

**The Parish of Birch with Fallowfield
Holy Innocents Church**

2 Wilbraham Road – Fallowfield – Manchester M14 6JZ
☎0161 224 0535 www.holyinnocentsff.org



Sunday May 12th 2024, at 11.30am

Apologies for absence

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

1. Election of Churchwardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 19th March 2023
2. Matters arising
3. Report on changes to the church electoral roll
4. Election of PCC members – 3 vacancies
5. Appointment of independent examiner of the accounts
6. Annual Report on proceedings of the PCC, including financial statements for 2023
 - Annual meeting receives the accounts approved by the PCC
7. Safeguarding update
8. Annual Report on proceedings of Manchester South and Stretford Deanery Synod
9. Warden's Report, including report on fabric, goods and ornaments of the church
10. Rector's Report
11. Closing remarks

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Minutes of meetings held on Sunday March 19th 2023, starting at 11.30am

Apologies for absence

Revd Jane Walker

In attendance

Alan Clarke (chair), Revd Richard Young, Harry Lowe, Hilary Peate, Andy Peate, Margaret Beetham, Janet Batsleer, Lynda Newton, Suzanne Theelen, Joanna Gait, Andrew Gait (clerk), Assunta del Priore, Jenny Daggers, Jack Young, Beryl Newton, Judith Clark, Stuart Jones, Hilary Jones, Kaveh Golab, Faith Escreet, Barbara Kinch, Peter Jordan, Betty Ormrod, William Godfrey, Stephen Pennells, Sue Neesham

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

1. Election of Churchwardens

The purpose of this meeting is to elect two churchwardens. There were two nominations:

Lynda Newton (nominated by Stephen Pennells, seconded by Hilary Peate)
Alan Clarke (nominated by Barbara Kinch, seconded by Betty Ormrod)

With no further nominations, Lynda and Alan were elected as the two churchwardens.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Opening remarks

Opening remarks: Alan Clarke explained we would take all reports and questions in one go where possible.

2. Minutes of the meetings held on Sunday May 1st 2022

The minutes were agreed as an accurate reflection of that meeting (proposed Harry Lowe, seconded Sue Neesham, with all in favour).

3. Matters arising

None.

4. Report on changes to the church electoral roll

There are currently 82 names on the electoral roll after a minor revision where no people were removed and 3 were added. There are now 16 (+0 from last year) residents and 66 (+3 from last year) non-residents on the roll.

5. Election of PCC members – 4 vacancies

There were 4 nominees:

Bill Godfrey (nominated by Alan Clarke, seconded by Lynda Newton)
Andrew Gait (nominated by Reza Farush, seconded by Jenny Dagers)
Sue Neesham (nominated by Jenny Dagers, seconded by Stephen Pennells)
Jack Young (nominated by Andrew Gait, seconded by Lynda Newton)

With no further nominations, each of the nominees were duly elected.

6. Election of Deanery Synod members – 3 vacancies

There were 2 nominees:

Jenny Dagers (nominated by Hilary Jones, seconded by Andrew Gait)
Reza Farush (nominated by Andrew Gait, seconded by Stephen Pennells)

With no further nominations, each of the nominees were duly elected. The remaining post will be filled as and when someone expresses an interest.

7. Appointment of independent examiner of the accounts

It was agreed that Hugh Cairns should continue as the independent examiner (proposed Hilary Peate, seconded by Hilary Jones, with all in favour).

8. Annual Report on proceedings of the PCC, including financial statements for 2022

A written review of the year and the financial statements were tabled, having been approved by the PCC. There were no questions.

9. Financial statements to be received by the meeting

The financial statements, accounts and report were received by the meeting (proposed Barbara Kinch, seconded Betty Ormrod, with all present in favour).

10. Safeguarding: Child Protection Policy & Vulnerable Adults Policy

A written report was presented to the meeting. There were no questions.

11. Annual Report on proceedings of Hulme/South Manchester and Stretford Deanery Synod

A written report of the South Manchester and Streford Deanery Synod was presented to the meeting. There were no questions.

12. Wardens' Report, including report on fabric, goods and ornaments of the church

Alan Clarke and Lynda Newton presented a written report. There were no questions.

13. Rector's Report

Richard Young presented a written report. There were no questions.

The meeting ended at 11.45am with the Grace.

Holy Innocents Church, 2 Wilbraham Road, Fallowfield, Manchester M14 6JZ

Annual Report and
Financial Statements of the
Parochial Church Council of Birch with Fallowfield
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Incumbent
The Revd R M Young (from April 24th 2018)
c/o 2 Wilbraham Road
Fallowfield
Manchester

Bank
NatWest Bank
699 Wilmslow Road
Didsbury
Manchester
M20 6NW

Central Board of Finance
80 Cheapside
London

Independent Examiner
Mr H Cairns

**Annual Report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council
and activities of the Parish**

Membership of the Parochial Church Council

The maximum number of elected lay representatives on the PCC is currently nine: each serves for three years, three retire at each APCM, and elections are held to fill the vacancies. We also elected two Deanery Synod representatives at the 2023 APCM to serve until 2026.

