

St Mary Magdalene
Munster Square, NW1

APCM

FOR YEAR END EASTER 2023

MEETING HELD 26TH MAY 2024



VICAR
Mthr Sally Jones

WARDENS
Debra Bienek
Karen Healy

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PCC

Bank Accounts held with:

Nat West Bank
Marylebone and Harley St Branch
PO BOX 2021
10 Marylebone High St
London
W1A 1PH

Metro Bank
One Southampton Row
London
WC1B 5HA

Safeguarding

The Diocese of London is committed to safeguarding all children, young people and vulnerable adults to worship and spiritually grow in safety. We also have duty to ensure that all who use the church and its offices for whatever reason have appropriate safeguarding measures in place. There have been no incidents that have required referral and no concerns that have been reported to the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer.

IRayna has been working with the PCC to ensure that the PCC and church are compliant to Diocesan and National Safeguarding standards and those who require DBS checks, and training will receive them.

Electoral Roll

The electoral roll of the parish was renewed in 2019 and will be fully renewed next in 2025.

In the last year, adjusting for those who have requested to be removed from the roll, and those who have died, the electoral roll fell from 50 to 44.



Camden Deanery Synod

A new Deanery Synod was inaugurated on 8 November 2023:

The Standing Committee now consists of the Area Dean (Carol Barrett Ford), Lay Chair (Michael Royalton-Kisch), Secretary (Harmen van den Hondel), Treasurer (Angela Gardner). Additionally the elected members of the Standing Committee are: Clergy: Michael Thomas (St Michael's, Camden Town), Jamie Haith (St George's, Holborn).

Laity: Dorothy Connell from St George's Bloomsbury. The total Standing Committee thus consists of 3 clergy and 4 laity, preserving the convention of the laity outnumbering the clergy

7pm for 7.30pm Tuesday 7 February 2023 at St John-at-Hampstead, NW3

7pm for 7.30pm Wednesday 17 May 2023 at St Marks' Church, Regent Park, NW1

7pm for 7.30pm Wednesday 9 November 2023 at St Martin's Church, NW5

Tuesday 7 February 2023 at St John-at-Hampstead, NW3 - Keynote presentation: Ageing Gracefully by Kevin Rogers, Diocese of London
Kevin explained how he and his team aim to provide pragmatic advice about church buildings, including support on how to establish efficient fundraising and optimizing the use of church buildings in general. For the South Camden area, there are 18 buildings, 2 of which are closed and 15 listed – most Grade II. There is a major need for investment, with a staggering 25M repair bill coming up. All parishes were reminded to take great care with fire safety and their electrical systems and make sure that the mandatory 5-yr electrical test was properly conducted. Parishes that could not afford this should contact Kevin and his team for advice and support.



Camden Deanery Synod continued

Wednesday 17 May 2023 at St Marks' Church, Regent Park, NW1 - Summer drinks party: Fr William Gulliford kindly hosted our summer drinks party at St Mark's Regents Park on a delightful warm evening. As well as time to socialise both inside the beautiful church and in its garden, there was a short act of worship in thanksgiving for the life of the Deanery, and all those who serve it—both lay and ordained. There was also an opportunity to give thanks for the ministry of Fr David Houlding who was with us on the evening.

Wednesday 8 November 2023 at St Martin's Church, NW5 - Inauguration of the new Deanery Synod. Meeting of the House of Laity: As Acting Chair, Angela Gardner confirmed that Michael Royalton-Kisch indicated that he was happy to serve another term as Lay Chair. No other candidates had come forward, and Michael was elected.

Full meeting of both Houses of the Synod (Laity and Clergy): Mthr Carol confirmed that Angela Gardner and Harmen van den Hondel had indicated that they were happy to serve another term as Deanery Synod Officers and Standing Committee lay-members. No other candidates had come forward. Mthr Carol confirmed that Jamie Haith and Michael Thomas had indicated that they were willing to serve for another term in their current roles as clergy member of the Standing Committee. Joyce Florell did not stand for re-election and will resign from the Standing Committee as lay-member. Dorothy Connell from St George's Bloomsbury indicated that she was willing to join the Standing Committee as a new lay member. After being proposed and seconded by members of the Deanery, Dorothy Connell was elected by acclamation as a new lay member of the Standing Committee.

