



St Bartholomew's Regent Park Annual Vestry Meeting

Sunday, 9 March, 2025

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order at 3.07 pm over Zoom

2. Opening Prayers & Comments

3. Election of Chair

- Jonathan Lofft nominated Fr. Hannam as 2025 Vestry Chair
 - Seconded by Deborah McGinnis
 - Carried

4. Appointment of Vestry Clerk

- Drew Badgley was appointed by the Chair

5. Approval of Minutes of Vestry 2024

- Motion to approve minutes
 - Moved by Catherine Riddell
 - Seconded by Sydney Hegele
 - Carried

6. The Bishops' Letter to Vestries 2025

- Motion to receive letter
 - Moved by Byron Clark
 - Seconded by Catherine Riddell
 - Carried

7. The Vicar's Report – Fr. Walter Hannam

- Fr. Hannam noted that it has been a busy sesquicentenary year. There have been a number of successful liturgical events including: two very successful Charles King and Martyr Dinners, and very successful set of Advent Rorate masses (there were attendees from other parishes at all 3 Rorate masses and over 20 attendees at the last liturgy).
- Fr. Hannam is heartily encouraged about the state of the parish. He noted that there are fewer people on a Sunday right now, but that is mostly due to a number of parishioners moving out of the city. Nevertheless, today's attendance – 47 – is still a low attendance compared to the regular attendance number (and this would have been a very high number only a few years ago).



- Fr. Hannam has been granted a 4-month sabbatical by the bishop. He read the letter from the bishop indicating that the sabbatical would run from Sunday April 27th – Sunday August 25th, 2025. Fr. Hannam expressed how great a relief it is to be able to hand a parish off to a faithful and competent catholic priest. He expressed that we are very fortunate to have Fr. Brinton in our midst who is willing to take over when he is not here. The Diocese allows for a Sabbatical every seven years if there is reason. Fr. Hannam will have been at S. Bart's for 12 years this summer and he gave up sabbatical from Emmanuel and S. Chad to come to S. Bart's. His sabbatical will be a time for rest and for personal projects which are also somewhat ecclesial (e.g., preparing publications). He will also be using this opportunity to be thinking about the future of the parish and where we will go in the next 10 years. The parish was told to expect him to come back with ideas.
- The date of S. Bart's Day is still to be determined, but Fr. Hannam expressed that he will be back in the parish for that day.
- Motion to accept report
 - Moved by Catherine Riddell
 - Seconded by Katherine Hill
 - Carried

8. The Diocesan Parish Administrator's Report – Kevin Forrest

- Kevin thanks the members of parish for attending today and for their ongoing work and commitment to the faith. Kevin also thanked Fr. Hannam for all of his commitment to the work both on the spiritual level and on the practical level, noting that there is never a day of rest for a parish priest. Kevin also thanked those who sit on the executive council, since they are now taking on larger and larger shares of the work. He also gave special thanks to Miles Nagamatsu – the parish treasurer – for his time and expertise, noting what a benefit it is for the parish to have the bookkeeping done by a chartered accountant.
- Kevin noted that some things last year did not go as planned. The Children Centre moved out of the basement so that work could be undertaken, but circumstances overtook us. The boiler which had been doing its work for 120 years finally gave up the ghost. It is a great thing that we had the ability to get specialists to upgrade the heating system in the autumn so that we didn't have to worry about pipes freezing. But this was not anticipated at our last vestry. It took some resources to overcome this challenge, which we had access to because of the kind stewardship of parishioners and the extraordinary work of the executive committee.
- Kevin notes that the financial picture of the parish looks remarkably good for those who have long institutional memory. But he notes that the executive remains cautious as we move forward, and that this is shown in the new budget. Nevertheless, he is moving forward with a good deal of confidence for the future.



- Kevin had been appointed as the Parish Administrator for another year. He is now working to transition much of the work to the parishioners who sit on the executive committee. He noted that he is inclined to think that we are creating a new model for parish administrations in terms of duration, collaboration, and positive outcomes. Parish administrations do not usually end with such good outcomes. For the foreseeable future the parish will remain under administration, but we will work more and more toward eventually coming out of administration.
- Fr. Hannam added that he was first told about Kevin Forrest as a possible parish administrator by Fr. Brinton in early September 2013. This arrangement has been beneficial for the parish and for Fr. Hannam ever since. Fr. Hannam also noted that two major parish reboots which are happening in the city are modelled directly on what we are doing at S. Bart's: St. George's on the Grange (under the supervision of St. Paul's Bloor Street) and St. Matthias Bellwoods (under the supervision of St. Mary Magdalene's). It is not just the case that we have had success, but also that the bishops and committees have taken note of it.
- Fr. Hannam also noted that Bp. Philip Poole used to say that most parishes were either a roof or a boiler away from closure. Not only were we able to deal with both in one year, but we also had the money in the bank to do it.
- Motion to receive the Diocesan Administrator's report
 - Moved by Catherine Riddell
 - Seconded by Deborah McGinnis
 - Carried

