

MINUTES OF THE ST MARY'S BARNES ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS

held in St Mary's Church on Thursday 28 April 2016 at 20.00

Present: The Rector, the Curate and 35 members of the congregation. Apologies were received from Dan Turner, William Heller, Geoffrey Barnett, Lucy Hine, Trisha Hawkins and John Deards.

A. The Annual Meeting of Parishioners

for the purpose of electing two churchwardens to serve for the coming year. Paul Teverson was proposed by Patrick Findlater and seconded by David Delaforce, and Patty Darke was proposed by Judy Gowing and seconded by Geoffrey Barnett. Both wardens were re-elected unanimously.

B. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 30 April 2015 were accepted and signed as a true record.

2. Report on the Church Electoral Roll. On behalf of the Electoral Roll Officer, Cheryl Cole, Judy Gowing reported that the count this year was 219, a decrease of 7.

3. Elections

a) The election to the Parochial Church Council of five representatives to serve for three years. Four nominations were received:

- Anne White was proposed by Patrick Findlater and seconded by Lucy Hine
- Geoffrey Barnett was proposed by Phil Bladen and seconded by Paul Teverson
- Emma Powell was proposed by Patty Darke and seconded by Phil Bladen
- Rachel Skilbeck was proposed by Paul Teverson and seconded by Judy Gowing.

All four candidates were elected unanimously.

Chris Hine, Matthew Purser, Francesca Wisdom, Christabel Gairdner and Alison Collins were all thanked for their service on the PCC. The Rector thanked the whole PCC for their work for St Mary's during the year.

b) The following sides-people were elected for 2016/17.

At the 8.00 am service: David Barrie, Rachel Elkington, Desmond and Josephine MacDermott, Christine Butenuth, Geoff Snowball.

At the 10.00 am service: David Blacklock, Claire Boyling, Brian Cleave, Tony Dundas, Anthony and Mayella Figgis, Patrick Findlater, Ken and Tiziana George, Jonathan Iremonger, Sarah Kearney, Peter Siddall, Andrew Summers, Joan Wheeler-Bennett, Cilla Snowball, Paul Phillips and Trevor Searight (Reserve: Sue Dundas)

At the 11.30 service: Paul Teverson and Francesca Wisdom

At the 6pm service: Wendy Kyrle-Pope (Reserves: David Blacklock, Brian Cleave, Andrew Summers)

Thursday service: Sheila and Phillip Mitchell and Linda Read.

Thanks were recorded to Tiziana George for coordinating the sides-people for many years and to David Blacklock for taking over the co-ordination role. They were all elected unanimously.

4. Report on proceedings of the PCC printed in the Annual Review was received.

5. Report on the annual accounts.

The Treasurer said that 2015 had been a much better year after the deficit in 2014.

Voluntary income was the highest since 2010. At the end of the year, there was a small surplus in unrestricted funds and a small deficit in restricted funds. Balance sheet cash reserves remained high, but part will be used in 2016.

The 2015 fund which had funded new vestments and special events had been closed and a small surplus of £1,800 transferred to the General Fund.

There is now a Bells fund, a new restricted fund hopefully to be augmented by grant-making trusts.

The Advisory Council of the Friends' gross income was £140,000, generating a substantial surplus, allowing us to give £29,000 to charity. The Friends covered the church utility bills in addition to other maintenance and capital expenditure.

Kitson Hall income rose from £45,000 to £48,000, which with reduced expenses created a surplus of £17,800, £10,000 of which was transferred to help the General Fund. A new boiler will be installed in 2016.

Some of the Music Fund had been spent in 2015, and substantial new donations had been received in 2016.

The Youth and Children's Worker fund had sufficient funds to cover Charlie Auton's salary for the coming 2 years.

The General Fund at the year end had a small deficit of £3k. The turnaround was largely due to the very successful stewardship campaign which led to an increase of around £20,000 annually (including associated Gift Aid) in promised income and huge thanks were extended to everybody who contributed or responded to the appeal.

Responding to a question, Patrick confirmed that CAF bank is covered by the insurance scheme of the financial regulatory authorities to £75,000.

Tiziana George was thanked very much for her work as the church book-keeper. Chris Hine was also thanked for his considerable work as Gift Aid secretary; he has recently indicated a wish to step down and the search is on for a replacement Gift Aid secretary.

The preferred mode of donation is by a Gift Aided Standing Order.

On a suggestion of Claire Boyling the meeting thanked the Friends, the Ball Committee, the Music Fund and the Fashion Show committee on behalf of St Mary's for all their hard work in raising valuable funds.

Patrick was thanked for his hard work to ensure that the church finances are kept in good order.

6. Appointment of an independent examiner of the accounts for 2016.

Judy Gowing proposed that Alastair Cameron be reappointed; it was seconded by Peter Boyling. He was reappointed unanimously. Thanks were extended to

Alastair for his work auditing the accounts for some years.