*Mthr Carol Barrett Ford, Area Dean
March 2024*

In addition from Sally Price

It is worth mentioning that the first meeting of 2024, on 20th January, the main item was a proposal for a declaration of closure for regular public worship for the church of St Mary Eversholt Street. After intense debate, it was decided to allow the congregation longer to see if they could form a viable way forward, given the state of the building.

Priest's Report

If Mary Magdalene wasn't our patron, I think Nicodemus would be a good choice for you.

There aren't many churches named after him. The Anglican Church doesn't even keep him as a saint, although our Roman Catholic and Orthodox siblings do, and his day is kept on 31st August.

And I think Nicodemus would be good for us because he demonstrates the importance of asking good questions, which is something we encourage and celebrate here at Mary Mags.

Each question we ask and wrestle with brings us to a deeper understanding of our faith, of who God is and where we fit into the world God has created.

Nicodemus asked good questions. He asked questions which brought him closer to understanding more about God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. And through these questions he came to faith and came to believe in Jesus and became one of Jesus' secret disciples.

Nicodemus was a Pharisee, one of the Jewish leaders. He is a big deal in the Jewish circles of Jerusalem; Nicodemus has been well educated in the faith and is a smart man.

Like most religious people, Nicodemus believes, to some extent, that God is love. But he believes that God's love is measured and sensible, and follows a set of rules.

I think that many Christians today still what to believe that this is true.

They have reasoned that God's love is reserved for really 'good' people, those who are nice or do good things or turn up to church on Sundays.

This is true and untrue, as God's love is for everyone despite our perceived and actual goodness and badness.

Nicodemus is confused about Jesus and where he fits; Jesus is not playing by the conventional Jewish rules that Nicodemus and his fellow Pharisees are expecting. This could be why Nicodemus pays him a visit – to get Jesus to fill in the proper forms, tick the right boxes.

Nicodemus starts by telling Jesus that he, and others, know that there is something special about Jesus – only someone with a special relationship with God could do the things Jesus was doing.

He is basically saying 'I'm someone who can recognize what God is doing – and you, Jesus, are doing a pretty good job'.

Priest's Report continued

But its not until Nicodemus gets his head around rebirth that he starts to truly understand that Jesus has come to give us life in all its fullness
And he moves from questioning "how can these things be" to being a disciple.
And within this conversation we get one of the most well known and well loved verses of scripture.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish, but may have eternal life."

These words are so familiar, that I think they get overlooked with over familiarization.

In these words of Jesus is the essence of what Christianity is, its an invitation to join God Father, Son and Spirit in Gods unbounded and over flowing love. An invitation for us to join in the being and doing of God. That's the invitation that Nicodemus responded to, and it's the invitation that is given to each of us, to respond to as individuals and as a worshipping congregation, here at Mary Mags.
"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish, but may have eternal life."

We do not need to meet any set of requirements, we don't need to become more loveable, or even more likeable, it doesn't matter what our background is or what our abilities are on any given day.

God just loves. Loves us, loves you, loves me, every day, every second.

And if we say yes to God's love, then it becomes our turn to share that love with others.

Trinity Sunday gives us the chance to think about the nature of God. And the relationship of God Father, Son and Spirit is love.

Its this love we try to express here.

When we gather together, around the altar, and around the refreshment table.

It's the love we try to express when new people come to join us, for a one off visit, or for an extended stay.

It's the love to show in our work together with Christ Church Primary, with Esther Randall Court, with Old Diorama, with Fitzrovia Youth in Action.

It's the love we show when people enter our doors looking for food, shelter or someone to listen to them.

Priest's Report continued

It the love we show when we ask questions of the church and our faith. The love which brings people to baptism, confirmation, lay ministry and ordained ministry. It the love of God which makes us strive to become a Hub of Grace for all those who come here, no matter their motive or condition. In these ways we live out the love of the trinity.