Incumbent	The Revd Richard Young		From April 24 th 2018
Associate Priest	The Revd Jane Walker		From June 24 th 2019
Wardens	Alan Clarke	Lay Chair	From APCM 2021
	Lynda Newton		From APCM 2018
Representatives on the Deanery Synod	Jenny Daggars	Mission community rep	From APCM 2023 until 2026

	Reza Shekar Farush		From APCM 2023 until 2026
PCC Members	Andrew Gait	PCC Secretary	From APCM 2023 until 2026
	Jack Young	Treasurer	From APCM 2023 until 2026
	Sue Neesham		From APCM 2023 until 2026
	<i>Andrew Gait</i>		<i>From APCM 2020 until 2023</i>
	<i>Jack Young</i>		<i>From APCM 2020 until 2023</i>
	<i>Sue Neesham</i>		<i>From APCM 2020 until 2023</i>
	Assunta del Priore		From APCM 2021 until 2024
	Kaveh Golab		From APCM 2021 until 2024
	Hilary Jones		From APCM 2021 until 2024
	Janet Batsleer		From APCM 2022 until 2025
	Barbara Kinch		From APCM 2022 until 2025
	William Godfrey		From APCM 2023 until 2025*

* It was agreed at the first PCC meeting of 2023-24 that Bill would serve a 2-year term to ensure three members step down each APCM.

Committees and working groups

The standing committee is required by the Church Representation Rules. Other committees and working groups are appointed by the PCC for the purpose of various branches of church work in the parish. Members of the PCC lead the working groups but members of the congregation who are not members of the PCC are welcome to join the groups.

Standing committee:

This committee has power to transact the business of the Council between its meetings, subject to directions given by the full Council.

Building committee:

This group takes responsibility for looking after all aspects of the maintenance and development of the church building.

Education and Learning Committee

The Committee is responsible for organising Advent and Lent courses and other events or meetings as appropriate. It has also taken under its wing the Quiet Place meetings on Thursdays and the Simple Quiet Days.

Young people/Children's church:

This group takes responsibility for the involvement of children in the life and worship of the church; provision for children and their parents within the church; and the encouragement of young people, children and their parents as active members of the church community.

Music/Worship/Liturgy:

This group takes responsibility for the musical life and direction of the church, considering how to enrich and extend our current musical traditions and repertoire.

Church attendance

The average weekly attendance at the Sung Eucharist for Sundays where the church was open during this year was 65.

Review of the year

The Revd Richard Young continued as our Rector, supported by Revd Jane Walker, Revd Canon Michael Ainsworth, Revd Canon Alma Servant and Revd Janina Ainsworth.

Sunday Services continued to be live-streamed for those who were not able to attend in person.

Midweek Eucharists continued to take place on Mondays and Thursdays.

Children's Church postponed meeting during the year due to a lack of children.

The full PCC met five times during the year with a mean average attendance of 75% (range 53-93%).

Discussion at the PCC during the year were included but not limited to the work that took place in and on the church tower during the year, and considerations of possible projects in the near future relating to the furniture and flooring within the main part of the church, as well as how we may plan to heat the building in the future, with the possibility of replacing the boilers with solar panels and heat pumps. There were also discussions around Focal Ministry and Baptism & Confirmation.

We continue to be involved with our local Mission Community alongside other like-minded local churches, and continue to attend South Manchester & Stretford Deanery Synod meetings. A joint service on Ascension Day took place at Christ Church, West Didsbury.

Close links continue with St James' School with members of the congregation serving on the Governing Body of the new Community Federation of Saints (St James, and St Philips, Hulme) which started on January 1st 2023. Both schools were subject to OFSTED inspections during 2023 and each received a Good rating.

The PCC agreed to continue funding for choral scholarships for the academic year 2023-24. Currently we have seven choral scholars who support us on a regular basis, one of whom conducts.

We ran a Lent Course based on the 12 steps programme and Richard Rohr's book "Breathing Under Water", and poetry group and local history courses in Autumn 2023, which replaced our usual Advent Course. The church continues to support Peace and Justice campaigns, including supporting asylum seekers, Christian Aid, and Fairtrade.

Taban, the charity founded by church members in 2020 with support from the Diocese, continues to grow and extend its reach. At the end of the year grants were received from the Benefact Trust and the National Lottery Community Fund, which will support the recruitment of a second worker.

A Romanian orthodox congregation continue to use the building on Sunday afternoons and Wednesday evenings, as well as for special services at (Orthodox) Christmas and Easter.

The Alteri choir continue to use our building for their regular rehearsals. Orchestras and musical societies continue to regularly use the building for concerts.

In Lent our giving supported Withington & Fallowfield Foodbank, and in Advent we donated to the work of Medicins Sans Frontieres in Gaza.

The church continued to receive income from the mobile phone mast installation.

