

Minutes of Annual Church Meeting
Of St Brelade's Parish Church
Held in St Brelade's Church
On Sunday 9th June 2013

Present:

Rev. Mark Bond	Chairman
Eddie Cuthbert	Church Warden
Brian Clarke	Church Warden
Ruth White	Minute Taker

27 Members of the Congregation were also present

1. **Apologies**

Laurie Dicker; Pat Bougeard

2. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Sunday 17th June 2012 were approved.

Proposed by: Mike Smith

Seconded by: Chris Clement-Jones

3. **Election of Advisory Council**

The current Church Council members, listed below, had stated their willingness to stand and were elected by due process.

Jean Charles, Jane Cuthbert, Laurie Dicker, Mary Jordan, Amy Mathys, Jo Mulliner, Alan Nutter, Mike Smith, Sheila Smith, Frank Walker, Lallie Clarke; William Church.

Robin Harris has agreed to stand for Treasurer again and Ruth White agreed to act as Minute Taker.

4. **Election of Sidesperson**

The following were elected as Sidespersons:

Terri Bond, Jean Charles, David Christie, William Church, Lallie Clarke, Chris Clement-Jones, Sue Clement-Jones, Ruth Curzon, Jane Cuthbert, Roy Fauvel, Olga Harris, Robin Harris, Ann Hughes, Daphne Hurst, Mary Jordan, Amy Mathys, Joyce McDonald, Nigel Mullane, Cindy Mulliner, Janet Parker, Sheila Smith, Mike Smith, John Trafford, Sue Vincent, Fiona Walker, Rodney Waller, Karyl Weighill.

5. **Election of Deanery Synod Representatives**

Our new Electoral Roll is now at 110, which allows us to have two members on Deanery Synod. Both Mary Jordan from St Brelade and Denise Waller from St Aubin would continue in their roles.

6. REPORTS

FINANCE - Treasurer's Report

The Chairman thanked Robin for his hard work on a very complex business. Robin had produced a report (attached) which showed that 2012 was a reasonably good year. Collections were up by 5%, covenants were down through people passing away or moving on. Wedding Income was a bit less. Car Park collections were up, but hall booking slightly down. The general donations in church boxes were up.

The biggest expenditure is the Parish Share @ £53,000, plus St Aubin's Church @ £13-£14,000. This hasn't gone up this year – it was reduced two years ago. Compared to other churches in the Island we are on a par with Grouville Church. The share is used for Rector's costs (stipend and pension); and goes towards the cost of training ordinands such as Jo; sabbatical cover; maintenance of Theological Colleges, and it also helps subsidise the poorer parishes who can't afford to pay their full quota.

Roger Bignal was thanked for his work and was re-elected as Auditor.

Robin Harris was thanked for his management of the accounts, which were adopted.

Proposed by: John Trafford

Seconded by: Brian Clarke

MAINTENANCE – Churchwardens Report

Eddie Cuthbert reported that the church and churchyard are generally in good order. Our thanks go to the Parish for the funding of £28,000 for looking after the church and churchyard (of which £6,000 is insurance). Some small general church maintenance had been carried out during the year: Repair to the sea wall; Replacement signs around churchyard; Re-doing some of the gravel paths around the churchyard as the gravel is washed away during the rain; Repairs to floodlighting; Money set aside for coverings for church windows (this job is currently being carried out and is nearly complete); Cleaning of church after the electricians were in working on the church lighting project; Temporary gardener to help out in Rectory Gardens as no prisoners available to help, Replacement Oil Tank.

Thank you to all who gave to the Lighting project, which is now complete and came in under budget @ a cost of £38,000. We are now going to re-wire and light the Fishermen's Chapel using the same design as the church. This will be done in the autumn and will need to go to Ecclesiastical Court for approval. The Treasury is now complete and has all the silver on display. We have also re-done the lighting in the vestry which was not in the original budget.

WORSHIP

Brian said that "excellence is a small 1000 things all added together". The small differences that we have made in the church during the past year or so are: the introduction of the children's area; the prayer tree; the small cross for processing; the sound barriers around the prayer team; the barriers moved back to the crossing during the week to separate the area off for prayer in the Lady Chapel; the pew from the children's area now in the Fishermen's Chapel; the Treasury up with all the silver on display. We are tucked away from the main population so all these little things help put us on the map.

The Arqiva mast is now all sorted out with a new contract.

HOSPITALITY – Sales

Ruth produced a brief set of accounts for the bookstall, showing a total income over the year of £14,197, an expenditure on stock and other items of £4617 and contributions towards general church funds of £12,000. Cash in bank at end of year was £9,280. Total Profit made over the year was £4,698.