Its been a blessed and difficult year, which our church wardens will talk more about in their report during or Annual Parochial Church Meeting after the service.

Scaffold and paint have been major features of the past year. But the physical works that have happened here never stopped the spiritual works.

We have continued to worship and serve our community throughout upheaval and ciaos.

Some of my highlights include

Our ability to continue to make Christmas a blessed time of year through our giving to Esther Randell Court, families at Christ Church and to some local people in need.

We were able to beat our previous records through your generosity and the generosity of St Marylebone Church who gave us thousands of pounds of gift vouchers to supermarkets and other shops to take the pressure off finding food and gifts to celebrate with.

We continue to offer more space for new support groups in the crypt, our most recent being Cocaine Anonymous. Having affordable, welcoming spaces are incredibly important for groups like these, and to support the work of healing and bring lives back to fullness is a privilege we have to give.

And we have invested in those spaces by installing new carpet and lighting, and we have plans to continue to improve the space over the year ahead.

We bade farewell to Bishop Rob who stepped down as our area bishop to become CEO of the Church Urban Fund. And we look forward to meeting and welcoming to this space our new Bishop Anderson Jeremiah.

We studied together the Book of Revelation and CS Lewis' writings on the Four Loves, which delighted, confused and amazed, us, and brought us to new understands.

Priest's Report continued

Over the course of the past year we have been able to train up a new serving team, and have a strong team of 10 people (with room available for more if anyone wants to join), we've had Alaric continue his formation with us, who we look forward to seeing ordained next month, and another 5 ordinands on short placements. And we've had 2 congregation members explore their vocations, and Debra who will be licenced in September.

It's been wonderful to have Debra, Karen and Luna serving as our wardens over this last year. Each bringing their own gifts into these roles and I want to thank each of them for their passion, support, advice, opinions, guidance, energy and prayers.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish, but may have eternal life."

When I look around our congregation and community, I see the love of God at work, made visible. And I want to thank you for your response to God's call. Thank you for your love and faithfulness which is shown so clearly here. And my prayer for this coming year is that this will continue to grow and bear fruit.

That we will continue on this path that God has given us, and find even more ways to bring the love of the Holy and Blessed Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit to each other, our local community and every area we inhabit and have influence.

That we will continue to ask questions, and be inspired by Nicodemus and be drawn deeper into faith and love.



STAFF & SERVICES

Staff

Vicar: Mthr Sally Jones

Warden: Karen Healy

Warden: Debra Bienek

Safeguarding Officer: Rayna Healy

Sacristan: Debra Bienek

Organist: Simon Haynes

Regular Services

Sunday 11am

Wednesday 6.30pm

Thursday 1pm

Regular Church Users

Camden Philharmonia Orchestra

Crypt Centre

Tuesday: 5.30-7pm Narcotics Anonymous

Wednesday: 7-8.30pm Adult Children of Alcoholics

Thursday: 7-10pm Chamber Academy Orchestra

Friday: 6.30-9pm Marijuana Anonymous

Saturday: 10.45am-12.15pm Co-Dependants Anonymous

Sunday: 4-7.30pm Co-Dependants Anonymous

Structure, Governance & Management

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under Parochial Church Council Powers Measures.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At Christ Church and St Mary Magdalene's the membership of the PCC consists of the vicar, churchwardens and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who are part of the congregation are encouraged to register on the electoral roll. We comply with policies governing Safeguarding, the PCC Policy being displayed on the Church Notice Board and is reviewed annually by the PCC. Safeguarding training is undertaken by appropriate officers. A Safeguarding Officer are appointed annually by the PCC and we comply with the DBS Regulations and also require other bodies that use the church premises to also comply with our Safeguarding Policy. Health and Safety procedures are under constant review.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how funds of the PCC are to be spent.

Membership of the PCC.

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting ("APCM") in accordance with the Church Representation Rules (Synodical Government Measure 1969). During the year 2021 the following served as members.

