



ST JAMES'S CHURCH, PICCADILLY
REPORT ON THE
ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS AND ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 28th APRIL 2019

The meetings were chaired by the Revd Lucy Winkett, Rector, who warmly welcomed everyone.

ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

The congregation approved the minutes of the 2018 APCM and reflected on missing at this year's meetings, the presence of Mercédès Pavlicevic, a much-loved member of St James's congregation who had made a significant contribution towards the work of the PCC and life of St James's and who had sadly passed away during the year.

Deborah Colvin and Trevor Lines were elected as Churchwardens for 2018-2019. For both, this would be their third year as churchwardens.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Electoral Roll

David Hamilton-Peters, the Electoral Roll Officer, explained that, in accordance with the Church Representation Rules, full revision of the electoral roll is undertaken every six years. This includes all existing members coming off the roll and being required to sign-up again. This process had been completed, following which there were now 188 people on the electoral roll. This compared positively with 130 following the last full revision six years ago (and with 217 as at last year's APCM.)

Thanks to St James's staff team

Thanks were expressed to all members of the St James's staff team for their dedicated service throughout the year.

PCC Secretary's Report

Graham Cooper, PCC Secretary, had submitted a written report on the activities and business discussed by the PCC during 2018-19. Graham highlighted the focus on implementation of the 2016-19 strategic plan, and that he considered that the congregation should feel assured by the diligence of the PCC in carrying out its responsibilities.

PCC Honorary Treasurer's Report and Annual Report & Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2018

David McKinley, Honorary Treasurer, presented his report, along with the Annual Report & Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2018, providing assurance regarding St James's overall financial health and highlighting key trends in income and expenditure. He particularly brought the meeting's attention to the importance of the financial contribution of the market and concerts and events at St James's, and to a significant uplift in rental income during the year. Additionally, it was noted that there had been significant expenditure during the year from the Building Repair Fund in order to meet the costs of essential repairs to the Church's electrical infrastructure. Given St James's

responsibilities for ongoing maintenance of its Grade 1 listed Wren Church, a decision had been made to transfer £52,600, being the majority of the surplus from 2018, to replenish the Building Repair Fund. The meeting unanimously resolved to accept the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2018. The Chair thanked David for his significant contribution to St James's as Honorary Treasurer on a volunteer basis.

Re-appointment of Auditors

In line with its policy for periodic review of its audit provision, St James's had appointed new auditors during the year, following a process of competitive tender overseen by the Audit Committee. St James's had been happy with the service provided to date by Griffin Stone Moscrop, the new auditors. A recommendation to re-appoint Griffin Stone Moscrop as auditors for the year ended 31st December 2019 was proposed by Kevin Hipgrave, seconded by Fiona Markey and was unanimously approved.

Churchwardens' Report

A written copy of the report from Deborah Colvin and Trevor Lines, the churchwardens, had been provided. Deborah and Trevor emphasised that they very much welcomed engagement through conversations, discussions with, and lobbying by members of the congregation. They also specifically reported on the significant work that had been undertaken in developing St James's Welcoming and Volunteering Strategy.

The congregation expressed its gratitude to Deborah and Trevor, not only in relation to their official responsibilities as churchwardens, but also in relation to specific important areas of St James's strategy and activities about which they were passionate and very active. In the case of Deborah, this particularly included her role in driving the various strands of St James's Eco Church agenda, and in Trevor's case, his organisation of retreats and co-ordination of St James's fairtrade activity.

Deanery Synod Representatives Report

A report was received and Shirley Dixon, Lia Shimada and Pearl Willis and were thanked for their service as St James's Deanery Synod representatives for 2018-19.

Election of new lay PCC member

Prior to the election of new members, the Chair led a vote of thanks for the contribution of Kevin Hipgrave. Having served two terms of office on the PCC, Kevin was stepping down. The Chair also expressed appreciation for Kevin's contribution as PCC Lay Chair for 2016/17 and 2017/18, and his contribution as a member of the Wren Project Steering Group.

All members of the PCC present stood in order to be acknowledged, and they were thanked for their commitment and contribution.

There were three PCC lay member vacancies, arising as a result of Kevin and two other members reaching the end of their terms of office. For these three vacancies, there were four candidates, and a ballot was therefore held. The Chair thanked all four candidates and advised that the result of the ballot was very close. David Loyn, Adolfo Sansolini and Heather Williams were elected to serve on the PCC for a three-year term of office.

