

Minutes of Annual Church Meeting
Of St Brelade's Parish Church
Held in St Brelade's Church
On Sunday 15th June 2014

Present:

Rev. Mark Bond	Chairman
Eddie Cuthbert	Church Warden
Mike Smith	Church Warden
Robin Harris	Treasurer
Ruth White	Minute Taker

32 Members of the Church Congregation were also present.

1. **Apologies**

Joy Diggle

2. **Election of Churchwardens and Almoners**

At the Ecclesiastical Assembly held on 11th June 2014, Eddie Cuthbert and Mike Smith were voted in as Churchwardens. Brian Clarke has retired as churchwarden but is still a lay reader and part of the ministry team. Alan Higginbotham and John Trafford were voted in as Almoners. Norman Moss has retired. Mark thanked Norman and Alan for all their hard work counting and banking the church money every Tuesday. Brian was also thanked as a stalwart behind the scenes working helping with the Parish Authorities and especially with the Festival last year. Both Brian and Norman had a round of applause and a small gift from the Rector.

3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Sunday 9th June 2013 were approved.

Proposed by: John Trafford

Seconded by: Amy Matthys

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, Alan Nutter, Mike Smith, Sheila Smith, Frank Walker, Lallie Clarke; William Church, Norman Moss.

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, Daphne Hurst, Mary Jordan, Amy Mathys, Joyce McDonald, Nigel Mullane, Janet Parker, Sheila Smith, Mike Smith, John Trafford, Sue Vincent, Fiona Walker, Rodney Waller, Karyl Weighill, Joy Diggle.

Eddie Cuthbert requested more volunteers to read the lessons: Janet Parker, Claire Le Brocq and Jill Higginbotham all volunteered. No-one volunteered to the request for more intercessors.

It was requested for more greeters at the Little Acorns Service – Ruth Curzon and Janet Parker both volunteered to do this.

5. **Election of Deanery Synod Representatives**

Mark said how important Deanery Synod is at this time of great change from Winchester to Canterbury. We are entitled to one representative from St Aubin and two from St Brelade. At present we only have one from St Brelade which is Mary Jordan and as she is also the minute taker, she therefore cannot contribute to the meetings. It is hoped that anything discussed at Synod can be reported back to the congregation for discussion. John Trafford and Brian Clarke volunteered to stand for synod, any further volunteers were asked to submit their names to Mark. Mark is going to check with the Dean as to whether we can have three representatives instead of two as Mary is the minute taker and unable to participate. When Mark has a reply we will then know whether we need 2 or 3 people to stand on synod and can then decide who they will be.

6. **REPORTS**

FINANCE - Treasurer's Report

The Rector thanked Robin for his hard work on a very complex business.

Robin had produced a report (attached) which showed that 2013 was a reasonably good year; however we had a small deficit of £2638. The income was £68,754 for the year compared to the previous year of £76,000. Collections were the same; covenants were down through people passing away or moving on; Fewer weddings, so wedding income was a bit less, rent from the TV mast was down.

The expenditure for the year had a saving of approximately £6,000 which was mostly due to work not required on Church Hall Cottage.

Rectory Cottages and the Bookstall contributed funds during the year. Robin said that if anyone would like to covenant their giving, it will give us an extra 25% income from the tax man.

John Trafford asked what is happening with the quota that we were paying to Winchester last year? Robin replied that we are not paying Winchester, but paying our quota to the Deanery instead. The first 3 months of this year went to Winchester, the rest of this year will be to Canterbury. The Annual parish share to Winchester was £55,214 which is over a £1000 per week. It is unsure whether this will remain the same or not now that we are under Canterbury.

Robin Harris was thanked for his management of the accounts, which were adopted. The Almoners were thanked for their counting of the cash every Tuesday and Amy for looking after the envelope scheme.

Proposed by: Brian Clarke

Seconded by: Alan Higginbotham

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

Proposed by: John Trafford

Seconded by: Brian Clarke

MAINTENANCE – Churchwardens Report

Eddie Cuthbert reported that the church and churchyard are generally in good order, we had stayed within our budget until March of this year when the Church Oil Tank split. Our thanks go to the Parish for the funding of £28,000 from the Parish Rates for the maintenance of the church and churchyard (of which £6,000 is insurance). The only major project has been the restoration of the gates by the slipway at a cost of £6,200. The Fishermen's Chapel Lights are now all completed. We have a saving on our electricity account due to the change in the lighting system.

In March this year, the oil tank split and cost £7,400 to replace (including replacing the feeder pipe with a locking cage to stop the pipe being turned on). Fortunately there was not any damage to the surrounding churchyard when the tank split as it was noticed straight away.