7. Report on the fabric of the church, and of the church hall. These reports, printed in the Annual Review, were received. Peter Boyling was thanked for his chairmanship of the Fabric Committee and William Heller for his chairmanship of the Kitson Hall committee. William and Cheryl Cole, the Hall Manager, were congratulated on the improved financial state of the Hall accounts.

8. Report on the Team Council, printed in the Annual report, was received. Revd Stephen Stavou was licensed recently at Team Vicar at St Michael & All Angels.

9. Rector's report

After a short holiday, Richard had taken 2 weeks study leave. This enabled him to undertake some intensive reading, which is difficult in the midst of busy parish life. He found this very fruitful. He also visited some parishes which are similar to St Mary's and shared problems and opportunities with their clergy. He thanked Ann Lynes and Bishop Richard who had covered for him while he was away.

He then introduced the new user friendly website which will be launched on Sunday, 1 May. A lot of work has been done by Sarah Fitzgerald working with local consultant and designer, Sarah Arthur.

Richard then thanked the clergy and readers for their support and help. He was also enjoying working with the Team clergy at St Michael's and Holy Trinity. It was very good to have Charlie Auton working with our children and young people. He had made a considerable impact already. He added many thanks to Dan Turner for all he brings to St Mary's. Cheryl continued in her efficient and friendly way and he expressed his appreciation to her. Sally Copland retired recently as Head Sacristan and had been replaced by a team of four!

Andrew Summers was particularly thanked for all the things he had done especially during the Magna Carta year. The work of the Friends was invaluable. He noted that Trisha Hawkins was one of those people who goes about her work efficiently and quietly often behind the scenes: he mentioned two recent tasks, the relaying of the path between church and Kitson Hall, and the re-ordering of the Melvill Room cupboard.

Richard expressed his deep appreciation of the churchwardens who helped and supported him so much.

10. Paul Teverson on behalf of the Churchwardens offered a vote of thanks to Richard:

"It is sometimes helpful to identify what one is not doing, before trying to say what one is. Richard, I am not going to thank you this evening for being a star cricketer, a marathon runner or a former keeper of chickens. I am not thanking you for the fact that at Christmas 2015 1532 people attended our services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. My maths are not good enough to work out the percentage increase since 2011.

I am not even going to thank you (although you heartily deserve it) for being

our Team Rector at a time when there was an interregnum at St Michael's; for acting as an assistant area dean when Tim Marwood was stepping down not to mention the retirement of Stephen Roberts, the very experienced Archdeacon of Wandsworth; all of that in a year when this church was celebrating, either its 800th anniversary or its 834th anniversary depending on who is counting. Because that would be to miss the point.

My vote of thanks on behalf of the congregation of St Mary's and on behalf of the very many others who have attended services here in this last year is to thank you for your dedicated and devoted Ministry, for the freshness and energy of your Ministry, for its variety and for its vitality and sometimes, yes, for its bite. That, Richard, on behalf of everyone here and who comes to worship or watch in this church is what Patty and I want to thank you for this evening."

11. Any other business - none

12. Date of next annual meeting will be announced at a later date.

The meeting closed with the Grace at 21.30

Appendix I

Rector's Address 2016

I am just recently back from a month's holiday and Study Leave. People want to know what I've been up to so I thought I would share it now.

We had a few days' holiday in Madrid for our 20th wedding anniversary. We enjoyed the art galleries and churches. I shall probably be making references to Picasso, Goya, El Greco and Hieronymous Bosch in forthcoming sermons. We also went to Stratford and saw Don Quixote at RSC: Cervantes shares a 400th anniversary with Shakespeare. I also took the opportunity to go down to Plymouth to visit my mother and brother too.

The other bit of holiday was a three day trip rowing down the Severn River with three friends. It was great fun, quite tiring but a great way to switch off as on the river you feel well away from stresses and concerns associated with home and work. It was very restorative.

But of course it was also study leave and so I did do some work. I attended some lectures in London that I wouldn't have got to otherwise and I did some intensive reading which I find difficult to do in the busyness of ministry. This has given me lots of ideas and material to ponder. In ministry there is a lot of giving out – sermons and talks don't just appear and you need your store of ideas and inspiration to be refreshed.

I also arranged some visits to parishes with some similar features to our own. I visited them on Sunday and then met with the vicar in the week following. We shared ideas and compared notes. This was fascinating and very useful as I seek to formulate some new plans for the next few years. The PCC will be reviewing our Mission Action Plan over the next few months so this will be good material for me to use.

The main thing that I want to do this evening is to show you our new Church website and talk about the new logo that we have been using for the past couple of months.

The idea for a new logo came from Sarah Chapman, a member of St Mary's for a number of years now. She is also a graphic designer. She felt it might be time for a new look. And you know me, I'm always happy to think about doing things a bit differently!