*Andrew Gait,
PCC Secretary,
March 2024*

Birch with Fallowfield Safeguarding Report

March 2024

We follow the House of Bishops' Safeguarding policy. The policy statements were reviewed by the PCC at the meeting on 28/2/2024.

Safeguarding information including contact details for the P.S.C. are displayed on the church web site, a church near you and on the noticeboard. These have been updated in accordance with diocesan advice. We also display details for ChildLine and Silver Lines.

There have been two safeguarding issues in this last year. Both have been dealt with according to guidelines and logged.

As a general reminder anyone with any concerns about safeguarding should speak to the Rector or Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator who then will follow the recommended diocesan procedures. In no circumstances should a member of congregation question anyone independently as this can affect further actions.

Lynda Newton

Safeguarding Co-ordinator

March 2024

MISSION COMMUNITY & DEANERY SYNOD REPORT TO THE 2024 APCM

MISSION COMMUNITY

The year saw positive collaboration across the Mission Community on Experience Easter, which we ran with help from Philip Gay (Church Army officer in Chorlton). There was also a joint Ascension Day service, and this year we will be collaborating for Christian Aid Week. There is growing occasional collaboration as we swap notes on shared concerns such as Faculty applications, new chair suppliers, heating bills etc.

Alongside this I as Mission Community leader have been helping Nick Bundock (Rector of St James and Emmanuel) as he attempts to navigate the setting up of a new team ministry encompassing St Chad's, St Paul's and St Nick's.

Meanwhile the Mission Community leadership team, a mix of ordained and lay members, meets 3 times a year, attended by Jenny Dagers and me on behalf of Holy Innocents.

So the Mission Community is managing to do some positive work together, albeit at a low level, whilst trying not to hold unnecessary meetings.

DEANERY SYNOD

In general, it is fair to say that the new enlarged Deanery Synod, comprising over 30 parishes, has yet to find a useful role. However, the highlight of the year was a meeting at Holy Trinity Platt, where a motion was brought to urge action on the National church to reinstate the independent advisory group on sexual abuse in the church, which had been summarily disbanded. The debate was urgent and impassioned. The motion was passed and sent up to Diocesan Synod where it was to be debated and, if passed, sent up again to General Synod. It was good to be reminded that the democratic structures of the Church of England, while complex and slow, do sometimes achieve good things.

Thank you to Jenny Dagers for joining me also at Deanery Synod.

RICHARD YOUNG

Wardens Report 2023

The work on the tower which was highlighted in the last quinquennial inspection has been carried out. The tower is now in a good state of repair.

Last years wardens report mentioned the poor condition of the chairs and carpet. They have served us well but are now showing real signs of age. Much time and deliberation has been spent on sourcing suitable replacements. Progress has been made with the flooring and DAC advice has been sort prior to an application for a faculty. Finding replacement chairs of a suitable quality and comfort at an affordable price is proving more difficult. It is import that we explore all possibilities and make the correct choice.

Annual services on the fire alarm, extinguishers and boiler have been carried out.

The Log Book and Terrier are as always available for inspection.

Finally we would like to thank Richard, Jane and the clergy team for their much valued ministry to us. Our job as wardens is made much easier by all those who contribute, often behind the scenes, to the smooth running of the church. We are very grateful to all of you for your support.

The Wardens

Lynda Newton

Alan Clarke

Rector's Report 2024

As I write this, preparations are being made to do what we can for asylum seekers facing the threat of being detained and ultimately deported to Rwanda. Whilst I am worried about what may happen, when I look around me I also have a sense of pride to be among colleagues who know what to do and are determined to fight this cruel policy. Please pray for our brothers and sisters at risk.

Had I written this a few weeks ago when originally planned, I would have said that the church is in a good place. Perhaps I perceive this because my own health is stable at the moment. But it isn't just me.

Over the last year our Sunday services have been flourishing. It is a joy to witness such beautiful music, apposite liturgy and folks crowding forward for the Eucharist. New people come and appear to settle in – for reasons which are a mystery to me. I often feel humbled when I get a glimpse of the journeys (physical and spiritual) which have preceded their walking through our doors.

We have also been blessed by the success of our history lectures, to which our local community have responded with enthusiasm. Alongside this our Art Project has brought local people into the church and brought joy to us all - as has our series of poetry evenings.

And in the background, our charity, Taban, is growing in reach and in capability – we have raised new money and are about to appoint a second worker.

Finally, we continue to be secure financially, thanks to faithful commitment from many of you, for which I thank you.

So many gifts, unexpected and undeserved, bring responsibility to use our resources wisely. Over the next year we hope to replace flooring, chairs and sanctuary furniture, as well as taking initial steps towards the goal of a zero carbon building. At the same time, we are increasing our efforts in our calling to protect the stranger in our midst.

I would like to thank my ministerial colleagues, wardens and PCC and all who give of their time so freely. A special thank you to Lynda, as she steps down as warden.

I find myself looking forward to the coming year with confidence and not a little excitement.

RICHARD YOUNG

29TH APRIL 2024