The Church Hall refurbishment will start in the autumn. Brian Clarke asked if it would be easier to extend the kitchen to side and keep it all on the same level. Eddie replied that it is now too late as planning permission has been received. It could be looked into at a later stage.

Eddie was thanked for all his hard work.

WORSHIP

The major event of the year was the Festival weekend in September 2013, organised by Brian which went well. The structure of church worship is the same. Numbers at the 8am and 10.30am service have remained consistent whilst the Little Acorns services is growing (and so are St Aubin's Church services).

HOSPITALITY – Sales

Ruth produced a brief set of accounts for the bookstall, showing a total income over the year of £16,133 an expenditure on stock and other items of £5,814 and contributions towards general church funds of £10,000, and Caring Hands of £2000. Cash in bank at end of year was £7,153. Total Profit made over the year was £6,258.

Rectory Cottages

It's been a busy year, but the profit is slightly down and donations down. Electricity Charges are less but waters meters now installed so water has gone up. Work has been done with the interior being redecorated and the exterior is currently being re-decorated. New carpets have been installed. Donations from the profits have gone to India and the Congo and to church funds. The accounts are being audited by George Machin.

Church Hall Tea Rooms

The Tea Rooms will open for 8 weeks on the 1st July. We only just have enough helpers necessary to run it. All have done their Health and Hygiene training.

CHURCH SURVEY

Terri shared the results of the recent Church Survey forms. A total of 55 forms were received back from all the congregations – 50% of the congregation said that they are happy with everything just as it is.

The most popular current events are the Annual Church BBQ; the ladies lunch, gentleman's breakfast and the tea rooms – all events based around food!

It was agreed that this year with the Hall out of use, we would look for a venue to go out for Harvest Lunch.

From the survey results, the following events have been requested:

A monthly coffee morning. It was suggested that this could be on a Wednesday after church, served in the Hall with a bring and buy, organised on a rota basis by different people. The team on the rota could choose where the money from the bring and buy is donated. Terri Bond agreed to organise the first one, once the hall has been refurbished. Amy suggested using Communicare instead – this will be discussed at the first coffee morning.

Quiz Night – Mary offered to organise this, but with help.

Visiting Speaker – This could happen during the Winter Months in the church hall. No volunteers offered to organise this, so it is to be considered further.

Church Golf Day – Chris White offered to organise this.

SANCTUARY HOUSE

A benefactor has bought the house in St Aubin for £800,000! So now it is no longer necessary to fund raise the £70,000 per annum in rent, but only a peppercorn rent of £1 per year.

Colin Taylor is now running a charity called 'Love Thy Neighbour' and has opened an Alms House in St Aubin – the first one in Jersey for 150 years. The Alms House will be part of the National Association of Almshouses in Great Britain. It is a 5 roomed house which will enable community living. 'Love Thy Neighbour' will also take over the Cottage in Hibernia Vale when Jo Mulliner moves to the UK. Throughout Jo's training the Les Valettes Trust has been supporting her financially by helping with the rent on the Cottage in Hibernia Vale and they will continue to do this for 'Love Thy Neighbour'.

COMMUNICARE

Communicare continues to run well and is supported by the Parish.

WEDDINGS; BAPTISMS AND FUNERALS

Wedding numbers for 2014 are slightly down, but we sticking more strictly to the guidelines as to who is eligible to be married at St Brelade's Church. Baptisms and Funerals are about the same numbers as last year.

MISSION PROJECTS

India – Laurie has had some correspondence with Joel, and Joel has asked for more financial support as it is very hard being a Christian in a Hindu Country. It was agreed that we are happy to support them, and money can be sent from Church Funds.

Congo – We are finding it harder to support the Congo as the views of that area are now becoming very hardline with subjects such as homosexuality, so we are wishing to move away from this region.

To that end we have been looking for a different project to support – we are especially interested in helping Street Children in Brazil. If anyone can help with this please speak to Mark.

7. RECTOR'S REVIEW

Mark said he is very blessed by having us all at St Brelade's as we make a lovely community. At a recent chapter meeting Bishop Trevor suggested that we all focus on the 'ordinary ministry' in order to avoid becoming bogged down in UK Church Politics. There is a copy of the Dean's address to Synod and the agreement signed by the Bishops which will be put up on the Noticeboard in the Porch.

Any Other Business

Jane Cuthbert asked about having a Pastoral Care team; however it was suggested that there should not be any need for a specific team. If we all communicated with each other we would know who needs help and that help should automatically happen as part of a caring community.

Verger Cover – it was agreed that when Ruth is on holiday Peter Le Sueur will cover her duties and Michael Campbell; Chris Clement – Jones and Mike Smith can all help with PA duties. Thanks were given to Janet Parker and Jean Charles for cleaning the church so well when Ruth was off sick.

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