headteacher, gave an introduction to the school and its vision and activities. These included three projects:- *The Big Feast* providing a different experience of worship; the *Willesden Area Church of England Choir Project* where over two days twelve schools in the Area worked with the London Gospel Community Choir; *Common Good Schools* which was designed through the lessons and assemblies to get schools working with their community. Synod was then given fifteen minutes for conversation in groups to consider three questions:- “*What is your response to these projects?*”, “*What volunteering opportunities could your church offer for students in your community?*” and “*Do you have any other ideas for how your church community could link with your local schools?*”. Alison Stowe gave a report from Harrow SACRE (Standing Advisory Committee for Religious Education). Ann Lynes announced that she is stepping down as Area Dean and the Bishop will appoint a successor. A By-Election had been held to fill a vacancy for a Lay Representative of the Synod on the London Diocesan Synod. Noah Kelly of St Alban's North Harrow had been elected to fill this vacancy.

Robert May

Honorary Secretary