Ex-officio Members

Vicar: Mthr Sally Jones

Churchwardens: Karen Healy, Debra Beinek

Deanery Synod Representatives: Prof Sally Price

Elected Officers & Members

Ms Lande Kunrunmi (Vice Chair)

Ms Julie Nicholls (Secretary)

Ms Rayna Healy (Safeguarding Officer)

Ms Joanne Brewer

Mrs Carol Millard

Ms Geraldine Priddie

Mark Omorogbe

Standing Committee

Mthr Sally Jones

Ms Karen Healy

Ms Debra Beinek

**Christ Church and St Mary Magdalene
Munster Square**

End of Year Financial Statement

Year ending 31stDecember 2023

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Christ Church and St Mary Munster Square

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2023 which are set out on finance pages of the Annual Report.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act **2011** (the 2011 Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act);
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the gross income for the year exceeds the amount provided in section 145(3) of the Act, I confirm that I am qualified to act as Independent Examiner under the provisions of that section of the Act and that my qualification is as shown below.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1 which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
- 2 to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Kevin Ogilvie
Charity Bookkeeping and Examination Services
13 Evelyns Close,
Hillingdon,
Middlesex,
UB8 3LR



Date 30th September 2024

Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	13,706	—	22,000	—	35,706	432,456
Income from charitable activities	857	—	—	—	857	412
Other trading activities	19,305	—	—	—	19,305	604
Investments	3,982	—	—	—	3,982	18,313
Total income	37,850	—	22,000	—	59,850	451,784
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	473	—	—	—	473	—
Expenditure on charitable activities	74,537	—	88,238	—	162,775	104,900
Other expenditure	652	—	—	—	652	—
Total expenditure	75,662	—	88,238	—	163,900	104,900
Gains / losses on investment assets	—	10,709	289	—	10,999	(16,464)
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	(37,812)	10,709	(65,949)	—	(93,051)	330,421
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds - in	—	—	7,476	—	7,476	—
Gross transfers between funds - out	(7,476)	—	—	—	(7,476)	—
Other recognised gains / losses						
Net movement in funds	(45,288)	10,709	(58,473)	—	(93,051)	330,421
Total funds brought forward	386,667	401,341	139,526	—	927,535	597,114
Total funds carried forward	341,380	412,051	81,053	—	834,483	927,535

Balance sheet

Class and code	Description	This year	Last year
Fixed assets			
6430	COIF Jervois	913	836
6431	CBF Parish Trust	65,962	60,290
6432	CBF WFH Glover	50,229	45,910
6433	CBF Miss Glovers	14,015	12,810
6434	CBF CC School	2,735	2,500
6435	Loan Stock St Pamcras	500	500
6436	Consolidated Stock	6,884	6,884
6437	Treasury Stock WFH Glover	2,898	2,898
6438	Black Rock Glover	1,562	2,050
6439	Black Rock CC School	525	548
6440	St Bede's Hall	270,000	270,000
	Total Fixed assets	416,224	405,225
Current assets			
6501	Nat West Current A/C	12,211	25,474
6502	Metro Current A/C	372,639	465,505
6505	Nat West Reserve Account	27,918	25,838
6520	Gift Aid Recoverable	5,816	5,816
6521	Prepayments	—	—
Z05	Accounts Receivable	—	—
	Total Current assets	418,584	522,634
Liabilities			
6601	Loans received	—	—
6602	Uncleared Cheques 2018	—	—
6699	Agency collections	324	324
Z04	Accounts Payable	—	—
	Total Liabilities	324	324
	Net Asset surplus(deficit)	834,483	927,535
Reserves			
	Excess / (deficit) to date	(104,050)	346,885
Z01	Starting balances	927,535	597,114
Z02	Other gains/(losses)	10,999	(16,464)
	Total Reserves	834,483	927,535
	Represented by funds		
	Unrestricted	341,380	386,667
	Designated	412,051	401,341
	Restricted	81,053	139,526
	Endowment	—	—
	Total	834,483	927,535