Firstly, on a technical level Sarah said that if we were going to re-design our website the roundel design that we have used for many years would not be suitable and it could do with a change to make it a bit more contemporary. So if we were going to have a new logo, what should it be? St Mary's is lacking any obvious symbols that are suitable for a logo. But Sarah liked the idea of a window because people look through a window to see what might be going on inside and she thought (and I agreed) that we are an outward-looking church so it represents something important about our perspective. Thankfully we have some wonderful windows in St Mary's and Sarah designed a logo using a simplified version of one of the lancet windows in the Langton Chapel.

It's a simple and strong image. The logo isn't just the window, it's the name as well and together they are striking and give a good impression. The PCC discussed this at some length and made various decisions to tweak the design

and we settled on what we have been using for the past few months. I hope you like it.

The website was long overdue a change and we found someone well equipped to do this for us.

It would be interesting just to know which of you regularly uses the internet?

Who has ever accessed St Mary's website? Who uses it regularly?

St Mary's website had a few drawbacks:

- It didn't work well on mobile phones and tablets
- Lots of its content was hidden away on downloadable pdfs (and therefore hard to search for on Google)
- It could only be updated by people who understood computer code
- Visually it was dark and grey and had tiny pictures
- And most importantly - partly because it was quite hard to navigate - it served more as a website for people within the church community than for the Barnes community as a whole

We needed a new website as it was becoming harder to keep the old one going and we wanted a website that would help us do the following:

- Explain our faith and our mission both to our regular churchgoers and to the community as a whole
- Invite people in to join our church community
- Provide an easy-to-search calendar of church events
- Flag up important events in the life of the church on the home page - whether that's the bike sale, the bazaar, or the Harvest Festival
- Allow us to market our revenue generating assets - The Kitson Hall, rooms in the Church & Weddings
- Be interactive - people these days expect to be able to fill in forms online and not download them and post them
- Take donations online

The new site has pretty much all of the same content as the old site but is bigger, brighter and, for someone coming fresh to the site, easier to use. For those of you who are used to the old website the new site will take a bit of adjusting to, as there are things you may previously have found under one heading will have moved but hopefully after a little bit of exploration you'll see that everything you want to find is there.

A brief guided tour of the website:

- The calendar
- Easy one page reference to see what's going on in the Church on any given day but there are also sub calendars.
- The **Weddings** page
- **Contribute** page - on the top yellow bar
- **Church Groups** page

The site will go live late on Sunday evening, May 1st.

Thanks go, as ever, to Ann, Bishop Richard, Christabel and Geoffrey. It's great to be part of a team that is so mutually supportive and which takes quality of

worship so seriously. I also greatly enjoy the Team Ministry that we share in with David and Adam at Holy Trinity and the newly welcomed Stephen Stavrou at St Michael's and Judith is also a valued member of the clergy team. It has been wonderful to welcome Charlie to St Mary's as our Youth & Children's Worker. He has made a huge impact already not only with the children and young people but with everyone in the congregation who has met him. Charlie is developing our ministry with the younger end of the church no end. We value this greatly.

Many thanks as ever to Dan as Director of Music who does an incredible job as our Director of Music. His contribution is greatly valued by so many people. Cheryl continues in her efficient and friendly way as our administrator and Kitson Hall manager. We all want to express our appreciation to her.

We already said a big thank you to Sally Copland who stood down after many years amazing service as sacristan but thankfully she's still very much around to help out in lots of ways.

It is not possible to thank everyone but I would like to make particular mention of two people this year:

Firstly, I would like to express my gratitude to Andrew Summers who does such an amazing job as Chair of the Friends of St Mary's. Between the Ball and the Music Festival and many other events, Andrew both raises a lot of money for St Mary's and develops connections with the wider community. Andrew and I share a commitment for St Mary's to enjoy fruitful partnerships with other organisations right across Barnes and he does this very effectively.

I would also like to take note of the very significant contributions that Trisha Hawkins makes to our church life. We all know how much she does with the Bellringers to nurture their very active life. Trisha helps to enable the ringers and the church to have a very positive friendly relationship together and this is very important indeed. But she also contributes in many other ways too, often without anyone even really knowing that it was she who did it! For instance, Trisha has just completely re-organised the store cupboard off the Melvill Room. This was no small task and what she has achieved is a thing of beauty. Long may that good order continue. Trisha also was instrumental in re-developing the path between the church and Kitson Hall. It is no longer an eye-sore and is a good feature of our facilities. Many thanks to Trisha for all this and more.

I would like to give my heart-felt thanks to the churchwardens – Paul and Patty. I couldn't fulfil my role without them and I greatly value their support and help in so many ways.

And finally a very big thank you to JulieAnn who gives me unstinting and invaluable support. She is there for the successes and the frustrations and I am eternally grateful for all that she does for me and for St Mary's.

Rev'd Richard Sewell
28th April 2016