

WREXHAM MISSION AREA ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING

09 JUNE 2025

ALL SAINTS CHURCH AT 7PM

1. Revd Canon Jonathan Smith welcomed everyone.
2. The Opening Worship was led by Students Sarah Namirembe and Elin Douglas-Jones.
3. Attendance and Apologies

PRESENT: The Revd Canon Jonathan Smith (Mission Area Leader and St Margaret's / St Mark's), Revd Petra Goodband, Revd James Tout (St Giles'), Revd Dylan Parry Jones (All Saints' / Holy Trinity), Carol Jones (Treasurer and St Mark's), Brian Stickels (MA Warden and St Giles'), Sue Williams (St John's), Melissa Griffiths, Jan Hardcastle, Stella Whitham. Paul Whitham, (St Giles), Dr Elizabeth Cottrell, Gareth Jones, Lyn Mackreth, Judith Jones (All Saints'), (Holy Trinity), Elaine Smith, Kevin Clark, Andrew Stanton (St Mark's), Helen Davies (St Margaret's), Sarah Namirembe (Student), Elin Douglas-Jones (Student)

Karen Reynolds (Mission Area Administrator)

APOLOGIES: Ann Owen (Secretary and St Giles'), Christopher Jones (Holy Trinity)

4. Reports from the six constituent churches of the Mission Area, were discussed pending publication of these on the Mission Area website:

All Saints' – Revd Dylan Parry Jones advised the report was encouraging. The church had paid its share in full, with money left over. The Youth Group (of between 8-24 in number) was up and running.

Holy Trinity – Revd Dylan Parry Jones advised the church was not doing quite so well financially. It is in a period of quiet revival. It was encouraging that men in their 20's and 30s were coming to services.

St Giles' - Paul Witham advised that St Giles' being an inner-city (sic) church has been busy with outreach. Services are well attended. Numbers at the "All-Age Welcome" service can exceed those at the 11am service. Visitors have come from all over the UK/World. The "100 Club" fundraising initiative continues to be well maintained. £31000 has been raised by the Fund-Raising Committee over the year. It costs £650

per day to run St Giles. The church committee had welcomed Revd Petra Goodband and looked forward to working with Revd James Tout as well.

St Margaret's - Helen Davies praised the various services and groups (including craft, walking/ warm space/Sunday Club/ Choir) taking place. The church had welcomed Sarah Namirembe (Student) and Maria Morante (licensed Pastoral Chaplain). Helen Davies was a representative at the Diocesan Conference. Canon Jonathan Smith acknowledged that financially, St Margaret's ought to pay more towards the Diocesan share. St Margaret's was looking to its centenary in 2028, to carry out fundraising and obtain grants towards the roof and heating.

St Mark's - Kevin Clark acknowledged the three "hardcore" volunteers of St Mark's. A couple of lads would be helping with the painting. Canon Jonathan Smith advised that they were able to maintain the Food Bank and Sunday worship in Caia Park Partnership and Food Club in St Peter's Hall during the current work on the building. Financially the position is unknown for now.

Elaine Smith advised that a children and families event "Explore joining St Mark's" would be held on 26th July.

St John's - Sue Williams advised "We are still here, and we are keeping going". There are two services a week with 6 plus participants at each. In the absence of its own cleric, other clergy have been standing in.

St James' - Canon Jonathan Smith advised that the building is in the process of being handed back to the Representative Body of the Church in Wales.

Canon Jonathan Smith shared the report for the Mission Area, which was circulated, highlighting the situation concerning St James' Church and the ongoing vacancy at St John's. He told the meeting that a profile for a vicar shared between St John's and St Mark's had been prepared for the diocese. The bishop was planning to hold a meeting shortly with the clergy and lay leaders in the Mission Area to determine the future shape of its ministry.

Canon Jonathan Smith was grateful to Brian Stickels MA warden. Nick Roe MA warden resigned earlier in the year and thanks go to him as well.

Acknowledgements (of thanks) were made to Students Sarah Namirembe (St Mark's) and Elin Douglas-Jones (All Saints), Alex Cottrell the apprentice at All Saints, Shaun the Hall Manager (also Nevin his uncle who helped) and Karen Reynolds the MA Administrator.