Fund movement by type

	Opening	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains/losses	Journals	Closing
Building - Building Fund							
Restricted	90,000	10,000	66,121	—	—	—	33,879
Sub-total for Building	90,000	10,000	66,121	—	—	—	33,879
Donations - Restricted Donations							
Restricted	24,585	—	—	—	—	—	24,585
Sub-total for Donations	24,585	—	—	—	—	—	24,585
Glover - WFH Glover							
Designated	51,522	—	—	—	5,525	—	57,046
Sub-total for Glover	51,522	—	—	—	5,525	—	57,046
Hall - St Bede's Hall							
Designated	270,000	—	—	—	—	—	270,000
Sub-total for Hall	270,000	—	—	—	—	—	270,000
Jervois - Jervois Trust							
Restricted	2,627	—	—	—	77	—	2,704
Sub-total for Jervois	2,627	—	—	—	77	—	2,704
Lynch - Merrill Lynch							
Designated	2,050	—	—	—	(488)	—	1,562
Sub-total for Lynch	2,050	—	—	—	(488)	—	1,562
MGlover - Miss Glover							
Designated	10,096	—	—	—	—	—	10,096
Sub-total for MGlover	10,096	—	—	—	—	—	10,096
Organ - Organ Fund							
Restricted	16,625	—	—	—	—	—	16,625
Sub-total for Organ	16,625	—	—	—	—	—	16,625
Pancras - St Pancras							
Restricted	2,641	12,000	22,117	7,476	—	—	—
Sub-total for Pancras	2,641	12,000	22,117	7,476	—	—	—
PancrasD - St Pancras & Humanis							
Designated	500	—	—	—	—	—	500
Sub-total for PancrasD	500	—	—	—	—	—	500
Parish - Parish Trust							
Designated	60,290	—	—	—	5,672	—	65,962
Sub-total for Parish	60,290	—	—	—	5,672	—	65,962
School - CC School							
Restricted	3,048	—	—	—	213	—	3,260
Sub-total for School	3,048	—	—	—	213	—	3,260
Stock - Consoildated Stock							
Designated	6,884	—	—	—	—	—	6,884
Sub-total for Stock	6,884	—	—	—	—	—	6,884
General - General fund							
Unrestricted	386,667	37,850	75,662	(7,476)	—	—	341,380
Sub-total for General	386,667	37,850	75,662	(7,476)	—	—	341,380
Grand total	927,535	59,850	163,900	—	10,999	—	834,483

Analysis of income and expenditure

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Designated</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Endowment</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>This year</u>	<u>Last year</u>
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS						
Donations and legacies						
Gift Aid - Bank	—	—	—	—	—	1,743
PGS Giving	8,065	—	—	—	8,065	8,896
Loose plate collections	1,026	—	—	—	1,026	1,668
Donations appeals etc	2,598	—	—	—	2,598	1,090
Tax Recovered on PGS Giving	2,017	—	—	—	2,017	1,990
Legacies	—	—	—	—	—	401,168
Recurring grants	—	—	—	—	—	1,260
St Pancras Lands Trust	—	—	12,000	—	12,000	12,000
Non-recurring one-off grants	—	—	10,000	—	10,000	2,641
Total	13,706	—	22,000	—	35,706	432,456
Income from charitable activities						
Fees for weddings and funerals	857	—	—	—	857	412
Total	857	—	—	—	857	412
Other trading activities						
Church hall lettings - fund raising	15,000	—	—	—	15,000	—
Crypt Lets	1,074	—	—	—	1,074	364
Church Lets	3,231	—	—	—	3,231	240
Total	19,305	—	—	—	19,305	604
Investments						
Dividends	3,659	—	—	—	3,659	2,988
Bank and building society interest	323	—	—	—	323	55
CBF Interest	—	—	—	—	—	645
Rent from lands or buildings	—	—	—	—	—	14,625
Total	3,982	—	—	—	3,982	18,313
INCOME TOTAL	37,850	—	22,000	—	59,850	451,784

EXPENDITURE

Raising funds

Costs of fetes & other events	473	—	—	—	473	—
Total	473	—	—	—	473	—

Expenditure on charitable activities

Secular charities	—	—	—	—	—	1,073
Common Fund	22,500	—	—	—	22,500	15,050
Working expenses of incumbent	899	—	—	—	899	1,795
Vicar's discretionary	(10)	—	—	—	(10)	54
Water rates - vicarage	2,483	—	—	—	2,483	—
Vicar's telephone	29	—	—	—	29	—
Education	105	—	—	—	105	417

