

Minutes of Annual Church Meeting
Of St Brelade's Parish Church
Held in St Brelade's Church
On Sunday 21st May 2017

Present:

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

There were 26 members of the Congregation present.

1. **Apologies**

Norman Moss; Jill Higginbotham; Brian Clarke, Jane Cuthbert

2. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Sunday 29th May 2016 were approved.

Proposed by: Eddie Cuthbert

Seconded by: Pam Rayson

3. **Election of Sidespersons**

The following were elected as Sidespersons:

Terri Bond; Jean Charles; William Church; Lallie Clarke; Sue Clement-Jones; Ruth Curzon; Jane Cuthbert; Olga Harris; Robin Harris; Mary Jordan; Amy Mathys; Joyce McDonald; Nigel Mullane; Janet Parker; Sheila Smith; John Trafford; Fiona Walker; Frank Walker; Joy Diggle; Norman Moss; Christine Tostevin; Kath Coles, Annie Lezala, Rosemary Betts; Anne Newton; Plus for St Aubin's Church – Andrew Parker, Sue Brown.

4. **Election of Deanery Synod Representatives**

The current Synod reps were re-elected: Mary Jordan, Brian Clarke and Denise Waller (from St Aubin's Church).

5. **REPORTS**

FINANCE - Treasurer's Report

Robin Harris produced a set of accounts and was happy to report that the bottom line shows a small surplus of £2,953 for the year.

He summarised the accounts by saying the following: The Outgoings for the year are £80,000. 53% of this is covered by congregational giving, the rest is made up from Investment income and other income (such as church hall bookings, car park income, visitor donations, bookstall income etc).

The Parish Share is £52,500, but is going up this year to £56,200.

The church funds the running costs of the Church/Rectory and Church Hall, along with all admin costs.

The Parish pay for Church and Rectory Maintenance, costs of verger and sextons and for Quennevais Cemetery.

Out of the Trust Funds, the Rectorat is the largest and holds funds for the costs of the church – this fund paid for the Church Hall refurbishment.

Giving to Charity was £2,000.

Income from the Car Park was £13,000, as we rent the top car park out to JP Mauger, but this will fall this year when they complete the building work along the road. Robin gave his thanks to Ruth for increasing the lettings in the hall (which were £5,800) and for contributions from the bookstall account.

He reminded the congregation that there is a covenant scheme which can increase giving by 25%. This can be done either by monthly direct debit or by the yellow envelope scheme. Members of the congregation expressed how easy it is to use this covenant scheme and Amy confirmed that she has room on the envelope scheme for more people if anyone would like to join.

Robin expressed his thanks to Roger Bignall from St Aubin's Church for auditing the accounts.

Mark expressed his gratitude to Robin for all his hard work during the year.

Both Robin Harris as Treasurer and Roger Bignall as Auditor were re-elected.

Proposed by: John Trafford

Seconded by: Frank Walker

MAINTENANCE – Churchwardens Report

Eddie Cuthbert confirmed that he is standing down as Church Warden after 10 years. He has enjoyed his time and has been involved in a lot of different projects.

He went through the Tresor Accounts, which will be presented in full at the Ecclesiastical Assembly on 30th May 2017.

The Tresor account received £31,000 from the Parish, which is for the general upkeep of the churchyard/church and rectory.

Income was up during year, due to more burials taking place.

Expenditure:

£2,200 was spent on the churchyard, including £700 on the soil and maintenance of the big oak tree which is dying in the middle, but has improved after a good feed. The churchyards and cemeteries are in good condition and the sextons do a good job.

Church expenses are down by £2,500 – the biggest expense was £1,700 on leak on the roof by the Bell Tower.

The Tresor account pay for cleaners in the church every Friday @ £2,200 per year, which is offset by the income of verger burial fees.

