

# **St Mark's Church Wrexham: Annual Vestry Meeting 2025**

**To be held in the Vicarage, 3 Craigmillar Road, Wrexham  
LL12 7AR**

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7.30pm**

## **Agenda**

1. Prayers
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the last Annual Vestry Meeting
4. Reports to Note:
  - a. Vicar's Report
  - b. Caia Food Club
  - c. Foodbank
  - d. Holiday Hunger (verbally)
  - e. Work with Children (verbally)
  - f. Operation Christmas Child (verbally)
  - g. Churches Together in Wrexham
  - h. St Asaph Centre for Mission
  - i. Diocesan Conference
  - j. Mission Area Conference
  - k. Mark on the Park & Caia Friars (verbally)
  - l. Any other reports.
5. Accept Accounts for 2024
6. Elections: (Please note, all votes must be cast in person)
  - a. 1 Churchwarden. The Vicar nominates the other warden
  - b. Members of the Church Council
  - c. Trustee Member of the Mission Area Conference (MAC) currently Kev Clarke
  - d. Sides persons

- e. Rep for Christians Together in Wrexham
  - f. Rep for TCC. Currently Sue
  - g. Financial Examiner
  - 7. Any other business signified to the Vicar in writing before the meeting
  - 8. The newly elected PCC will nominate a secretary and a treasurer.
  - 9. Closing Prayers
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## **Minutes of St Mark's Church Easter Vestry Meeting 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

The Meeting followed Palm Sunday Worship

- 1. Opening Prayers
- 2. Present:
- 3. Rev'd Jonthan Smith, Vicar, Sue Breese, Kevin Clark, Jules Clark, Andrew Stanton, Carol Jones, Elaine Smith, Malcolm and Sarah, Ann Jones, Sandra Hasky, Val Maddocks, Dave Denoven, Gill Thomas and Derek Lacey.
- 4. Apologies – Linda is absent.
- 5. Minutes of the last Vestry Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023 were accepted as a true record. Proposed by Val and seconded by Dave.
- 6. Reports to note. Jonathan presented his own report and briefly made mention of the others. These are filed with these minutes. They were unanimously accepted – proposed by Kev and seconded by Gill.
- 7. Accounts – Carol has written an account about the church funds (filed). There's a lot of money in the funds, but a lot is restricted in the building and other funds. The accounts were accepted proposed by Sue and seconded by Gill.
- 8. Elections – Sue Breese nominated by Sandra and seconded by Carole. There being no other nominations, Sue was elected as People's Warden. Kev has been nominated by the vicar. Everyone on the electoral role needs to be regarded as members of the church council. Trustee member of the Mission Area Conference is Kev proposed by Sue and seconded by Sandra. TCC rep is Sue.
- 9. Carol was coopted as the treasurer and Andrew as the secretary.
- 10. Closing prayers were said by Jonathan.

## **Vicar's Report 2024**

Looking back, the last calendar year has been an interesting one in the life of St Mark's. We started the year with our worship and usual activities taking place in the church building knowing that we would need to move out at some stage during the year to allow for our long hoped for refurbishment to take place. Difficult decisions had to be made about where to relocate our various activities. What could we maintain and what did we need to mothball?

Thankfully, by God's grace, we were able to find homes for most things with Sunday Worship moving to the Partnership Hub and Foodbank in the Partnership Blue Building albeit at a different time. Caia Food Club moved to St Peter's Hall and the Brownies found a temporary home in Guide HQ. While we tried children's activities for a while at the Partnership, the children were not motivated to move, so they are in abeyance at present. We were also able to store furniture and equipment at the redundant hall at St James' Church in Rhosddu.

Just prior to handing the building over to the contractors in July, many members and friends helped to clear the building of furniture and dismantled various fittings and fittings and we are very grateful for their efforts. Initially work focused on renewing the roof which was slowed by the wet autumn weather. The discovery of further asbestos and the need to remove concrete flat roofs resulted in the project being eight weeks behind schedule by Christmas although most of the masonry alterations were completed by the end of the year.

Subsequently, good progress has been made and at the time of writing, the internal fit out is taking place and the heating system is being installed. The contractors are projected to finish by May, and we are looking at reopening the building by early June. That will be a total build time of eleven months.

Financially, we have overrun the budget, and we continue to attempt to secure further funding to ensure a good finish and not leave unfinished items. We trust that God will continue to provide for our needs as he has done so abundantly since we started the project.

My deep gratitude is extended to everyone who continues to support the life of church and enables it to function in different locations. I am sure that everyone is looking forward to the time when we can consolidate our worship and activities back in the building.