Parish training and mission	834	—	—	—	834	—
Church running - insurance	9,734	—	—	—	9,734	8,969
Church office - telephone	733	—	—	—	733	647
Organist Fees	2,821	—	—	—	2,821	3,701
Church maintenance	2,079	—	8,969	—	11,048	26,266
Cleaning	2,609	—	—	—	2,609	3,707
Upkeep of services	2,126	—	—	—	2,126	1,751
Hospitality	(5)	—	—	—	(5)	800
Administration	(152)	—	—	—	(152)	1,907
Bank Charges	84	—	—	—	84	150
Bookkeeping	6,250	—	—	—	6,250	3,000
Visiting speakers / locums	—	—	—	—	—	(47)
Church running - electric	—	—	17,256	—	17,256	11,049
Church running - gas	—	—	4,566	—	4,566	2,502
Church running - water	—	—	294	—	294	524
Church major repairs - Fees	15,419	—	—	—	15,419	—
Church major repairs - installation	3,000	—	52,452	—	55,452	21,586
Hall + major repairs - installation	3,000	—	4,700	—	7,700	—
Total	74,537	—	88,238	—	162,775	104,900

Other expenditure

Unidentified Expense	652	—	—	—	652	—
Total	652	—	—	—	652	—
EXPENDITURE TOTAL	75,662	—	88,238	—	163,900	104,900
GRAND TOTAL	(37,812)	—	(66,238)	—	(104,050)	346,885

St Mary Magdalene
Munster Square, NW1

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7pm for 7.30pm Wednesday 9 November 2023 at St Martin's Church, NW5

Tuesday 7 February 2023 at St John-at-Hampstead, NW3 - Keynote presentation: Ageing Gracefully by Kevin Rogers, Diocese of London
Kevin explained how he and his team aim to provide pragmatic advice about church buildings, including support on how to establish efficient fundraising and optimizing the use of church buildings in general. For the South Camden area, there are 18 buildings, 2 of which are closed and 15 listed – most Grade II. There is a major need for investment, with a staggering 25M repair bill coming up. All parishes were reminded to take great care with fire safety and their electrical systems and make sure that the mandatory 5-yr electrical test was properly conducted. Parishes that could not afford this should contact Kevin and his team for advice and support.



Camden Deanery Synod continued

Wednesday 17 May 2023 at St Marks' Church, Regent Park, NW1 - Summer drinks party: Fr William Gulliford kindly hosted our summer drinks party at St Mark's Regents Park on a delightful warm evening. As well as time to socialise both inside the beautiful church and in its garden, there was a short act of worship in thanksgiving for the life of the Deanery, and all those who serve it—both lay and ordained. There was also an opportunity to give thanks for the ministry of Fr David Houlding who was with us on the evening.

Wednesday 8 November 2023 at St Martin's Church, NW5 - Inauguration of the new Deanery Synod. Meeting of the House of Laity: As Acting Chair, Angela Gardner confirmed that Michael Royalton-Kisch indicated that he was happy to serve another term as Lay Chair. No other candidates had come forward, and Michael was elected.

Full meeting of both Houses of the Synod (Laity and Clergy): Mthr Carol confirmed that Angela Gardner and Harmen van den Hondel had indicated that they were happy to serve another term as Deanery Synod Officers and Standing Committee lay-members. No other candidates had come forward. Mthr Carol confirmed that Jamie Haith and Michael Thomas had indicated that they were willing to serve for another term in their current roles as clergy member of the Standing Committee. Joyce Florell did not stand for re-election and will resign from the Standing Committee as lay-member. Dorothy Connell from St George's Bloomsbury indicated that she was willing to join the Standing Committee as a new lay member. After being proposed and seconded by members of the Deanery, Dorothy Connell was elected by acclamation as a new lay member of the Standing Committee.

