

Minutes of Annual Church Meeting
Of St Brelade's Parish Church
Held in St Brelade's Church
On Sunday 31st May 2015

Present:

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

25 members of the Church were also in attendance.

1. **Apologies**

Laurie Dicker; Mike Smith; Sheila Smith

2. **Election of Churchwardens and Almoners**

At the Ecclesiastical Assembly held on 26th May 2015, Mike Smith resigned as Church Warden due to ill health; he was thanked for all his hard work during the previous year. John Trafford was elected to replace him; and Eddie Cuthbert stayed on as Church Warden from the previous year. Peter Le Sueur was elected Almoner to replace John Trafford; and Alan Higginbotham stayed on as Almoner. Mark expressed his thanks to John and Alan for all their hard work counting the collections over the past year year.

All the above officers were elected un-opposed.

3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Sunday 15^h June 2014 were approved.

Proposed by: Amy Mathys

Seconded by: John Trafford

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.

However Mark raised the efficiency of ACC meetings, when they happen only about half of those elected attend the meeting, and he is not sure that these meetings serve our church in the best way. As a church, we definitely use the Standing Committee regularly (which comprises Church

Wardens; Treasurer; Lay Readers; Rector, Assistant Clergy and Verger), and it was suggested that we had 6 monthly AGM's (with shorter agendas) instead of ACC meetings; where everyone can be updated on church news and discussions. St Aubin's Church operate like this and it works well.

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, Mary Jordan, Amy Mathys, Joyce McDonald, Nigel Mullane, Janet Parker, Sheila Smith, Mike Smith, John Trafford, Fiona Walker, Frank Walker, Karyl Weighill, Joy Diggle.

A request was made for more volunteers to read the lessons and take the Intercessions. Training can be provided for both of these roles.

5. **Election of Deanery Synod Representatives**

Mary Jordan was elected onto Synod to replace Mike Smith; she joins Brian Clarke and Denise Waller (from St Aubin's Church) as our Synod representatives.

All the above officers were elected un-opposed.

6. **REPORTS**

FINANCE - Treasurer's Report

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

Robin had produced a report which showed that 2014 was a good year, with a surplus of £5,740. The main expense is the Diocesan Share at £53,392. This is paid to the Deanery Treasurer, and not directly to the Diocese. The Deanery then pass onto the Diocese payment to cover Rector's Salary etc. The congregation giving accounts for 58% of total income with the rest coming from hall lettings, donations, car park etc. The Parish maintains the buildings, cemetery and pays for the Verger's wages. The hall refurbishment was paid for by the Rectorat (This funding comes from the sale of the field). Robin thanked Eddie as he spent hours over the past year looking after the hall refurbishment, in addition Mark plays the organ and Terri is Mark's administrator – all of this saves on expenses.

In response to a question raised, Robin said that the Parish Share of £53,392 is just for the Parish Church, in addition St Aubin's Church pay approximately £15,000.

It was asked whether we could withhold some of the Parish Share until Winchester publish Dame Heather Steel's report; however the Parish Share is not a tax but a voluntary giving (and not all churches manage to pay all their share). The Island Deanery is currently looking after the Parish Share, and it is split between what is required for the Diocese to cover Clergy costs (and this is only paid with the Dean's approval) and local costs – so withholding any Parish Share would harm our local Deanery rather than affecting the Diocese.

Although as a church we pay £53,392, we do not receive this much back in clergy costs. There is an Island list as to how much each church pays and receives back, but this year's list has not been produced yet. We are usually at the top of the list of Parish Share contributors, but are very fortunate that we can supplement our income through weddings which other churches (such as St Aubin's) cannot do

Robin Harris was thanked for his management of the accounts, which were adopted.
Roger Bignal was thanked for his work and was re-elected as Auditor.

Proposed by: Jane Cuthbert

Seconded by: Margaret Ling

MAINTENANCE – Churchwardens Report

Eddie Cuthbert reported that it had been a busy year with maintenance – the Church Hall refurbishment is almost complete and the hall is looking very smart. Phase Two should start in the Autumn (which will be the rest of the Hall roof and upper room windows). The Churchyard is in good order but there are a few graves that need looking at (this will come out of Tresor funds). The Sextons do an excellent job of looking after the churchyard. There are very few burials in the churchyard now as these take place at Quennevais. It is mostly just burial of ashes in the churchyard.