Safeguarding Report

The meeting received written copies of the annual Safeguarding Report, provided by Jane Preest, Safeguarding Officer and Jane Gray, HR Advisor. The importance of safeguarding, and the role of the PCC in oversight of St James's safeguarding activity were stressed. Jane Preest explained the practice of face to face training for PCC members and volunteers that had been successfully implemented, and it was noted that the PCC would, as usual, be reviewing St James's Safeguarding Policy and action plan at its first PCC meeting following the APCM. Thanks were expressed to Jane Preest and Jane Gray for their work and for their report.

2018-19 – A year in the life of St James’s

The congregation was shown a slide presentation on key events, activities and relationships during 2018-19 and celebrated these. A copy of the presentation can be found [here \[insert link\]](#). Members of the congregation were invited to reflect and to provide comments and observations on the year’s activities. St James’s policy of providing a place of refuge for homeless guests to sleep in the pews throughout the week was highlighted, as was St James’s support for wider campaigning, particularly in relation to issues such as climate change. The congregation was assured that both of these would remain integral to St James’s activities going forward. Additionally, the subject of availability of toilet facilities on site, in terms of when the toilets were open, was raised and would be taken forward.

Members of the congregation encouraged ongoing attention to ensure that individuals who do not have easy access to technology, or who are unable to physically attend church, are not excluded through the process of St James’s continuing to embrace new technology as a means of communication.

Keeping the church open every day was a matter also raised as particularly important, and which had not been specifically demonstrated in the presentation.

The PCC Secretary was thanked for his work in putting the presentation together.

Rector’s Report

Lucy Winkett, Rector and Chair, referred the meeting to her written report, copies of which had been provided. She reflected on the congregation’s feedback in relation to the earlier presentation, and specifically to St James’s commitment to keeping the church open and warm as a place of welcome seven days a week. She also commended the ongoing campaigning and many activities and achievements, whilst also emphasising that she believed that it remains important that St James’s does not become self-congratulatory, but retains and strengthens its capacity to challenge itself, not least becoming a community of both celebration and forgiveness in the context of the challenges that individuals face in these often violent and confusing times.

The Chair also explained the significant re-organisation of the staff team during the year and the recruitment of Guinevere Short, St James’s new Director of Business and Operations tasked particularly with leveraging income from St James’s commercial activities.

Priorities for the year ahead which the Chair highlighted, would be a renewal of the strategic plan, a review of Planned Giving activity embedded within St James’s theology, and a review of communications. With regard to the latter, the Chair invited Hugh Valentine, Worker Priest and co-sponsor of the communications review with the new Business and Operations Director, to speak about the project. Hugh explained that the review, looking at how St James’s can improve the way in which it communicates, would be informed by a survey that had been launched and which had already been completed by a number of members of the congregation. He asked the congregation to encourage completion of the survey by other people who have any kind of connection with St James’s. The survey can be completed online at www.sjp.org.uk/survey. It was also agreed that paper copies of the survey questionnaire would be available for completion in church on the following Sunday.

The congregation commended the Chair’s regular participation in Radio 4’s Thought for the Day programme, suggesting that the enhancement to the profile of St James’s that this provides should not be underestimated. The congregation also then expressed its thanks to all the Clergy for their ongoing commitment and leadership.

Wren Project update

A brief progress report on the Wren (site redevelopment) Project was provided. The Chair explained that efforts had been re-energised at the beginning of the year, following a pause in the latter half of 2018, and that in addition to the architectural considerations and consultations with the Diocese and amenity societies, care was being taken to ensure that a scheme is delivered that can be financed through fundraising activity and that is financially sustainable in the long term. She advised that the current hope was to be in a position to submit a planning application by the end of the year. The

congregation provided some initial feedback, also raising a number of questions with regard to the timing of redecoration and internal works to the church. The position regarding the organ, the pews and the east window were discussed. It was agreed that, as planned, another more detailed consultation meeting would be held with the congregation. In order to avoid a clash with other planned events, it was likely that this would be organised for June.

Away Giving

Fiona Notman provided an overview of the Away Giving programme, through which St James's supports a number of charitable organisations and projects that are aligned to its own objectives, with a commitment to social justice within and beyond the UK. Forms for current year grant applications were available and a supply would be left on the table at the rear of the church. Additionally, copies are available from the Rectory and from Graham Cooper, PCC Secretary (email pcc@sjp.org.uk). The deadline for submission of completed applications to the PCC Secretary is Sunday 2nd June.

Date of the 2020 APCM

Once again, members of the congregation asked that efforts are made to avoid a clash with the date of the London Marathon, so as to avoid travel disruption. The date of the 2020 London Marathon has now been announced as Sunday 26th April. St James's 2020 APCM has therefore now been scheduled to take place on **Sunday 19th April.**