*Mthr Carol Barrett Ford, Area Dean
March 2024*

In addition from Sally Price

It is worth mentioning that the first meeting of 2024, on 20th January, the main item was a proposal for a declaration of closure for regular public worship for the church of St Mary Eversholt Street. After intense debate, it was decided to allow the congregation longer to see if they could form a viable way forward, given the state of the building.

Priest's Report

If Mary Magdalene wasn't our patron, I think Nicodemus would be a good choice for you.

There aren't many churches named after him. The Anglican Church doesn't even keep him as a saint, although our Roman Catholic and Orthodox siblings do, and his day is kept on 31st August.

And I think Nicodemus would be good for us because he demonstrates the importance of asking good questions, which is something we encourage and celebrate here at Mary Mags.

Each question we ask and wrestle with brings us to a deeper understanding of our faith, of who God is and where we fit into the world God has created.

Nicodemus asked good questions. He asked questions which brought him closer to understanding more about God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. And through these questions he came to faith and came to believe in Jesus and became one of Jesus' secret disciples.

Nicodemus was a Pharisee, one of the Jewish leaders. He is a big deal in the Jewish circles of Jerusalem; Nicodemus has been well educated in the faith and is a smart man.

Like most religious people, Nicodemus believes, to some extent, that God is love. But he believes that God's love is measured and sensible, and follows a set of rules.

I think that many Christians today still what to believe that this is true.

They have reasoned that God's love is reserved for really 'good' people, those who are nice or do good things or turn up to church on Sundays.

This is true and untrue, as God's love is for everyone despite our perceived and actual goodness and badness.

Nicodemus is confused about Jesus and where he fits; Jesus is not playing by the conventional Jewish rules that Nicodemus and his fellow Pharisees are expecting. This could be why Nicodemus pays him a visit – to get Jesus to fill in the proper forms, tick the right boxes.

Nicodemus starts by telling Jesus that he, and others, know that there is something special about Jesus – only someone with a special relationship with God could do the things Jesus was doing.

He is basically saying 'I'm someone who can recognize what God is doing – and you, Jesus, are doing a pretty good job'.

Priest's Report continued

But its not until Nicodemus gets his head around rebirth that he starts to truly understand that Jesus has come to give us life in all its fullness
And he moves from questioning "how can these things be" to being a disciple.
And within this conversation we get one of the most well known and well loved verses of scripture.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish, but may have eternal life."

These words are so familiar, that I think they get overlooked with over familiarization.

In these words of Jesus is the essence of what Christianity is, its an invitation to join God Father, Son and Spirit in Gods unbounded and over flowing love. An invitation for us to join in the being and doing of God. That's the invitation that Nicodemus responded to, and it's the invitation that is given to each of us, to respond to as individuals and as a worshipping congregation, here at Mary Mags.
"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish, but may have eternal life."

We do not need to meet any set of requirements, we don't need to become more loveable, or even more likeable, it doesn't matter what our background is or what our abilities are on any given day.

God just loves. Loves us, loves you, loves me, every day, every second.

And if we say yes to God's love, then it becomes our turn to share that love with others.

Trinity Sunday gives us the chance to think about the nature of God. And the relationship of God Father, Son and Spirit is love.

Its this love we try to express here.

When we gather together, around the altar, and around the refreshment table.

It's the love we try to express when new people come to join us, for a one off visit, or for an extended stay.

It's the love to show in our work together with Christ Church Primary, with Esther Randall Court, with Old Diorama, with Fitzrovia Youth in Action.

It's the love we show when people enter our doors looking for food, shelter or someone to listen to them.

Priest's Report continued

It the love we show when we ask questions of the church and our faith. The love which brings people to baptism, confirmation, lay ministry and ordained ministry. It the love of God which makes us strive to become a Hub of Grace for all those who come here, no matter their motive or condition. In these ways we live out the love of the trinity.

Its been a blessed and difficult year, which our church wardens will talk more about in their report during or Annual Parochial Church Meeting after the service.

Scaffold and paint have been major features of the past year. But the physical works that have happened here never stopped the spiritual works.

We have continued to worship and serve our community throughout upheaval and ciaos.

Some of my highlights include

Our ability to continue to make Christmas a blessed time of year through our giving to Esther Randell Court, families at Christ Church and to some local people in need.