Wrexham Centre of Mission (Church Army) has submitted its report and has held on to its position in Wrexham despite closures in other areas.

Thanks go to Carol Jones (Mission Area Treasurer) for her work on the Mission Area finances.

Canon Jonathan Smith asked all present at the Mission Area Annual Vestry Meeting if they were happy to accept the receiving of these reports (as above and pending the publication on the Mission Area website). The agreement was proposed by Stella Witham and seconded by Dr Elizabeth Cottrell.

5. Elections The following were agreed by the Vestry Meeting:

5.1 People's Warden: Brian Stickels agreed to continue, proposed by Revd Petra Goodband and seconded by Sue Williams, passed nem con

Vicar's Warden for the Mission Area: Vacant following Nick Roe's resignation. This post was to be held in abeyance; any interested parties to discuss this with Brian Stickels, Canon Jonathan Smith and Revd Dylan Parry Jones.

5.2. Those nominated by the churches to serve in 2025 were:

St Giles'	Melissa Griffiths
All Saints	Elizabeth Cottrell
Holy Trinity	Christopher Jones
St Johns'	Sue Williams
St Mark's	Kevin Clark
St Margaret's	Helen Davies

Ex-officio: serving full time stipendiary clergy and Mission Area Wardens.

Members of the Mission Area Conference (PCC and Trustees of the Charity): passed nem con, proposed by Revd James Tout, seconded by Kevin Clark.

5.3. Representatives to the Diocesan Conference: passed nem con

Helen Davies (St Margaret's)

Stella Whitham (St Giles')

Maria Morante (St Mark's)

Philip Wynn (All Saints')

Beryl Edwards (Holy Trinity)

Stella Witham (St Giles')

Sue Williams (St John's)

Representatives to the Standing Committee:

Clergy: Revd Petra Goodband

Lay: Stella Witham

The Diocesan Conference and Standing Committee Representatives were proposed by the Elizabeth Cottrell and seconded by Brian Stickels.

6. Presentation of Accounts

Carol Jones distributed two reports for the year ended 31 December 2024. The accounts have not been examined yet due to delays in information received from Treasurers. Roughly the Mission Area bank balances are £4K in the current account and £63K in the reserve account. The balances will reduce following payment of the next quarter's Diocesan share. Canon Jonathan Smith on behalf of the Vestry thanked Carol Jones for all the work done and Carol Jones in turn thanked both Karen Reynolds and Sue Williams for their input.

The Accounts were accepted nem con.

7. Any Other Business

St Giles is requesting a new card reader to enable payment for fundraising "sales" (entirely separate from donations) as the current machine is slow and out of date. As the MAC is the legal entity any renewal/replacement needs to be made by the MAC. A device has been sourced at a favourable rate and a charity account will need to be set up (with the company providing the equipment and service). The Trustees will be required to provide personal details (names/addresses/date of birth) for anti-money laundering purposes. The company is bound by GDPR policy. The Trustees will see the form before it is submitted. There was general agreement to a contract being made.

Canon Jonathan Smith advised the MA that it is both responsible for and benefits from a property in Foster Road. Repairs are required at a cost of around £25,000 - £50,000. The current rent charged is below the market rate. Due to Rent Smart Wales policy the property cannot continue to be rented out in its current condition. Negotiations around the possibility of the tenant purchasing the property are in hand through the agent. The other option is for the MA to borrow money to repair the property and then charge a full

market rate. If the property is sold the funds can be spent only in the historic parish of Rhosdu – on St Margaret's and possibly on St John's.

St Peter's Church Hall. It was advised that there is a crack in the floor which could relate to the foundations. It may not be worth repairing, and if so, the building could be handed back to the RB. It was noted that St Peter's serves the community, it has also been a home for the Food Club. However, perhaps the MAC should concentrate on church ministry rather than other matters ie church halls. The MAC will take this matter forward.

The MAC co-opted Carol Jones as Treasurer. Ann Owen would like to remain as secretary to the Mission Area and this was agreed.

Revd Dylan Parry Jones wished to minute that this was the last vestry meeting for Canon Jonathan Smith who had served for ten and a half years and expressed his thanks to him.

The next meeting of the Mission Area Conference will take place on 8 July 2025 7pm at St Mark's.

The Closing Prayers were offered by Revd James Tout.