Rectory Cottages

Rent income is received from both of the cottages and is another source of income for the church. The cottages also support Congo and India. A profit of £5,000 was made on the cottages, of which £3,000 went to general church funds, £1000 to India. The Retreat Cottage was redecorated during the year.

Mark commented that the more income we receive from these other sources, the less we have to ask from the congregation.

Church Hall Tea Rooms

The Tea Rooms opened a couple of weeks ago, but it has been a bit slow to start. We have less signage this year and would welcome offers from a DIY'er to help make some more signs. We are also short of helpers on a Monday. Financially last year went well and we made donations to 12 different charities and to Maison St Brelade Minibus.

Vergers

Ruth received thanks for her work during the year, and an appeal was made for people to be available for holiday cover.

MISSION/OUTREACH -- The Storm

The Storm has been paid for by the Field Money. The projectors have been purchased outright and are our property. Mark would like to use one of them in the hall when we have an overflow from large funerals and for Christmas Nativity service. The other project will be used at St Aubin's Church. Feedback on The Storm has been that it's an enhancement to the church and brings visitors in – one couple visited from England after seeing it on the BBC news website. It makes us more culturally relevant.

The 2nd Sunday in the month continues to be a simpler service (ie with no sung Gloria), in an attempt to bridge the gap between Little Acorns and standard Sunday services, by using livelier music, and a slightly different format to the prayers. Little Acorns is not just a children's service it is for all of us and very nice interactive service which enables you to get to know people a little better.

Supper Church

Supper Church has run its course, so we are thinking about what to do instead. "Belonging is connected to growing into believing". We would like a replacement for supper church.

Celtic Weekend

This is the weekend of 18th to 22nd September. The reason behind it is that there is a general spiritual element in the Islands but without a Christian context, so we are trying to engage with Islanders on that

level. Ray Simpson from the Iona Community is coming over, there is a film/supper "Pay it Forward" Tickets for all events will be on sale via the Arts Centre.

Communicare

Communicare continues to go from strength to strength. The youth service has about 1/3 of the building and with the Parish's financial contribution is running every day. We are now able to do more than we have done for a long time. The manager Tony Hocking is brilliant with a very warm and friendly staff; Mark is chairman of the Communicare Committee but it's a very easy job as the staff are so good. Approximately 2500 people use it per week.

Mission Projects

India – We are slightly stuck in supporting them as the government in India is blocking ways in which to help them, we are looking for ways around the obstacles.

Congo – Difficult time for them as it is a very dangerous area due to the mineral wealth of the land. Hopefully our donations are enabling them to keep going. It means a lot to them to know that we are praying for them and that they are not on their own.

Sanctuary House

After a recent meeting with the Chief Minister we are hoping for some States Funding. We have received positive feedback on the structured and organised way in which it is run. By the opening of Sanctuary House we have taken the church out into the community. The boys at S/H raised £300 for Christian Aid.

7. RECTOR'S REVIEW

It is Mark's 10th AGM and he will have been here 11 years this August. On reviewing his last 11 years here he is pleased to see that structurally it is in good condition, and that it is open and friendly to all visitors and not a museum. This is helped greatly by the attendance of the stewards during the summer months.

The age gap in our congregations is the under 40's – they religion is not Christianity it's Ecology/planet protection – so The Storm helps us to connect with these people. In the next year or two Mark hopes to produce a film on St Brelade which can be shown on the tv screen during the day.

We hope to refurbish the church hall this winter. When we worshiped in there it helped us to realise how good it is for worship. The refurbishment will include new windows, better heating and insulation. Once the facilities are improved we hope that it will be used even more. We have Fibre Optic installed in the hall. The next stage is to connect it to the church so that relatives who live away may watch a wedding or funeral which they would otherwise have missed. The Rector has set himself the task over the next few years of making the church even more accessible.

Jersey Post are considering setting up a Community Care Service – The Postman is now the last person left to visit every house. They would like to work closely with the church to keep an eye on old people. The postman will know on a door to deliver the post to these people rather than just putting it through the letterbox. However the Health Department are resisting this idea so we will have to see what happens. There is no longer any Parish Welfare so as a church we have lost that connection with the vulnerable. This Post Office Service may be a way of rekindling that connection. Let Mark know if you know of anyone who should be on this list – it is free.

Thanks

Eddie Cuthbert took the opportunity to thank Mark and Terri and all the team for all their hardwork (Terri is unpaid for all that she does).

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1.15pm.