We were able to beat our previous records through your generosity and the generosity of St Marylebone Church who gave us thousands of pounds of gift vouchers to supermarkets and other shops to take the pressure off finding food and gifts to celebrate with.

We continue to offer more space for new support groups in the crypt, our most recent being Cocaine Anonymous. Having affordable, welcoming spaces are incredibly important for groups like these, and to support the work of healing and bring lives back to fullness is a privilege we have to give.

And we have invested in those spaces by installing new carpet and lighting, and we have plans to continue to improve the space over the year ahead.

We bade farewell to Bishop Rob who stepped down as our area bishop to become CEO of the Church Urban Fund. And we look forward to meeting and welcoming to this space our new Bishop Anderson Jeremiah.

We studied together the Book of Revelation and CS Lewis' writings on the Four Loves, which delighted, confused and amazed, us, and brought us to new understands.

Priest's Report continued

Over the course of the past year we have been able to train up a new serving team, and have a strong team of 10 people (with room available for more if anyone wants to join), we've had Alaric continue his formation with us, who we look forward to seeing ordained next month, and another 5 ordinands on short placements. And we've had 2 congregation members explore their vocations, and Debra who will be licenced in September.

It's been wonderful to have Debra, Karen and Luna serving as our wardens over this last year. Each bringing their own gifts into these roles and I want to thank each of them for their passion, support, advice, opinions, guidance, energy and prayers.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish, but may have eternal life."

When I look around our congregation and community, I see the love of God at work, made visible. And I want to thank you for your response to God's call. Thank you for your love and faithfulness which is shown so clearly here. And my prayer for this coming year is that this will continue to grow and bear fruit.

That we will continue on this path that God has given us, and find even more ways to bring the love of the Holy and Blessed Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit to each other, our local community and every area we inhabit and have influence.

That we will continue to ask questions, and be inspired by Nicodemus and be drawn deeper into faith and love.



STAFF & SERVICES

Staff

Vicar: Mthr Sally Jones

Warden: Karen Healy

Warden: Debra Bienek

Safeguarding Officer: Rayna Healy

Sacristan: Debra Bienek

Organist: Simon Haynes

Regular Services

Sunday 11am

Wednesday 6.30pm

Thursday 1pm

Regular Church Users

Camden Philharmonia Orchestra

Crypt Centre

Tuesday: 5.30-7pm Narcotics Anonymous

Wednesday: 7-8.30pm Adult Children of Alcoholics

Thursday: 7-10pm Chamber Academy Orchestra

Friday: 6.30-9pm Marijuana Anonymous

Saturday: 10.45am-12.15pm Co-Dependants Anonymous

Sunday: 4-7.30pm Co-Dependants Anonymous

Structure, Governance & Management

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under Parochial Church Council Powers Measures.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At Christ Church and St Mary Magdalene's the membership of the PCC consists of the vicar, churchwardens and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who are part of the congregation are encouraged to register on the electoral roll. We comply with policies governing Safeguarding, the PCC Policy being displayed on the Church Notice Board and is reviewed annually by the PCC. Safeguarding training is undertaken by appropriate officers. A Safeguarding Officer are appointed annually by the PCC and we comply with the DBS Regulations and also require other bodies that use the church premises to also comply with our Safeguarding Policy. Health and Safety procedures are under constant review.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how funds of the PCC are to be spent.

Membership of the PCC.

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting ("APCM") in accordance with the Church Representation Rules (Synodical Government Measure 1969). During the year 2021 the following served as members.

Ex-officio Members

Vicar: Mthr Sally Jones

Churchwardens: Karen Healy, Debra Beinek

Deanery Synod Representatives: Prof Sally Price

Elected Officers & Members

Ms Lande Kunrunmi (Vice Chair)

Ms Julie Nicholls (Secretary)

Ms Rayna Healy (Safeguarding Officer)

Ms Joanne Brewer

Mrs Carol Millard

Ms Geraldine Priddie

Mark Omorogbe

Standing Committee

Mthr Sally Jones

Ms Karen Healy

Ms Debra Beinek