

Minutes of Annual Church Meeting
Of St Brelade's Parish Church
Held in St Brelade's Church
On Sunday 29th May 2022

Present:

Rev. Mark Bond	Chairman
Frank Walker	Church Warden
Ruth White	Minute Taker

There were approximately 34 members of the Congregation present, with apologies received from a further 3.

1. **Apologies**

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2. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Sunday 21st May 2021 were approved.

Proposed by: Mary Jordan

Seconded by: Mike Jackson

3. **A) Election of Sidespersons**

B) Churchwardens and Almoners

At the recent Ecclesiastical Assembly, Both Mr Frank Walker and Mrs Christine Tostevin agreed to continue as Churchwardens. Both Mrs Vicky Valois and Mr Peter Le Sueur agreed to continue as Almoners. The Swearing in at the Royal Court takes place on Saturday 18th June 2022.

4. **Election of Deanery Synod Representatives**

Mary Jordan has agreed to stay on to represent the Parish Church; Mark expressed thanks for all her many years' service on synod.

5. **REPORTS**

FINANCE - Treasurers Report

Mark gave thanks to Christine Tostevin and Christine Whitfield for all their hardwork on the accounts. The book-keeping side of the work has been transferred onto Quickbooks which has helped. However Mark said we do need a more permanent solution and was pleased to know that a couple of volunteers had come forward for the role of Treasurer.

2021 Draft Accounts were presented which showed a deficit of (£5,127). However in 2020 we had to draw down £56,000 from the church savings to survive covid, and in 2021 we didn't need to draw down any savings, so we have done well.

It has been a joy this year to welcome back visitors to the church again. In addition, funerals and weddings are taking place again which have all contributed towards church income. Stewardship income was slightly down, however overall income was up by just over £20,000 on the previous year and expenditure was slightly up. Terri has once again not taken her Administrator Honorarium. The Church paid their full Parish Share of £59,500.

The draft accounts will soon be given to Roger Bignell for auditing.
Roger Bignall as Auditor was re-elected.

The Church Accounts were:

Proposed by: Eddie Cuthbert

Seconded by: Peter Le Sueur

MAINTENANCE – Churchwardens Report

Frank Walker reported that during 2021 the Church Electrics had it's 5 yearly inspection and some remedial work was carried out as a result. The church and the rest of the church estate is in good shape.

Mike Jackson said that from experience it is worth checking that all Fire Certificates are up to date. Ruth White said that the Fire Extinguishers are checked every year and the Fire Alarms are tested in the Church Hall every 6 months.

Worship

Mark said that we are still streaming the 10.30am service and this is also recorded and uploaded to the church website after the service. We have kept the words to the liturgy and hymns on the tv screens instead of returning to paper booklets and hymn books.

The Church of England has now given permission for the wine chalice to be used again at Communion Services, however Mark asked if everyone is happy to continue using the individual cups for the time being, and the congregation agreed with carrying on with this method for communion.

In September 2021 we were pleased to welcome Kevin Dean as the church organist, and he has been a real asset to our worship and we've very happy that he is with us.

Safeguarding Policy

We have to adopt this policy every year at the AGM which was duly done. (Kevin Dean and Daian Sumner will be taking over responsibility for this).

GDPR Policy

We have to adopt this policy every year at the AGM and this was duly done.

Health and Safety Policy

We have to adopt this policy every year at the AGM and this was duly done

Above Policies unanimously accepted by all.

HOSPITALITY – Sales

As already mentioned, we're very pleased to have visitors back to the church again, after a 2 year gap.

Retreat Cottage

The cottage was busy during 2021. The Cottage account had a combined cottage income of £7,558, from which £2,000 was donated to church funds. During 2022 a new bathroom is required in the

Rectory Cottage. Overall the Cottages Account had a profit of just under £6,000 compared to a loss the previous year.

OUTREACH

Communicare – Is in a strong and healthy position. The dedication of The Library took place on Friday.

Occasional Offices – Weddings and Funerals are busy, and Baptisms are now allowed again. The Family Service continues to go well each month and the next one in June will be in aid of Mercy Ships.

Sanctuary House – Frank reported that the houses are in good shape, and the staff have coped very well with various covid illnesses. Homelessness in Jersey is rising all the time. The problem the Trust is now seeing are applications from people who have full time jobs, but still can't afford the Jersey rent prices. The Trust anticipate requiring another house in the future to assist with this crisis.

Love Thy Neighbour – Also owned by the Church. Due to the size and lack of ventilation the shop had to remain closed for a long time due to Covid restrictions. However it still operated online and is now open again. The Alms House is still full and all is well. Cat helps out with lots of people in the community.

Rector's Remarks

Mark reported that we have had two very difficult years. When he was inducted he was charged with 'the cure of souls' for St Brelade and that is for the whole parish, whether for happy or sad occasions. People want to be able to visit the church for stillness and peace and to be able to reflect.

Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals continue to be Mark's core work with all parishioners, in addition to Sunday services. Mark commented that he doesn't get paid extra for weddings, they are all part of his role – however the church receives fees for weddings. He said he's not paid 'to do' but he is paid 'to be'.

St Brelade's church continues to offer 'church' in all its many forms. Mark said Jesus spoke of God's love in speech and actions. Mark gave thanks to Chris Buckley and Bill Matthews, both retired clergy who regularly help with church Services. In addition, all of the congregation play their part, whether it's serving coffee, welcoming visitors, arranging flowers, donating money, visiting or praying, and that we all work together and need each other. He gave thanks to everyone for all their work and it's a joy to work together and he is very happy and doesn't want to 'give it up yet'.

In response, Frank Walker said that there are reasons St Brelade's Church is like it is, and the reason is Mark: an outstanding leader of a strong community and we're delighted that he is our Rector.

Fiona Walker also said that thanks should go to Judy Dingle, Terri Bond and Ruth White for all their work.

The meeting closed at 12.30pm.