The Rectory and outbuildings expenditure was £12,500 on a new stable roof and new lighting; £1,950 for replacement Rectory Kitchen Windows; a new fuse board in the Rectory and re-wiring of the study cost £2,700. £1,100 was for painting of the Conservatory Roof; and £1,550 for a new hot water cylinder.

Projects still to be done this year –

Re-roof the Rectory, sort out the leaking bay windows and replace the polystyrene ceiling in the Kitchen.

The gate by the Perquage path is being replaced and will hopefully be ready in the middle of June @ a cost of approx. £3,500.

It was noted for the AGM Minutes that the signatories for the Bank Mandate on the Bank Accounts should be: The Rector; the two Churchwardens; and the Treasurer.

Rev Mark Bond thanked Eddie for all his hard work over the past 10 years; Mrs Terri Bond thanked him for the work on the Rectory and that he's always been available at the end of a phone when there is a problem; and Mrs Amy Mathys thanked him on behalf of the congregation.

Worship

Mark Bond said that all the service booklets for the year have been reprinted (which had resulted in a greater cost of photocopying), but these should last for a few years.

The Little Acorns Family Service is still going from strength to strength and we give invitations to it to all our Baptism Families. The Celtic Evening Prayer is still popular, especially with visitors in the summer and wedding couples.

Despite what the media would have us believe, worship is not in decline. Church life is more than just Sunday worship, it is also the weddings, baptisms, funerals and visitors to church.

Daphne Hurst expressed her thanks on behalf of the congregation to Mark and Terri for all the work they put in behind the scenes for the Family Service.

HOSPITALITY – Sales

Ruth produced a brief set of accounts for the bookstall, showing a total income over the year of £16,177; Expenditure on stock of £10,036 and other not for re-sale items of £1,000, contributions towards general church funds of £8,000, Cash in bank at end of year was £5,851. Ruth reported that we spent £5,500 on reprinting the German Cemetery Booklet and all the 'Look At' leaflets, but this stock would last for several years.

Retreat Cottage

Su Gay reported that the cottage had been used frequently over the past year by prisoners families, wedding families and retired clergy.

The Cottages made a profit of £2,728 compared with a loss the previous year, even though the income was £1,000 less than the previous year. Little expenditure was required with only a few replacements such as bedding and a dishwasher. Cleaning costs were down as visitors were staying for longer so the turn arounds were less. Electricity was £200 higher due to the cottage being used more over the winter months.

The cottages gave £2,000 each to the Salvation Army and to Crisis for their Christmas appeals. As the purpose of the cottage is as an amenity rather than a profit making exercise, it's a bonus that we are able to give away surplus income to our various charities.

Verger

Ruth said that all is going well, and gave her thanks to Peter Le Sueur and Judy Dingle for providing cover for her holidays, to Trevor Lister for learning the PA system and operating it so well, and to Claire le Brocq for being a superb church brass polisher!

OUTREACH

Communicare – This is still going well and is busy. We still have a church service up there once a month.

Occasional Offices – Funerals are very busy, Weddings are also busy, but are managed carefully so we don't have too many. Baptisms are also well represented.

Mission Project – The Guatemala project has run its course. Mercy Ships was proposed as a replacement project.

Sanctuary House – Both buildings are secure and so is running well.

Love Thy Neighbour – The owner of the Alms House went en desastre, but fortunately Mr Kirsch stepped in and now owns the house. The Charity continues to help people in need within the community. The Charity is completely owned by the church, so it works on our behalf. The congregation were invited to speak to Mark if anyone would like to get involved.

Tea Set at Communicare – Amy reported that this is struggling due to lack of helpers and may close.

Daphne Hurst expressed her thanks to Jean Charles for running the Bay Art Group and for all the cards they make which they donate to the church for sale.

6. RECTOR'S REMARKS:

Mark said that today's readings were all about relationship; Jesus said "Love one another, as I have loved you" and that's what church is all about.

Frank Walker agreed that we have a great community at St Brelade's and thanked Mark for his inspired leadership.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.45pm.