Eddie said that he is just about to start his 9th year as Church Warden and this will be his last. Ideally he would like his replacement to shadow him for a few months before he retires so that he can show him/her what to do. The Hall has a 12 month maintenance defect on it. Exterior painting is due to start shortly on all exterior paint work for the Hall, Church, Cottage and Cemetery Gates. The Rectory Greenhouse is also due to be repainted.

The Rectory is also looking tired and needs addressing – this is covered by Parish Funds (Tresor). A survey is due to be carried out to assess what work needs to be done.

Eddie was thanked for all his hard work.

WORSHIP

Overall attendance over the three Sunday Services is approximately 120. The 8am BCP service is well attended and the Little Acorns Family Service continues to grow, and it is great to see that the 10.30 congregation come to this as well. All age worshipping together is important for the children to see. Thanks go to Terri for all her hard work with this service.

120 attending church on a Sunday is as big as one minister can manage – any larger numbers and we would need groups such as housegroups for people to feel like they belong.

In addition to Sunday Services we have lots attendance through weddings, funerals and visitors. On some weeks we have up to 80 prayer leaves on the prayer tree which show how many people interact with the church during the week.

While Mark was ill last year, we needed to use retired clergy to assist with services, which was an added financial cost. However now Mark is better they hopefully won't be required as much, only for holiday cover.

We also continue to provide services on Thursday afternoons at Maison St Brelade and Silver Springs Nursing Homes.

HOSPITALITY – Sales

Ruth produced a brief set of accounts for the bookstall, showing a total income over the year of £15,088; expenditure on stock and other items of £5,898, and contributions towards general church funds of £9,500. Cash in bank at end of year was £5,990.

Church Hall Tea Rooms

The Tea Rooms now come under the Sales umbrella. The newly refurbished hall is a pleasure to work in with lots of admiring comments from visitors. Due to shortage of volunteers we were only able to run for 2½ months last year, from July until the middle of September. We had total sales of £4,570 which after expenses allowed for £1,500 to be given to the church, £1,500 to still be distributed to charity and keeping £500 for in reserve as start up costs for the following year. However this year we have had a change of tactic and are opening on a Wednesday Mornings only, this will be called Wednesday Welcome, and will run from the end of the midweek service at 10.45am until 1.30pm. The profits will be split at the end of the season between church funds and the Guatemala Charity.

Rectory Cottages

It's been a busy year, private lets of the Cottage cover the costs of the people who can't pay. Donations are up, and overall income is up on previous year. The cottages paid to have the exterior repainted, and Tresor paid for replacement/repaired windows. Cleaning costs are down, as the lets have been for longer periods of time, so less cleaning required in between visits.

The cottages donated £2,600 to the Church, and £267 to Joel & Manjela in India.

OUTREACH

The Ministry Team have been working on ideas to replace Supper Church. Brian is organising a Kindness Festival in September in St Aubin's Village, involving local charities and traders.

CommuniCare keeps going well and is always busy. Berni is going back to Africa and his replacement is in place. Thanks to Amy for all her hard work with Tea Set and Wednesday Club.

Occasional Offices – Weddings are down slightly this year, but next year looks busy. Funerals are busy and still going on into the summer season. The Lieutenant Governor's daughter is getting married here in July.

Mission Project – We have had to drop supporting Africa for now, as it is too difficult to get money to them. Joel and Manjela in India have had to relocate 300 miles North. Once they are re-settled we might be able to help them again in their new location. So this year we have a new project through Christian Aid, helping Street Children in Guatemala. We have already managed to send £1000 this year.

Sanctuary House - Still going strong. The same benefactor who bought St Aubin's Sanctuary House is looking at buying the property in St Peter's as well. Since Sanctuary House opened they have had between 300 – 400 men through their hands.

Love Thy Neighbour is run by Trustees from our Church and is for men in long term care. John Trafford oversees this. Any further development on this work is on hold after Colin Taylor's death and will be reviewed in a few months. Colin's British Empire Medal is for the whole church community and it was Colin's wish that it be displayed in our Treasury Cabinet.

7. RECTOR'S REVIEW

Mark said how appropriate it was to be having our AGM today on Trinity Sunday. Trinity celebrates Father, Son and Holy Spirit and the relationship between the three. This Trinity at our AGM we have reviewed our church community and the work here, in the Parish and in the wider world. Mark thanked everyone for all their support and hard work and loves working within the team of people here and being our Priest.

Any Other Business

Eddie said how good it was to see Mark better again after his heart procedure.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1.20pm.