Early in the year, we all celebrated Art's life with a wonderful service in St Giles', thankful for his contribution to the whole Christian scene in Wrexham. Our thanks go to Kevin for taking over his role as warden and Mission Area Conference Representative. At the end of the year, we were saddened again by the death of Derek who had been resident

organist at St Mark's for over 35 years and played for many other churches across Wrexham for over 70 years. His last service with us was on the second Sunday of Advent, only two weeks before his passing.

We have continued to value the ministry of Maria, who was licensed as Pastoral Chaplain by Bishop Gregory in May. We have also welcomed Sarah Namirembe, a student training for the ordained ministry at St Padarn's who has shared in preaching and leading worship.

As we look to the future and a return to the church, we need to consider the following:

- Our prayer life together has suffered and become disjointed. Art did so much to ensure the monthly Mark on the Park prayer gatherings and support Caia Friars. It would be good to revisit these aspects of our church life to ensure that we welcome the Lord into all that we do through prayer.
- The reopening of the building is a great opportunity to reach out and invite people to join us, to share the love of Jesus. We must not let this pass us by. A day for children and families with Xplore! Is already in the calendar and a September date from the bishop for an official reopening is expected soon. What other events could we add to these?
- It is not clear at present how our finances will work out. We hope that the refurbished building will cost a little less to heat and light and there will be outside groups and one-off events who will pay to use it. Our share and expenses are reduced somewhat this year, but we will need everyone to be as generous as they can in their weekly giving to church to enable us to pay our way.

With gratitude to you all for your fellowship in the Lord. May God bless you all.

Jonathan

## **Caia Food Club**

The club operated on every Thursday throughout the year apart from Boxing Day. Numbers attending have varied between 30 – 60, usually being at the higher end of the scale. Due to the increased price of groceries, the suggested contribution has risen from £3 to £4 but all the members have been very happy to give the extra.

Since July, Food Club has been temporarily relocated to St Peter's Hall in Smithfield. It has not always been easy to function in a smaller space with limited storage, but huge thanks must go to all the volunteers for making it work, especially Dave in managing the 'shop'. Supermarket excess has continued to be available thanks to Roy along with books, cards and other items.

Some who had been regular have dropped out due to the move but others, more local to Smithfield have joined to fill the gap. With the change of venue and less room to queue, people congregate inside before each session starts with a welcome and a prayer. Apart from All Souls and Christmas, we have not been able to offer worship sessions but will look to restart these and the options to light candles once we have returned to church. Our funding is getting short and so we prayerfully hope for more grant funding in the near future.

## **Caia Park Foodbank Satellite**

It has been a strange few months since we moved to our present location at the Hub. We are seeing more clients, anything between 13 and 22 each week and feel this is partly due to our proximity to the social workers in the Hub and their understanding of the criteria for issuing a Foodbank voucher. We know the cost-of-living increases have impacted on everyone but feel that some of our clients are taking advantage of the system, however, 'ours is not the reason why' to borrow a quote from Shakespear.

Our loyal volunteers and not only from St Mark's have been constant, except for the sad loss of co-team leader Art, and I am very grateful for their support.

Carol Jones. Team Leader

## **Christians Together in Wrexham**

The following events and activities took place in 2024

- 4 Quarterly meetings providing a voice for the various shared projects and chaplaincies in Wrexham and an opportunity for churches to learn from each other.
- 3 United services: for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at the Methodist Church, for Christian Aid Week in Capel y Groes and at the end of November in Bethel Church, Garden Village.
- Good Friday walk of Witness
- Consideration of a new website
- Planning of a visit of Oddments Theatre Company
- A seat on the Town Board
- Provision of a City Prayer Guide and App

## **Mission Area Conference**

During 2024 the MAC has conducted the following business:

- The appointment of a part time MA Administrator
- The formal employment of Mr Shaun Davies as Halls Manager

- Considered the various issues in changing from a charity to a CIO Charitable Incorporated Organisation.
- Discussed the future shape of the Mission Area and acted as required in the closure of St James
- Overseen the property held by the MA, keeping a watching brief on significant projects at St Mark's, St Margaret's and St Giles'
- Overseen the MA budget and ensure the payment of the parish share.
- Checked on Safeguarding in the MA
- Promoted MA events including the Easter Vigil and Healing service
- Dealt with faculties as required.

## **Diocesan Conference**

The 2024 Diocesan Conference, held in Llanfyllin High School, focused on Growing Faith as one of the key diocesan objectives. The Keynote speaker was Mones Farah from St David's Diocese. With family living in parts of the middle east and wide range of experiences of Christian and Church life, this was an interesting and inspiring address. There were also short video presentations from a range of churches around the diocese demonstrating what can be achieved to grow faith with limited resources. We also heard about the Energy Footprint Tool which helps churches reduce their bills and carbon footprint.