9. Financial Reports

9.1 The Parish Treasurer's Financial Report and 2024 Audited Financial Statements – Miles Nagamatsu

- Miles noted that our projected deficit for last year of \$23,000 was actually \$33,000, and that this was funded by cash reserves.
- He also noted that the highlight of the year was that we exceeded our parish offerings target of \$165,000 (we actually brought in \$168,000).
- He noted that because the Children Centre moved out in June, we only received \$15,000 of rental income compared to the \$30,000 that we had received the previous year.
- Motion to receive the Financial Report and to adopt the Audited Financial Statements
 - Moved by Jonathan Lofft
 - Seconded by Sydney Hegele
 - Carried



9.2 Presentation of the 2025 Parish Budget – Miles Nagamatsu

- Miles noted that our parish offerings target has increased to \$185,000. He also noted that we would have no rental income for the basement this year. This is the last year for the MAF grant (we are receiving \$10,000 this year). He noted that we are looking to increase additional revenues by \$15,000, and that this will happen by challenging the fundraising committee to raise support for three programmes: Altar Guild, Music Programme, and Food Ministries.
- Miles noted that the Advisory Board unanimously voted to put forward the budget to the vestry.
- Motion to adopt budget
 - Moved by Christian Hegele
 - Seconded: Byron Clark
 - Carried

9.3 The Envelope Secretary's 2024 Report

- Sandy Dawkins, the Parish Envelope Secretary, noted that her report is included in the Vestry package. There were no questions.
- Motion to receive the Envelope Secretary's Report
 - Moved Jonathan Lofft
 - Seconded by Catherine Riddell
 - Carried

10. Diocesan Parish Administrator's Appointments 2025

Music Director	Katherine Hill
Organist	David Smith
Envelope Secretary	Marlone Sandy Dawkins
Treasurer	Miles Nagamatsu
Sexton	Marlone Sandy Dawkins
Property Manager	N/A
Executive Committee Members	Catherine Riddell, Drew Badgley, Miles Nagamatsu, Mackenzie Gilmore

11. Vicar's Appointments 2024

Advisory Board Members	Jonathan Lofft, Sydney Hegele, Deborah McGinnis
Head of the Servers' Guild	Bob Buckland Jr.
Parish Secretary	Kerry Dickson
Parish Web Master	Kerry Dickson



12. Parish Elections 2024

Advisory Board Members (2)	Jean Giroux, Christian Hegele, Jesse Billet
Parochial Tribunal (2)	Mackenzie Gilmore and Jean Giroux
Convenor of Sidespersons	Mackenzie Gilmore
Lay members of Synod Alternative	N/A
Lay member of Synod	Catherine Riddell

14. Contractor, Volunteer, and Committee Reports

- Reports were included in the Vestry Package for review

Choir Director's Report – Katherine Hill

- Katherine Hill spoke to her report in order to summarise some things that have been happening in the music programme. One statistic is that choir has spent 140 hours rehearsing (this does not count the time singing in liturgy).
- Katherine expressed that she is extraordinarily grateful to continue being the custodian of this music programme. Also, she expressed that we truly have a liturgical choir, that Fr. Hannam has been such support of the choir, and that Fr. Smith's playing is superb.
- Katherine mentioned that we can't sustain the music programme without help, and she invites the congregation to make specific donation.
- Fr. Hannam reminded the congregation that two vestries ago we approved a budget to allow us to pay for 3 sections leads, and that this led to a jump in quality of repertoire and performance. This also provided support to the volunteer singers, which has helped them improve their singing. Fr. Hannam notes, however, that we should have 4 leads so that there are fewer situations in which Katherine will need to reprogramme music. He explains that we have been able to do this because there is an annual donation of \$10,000 to the Olive Smith Fund. Also, we currently are not paying our organist, which will be an expense of around \$30,000 when Fr. Smith is no longer our organist. The appeal was made that if the congregation knows people who love music and want to hear wonderful music, bring them to mass. We have a music programme that is now comparable to the Church of the Advent and S. George's Halifax, which is remarkable for a parish that was on the edge of closure. We have come a very long way, but let's go further.

Organist Report – Fr. David Smith

- Fr. Smith spoke about the poor quality of the materials that were used to build our organ. He explained that we have acquired for free a large quantity of high-quality pipework from John Struve. He mentioned that we have developed a three-stage plan to improve the organ. He reminded us that an Anglican organ is central to our



liturgy – that what we need is a church organ, not a concert organ. He noted that we will need to raise money, but we should have an organ that is worthy of our liturgy.

- The pipework to replace the grate (the pipes above the gallery) were free
 - A new console was also free
 - The next 2 stages have been costed
 - o Stage 1 (\$50,000): Taking down the grate, the windchest, and replacing the pipes in the new windchest, and work on the back wall to improve acoustics
 - o Stage 2 (\$5,200): Install the new console
 - These stages would cost way more than twice this amount if we hadn't been given the parts, but it will require raising money.
 - Katherine Hill noted that we do not know how bad the organ is because of Fr. Smith's excellent playing, which doesn't allow us to hear how desperately we need to raise these funds. She noted that recently we had a cypher note on a Sunday, which is when a note will not shut off. When the current organ was installed, it cost more than \$100,000, and it was all done with cheap materials. We have the opportunity to do it again and correctly, while only paying around half of what was paid just over 40 years ago. This expenditure would allow us to build something that would set up the parish for the next century.
- Motion to receive reports.
 - o Moved by Byron Clark
 - o Seconded by Sydney Hegele
 - o Carried

16. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn.
 - o Moved by Jonathan Lofft
 - o Carried