

ST MARY'S CHURCH COMMITTEE – ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 21 April 2013 at 12.15pm in the Garden Hall

Present:	Revd Mary Bide (the Rector), the Churchwardens and some 40 members of the congregation were present.
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1. Opening Prayer

The meeting opened with a prayer led by Revd Mary Bide.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Neal Harvey.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 15 April 2012

The Minutes were signed as a correct record of the meeting.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

5. Churchwardens' Report on the Fabric of the Buildings

Donald Broad reported that the buildings are generally in good order.

The glass doors have been properly installed and are working properly.

There have been favourable comments in respect of the digital noticeboard in the porch and a faculty has been applied for.

The lighting project is moving forwards and a plan is coming together to replace the lighting in the nave and the chancel with a more elegant solution.

The gas boiler has been condemned because it was leaking. Work has started to identify the source of the leak.

There is some damp in the top of the south wall of the gallery. This is being reviewed by the architect. The loose flagstones are also being inspected.

New gates have been installed at the entrance to the churchyard.

The Steeplejacks have inspected the spire and replaced shingles at the top to stop the parakeets getting in and nesting. The entire spire needs re-shingling, this will be at a considerable cost and is a major exercise which will involve scaffolding.

Thanks were recorded to Gregor and his team for all the gardening work in the churchyard. Thanks were also recorded to Tony Winship for his diligence and safe-running of the Church.

6. Treasurer's Report

James Little reported that the accounts of 2012 have been through the auditors and approved by the Committee and the Parish. Thanks were recorded to Roger and Alasdair.

In addition to the Accounts, the following overriding points are:

- (i) the unrestricted activities/routine expenditures have increased by £35,000 over the past year, this gives a full year effect of £50,000;
- (ii) there is a net surplus of £14,000 of unrestricted activities (compared to a deficit of £17,000 last year). This is a very satisfying result after a number on one-off costs, including continued maintenance and repairs;
- (iii) there have been additional costs such as the replacement of the Fellowship House roof, the new boiler etc. These costs are all included in the figures. More expenditure such as this is expected, and it is important to ensure that the Church is in a position to be able to pay for it. The Doorways and Gateways will be paid for with restricted funds;
- (iv) there is a net surplus of £180,000 on restricted funds, however there is a major item coming up and it is likely that we will need to consider launching a Spire Appeal.

Overall it has been a good year.

7. Covenant Secretary's Report/'Planned Giving'

Roger Chadder reported that there is a new system of claiming gift aid. This will make it quicker and easier to claim. The database will need to be completely re-shaped as a result, however there will be no interruption in service.

8. Committee Secretary's Report

The Church Committee met six times during the year. The main matters discussed were:

- property issues, particularly those relating to faculty,
- financial affairs (when, where and how to improve),
- youth work,
- faith in action arrangements,
- giving; and
- Tennis Fortnight.

Copies of the Minutes can be found in a file in the Parish Office.

9. Youth Report

Catherine reported that there is a full program of activity and support from cradle to university and beyond.

Catherine is now the Youth and Families Worker, which includes:

- Toddler Praise on a Wednesday morning;
- Sunday School every Sunday;
- Friday people, aged 8-12, every other Friday night

Catherine's role also includes a general overview, seeing and supporting young people through every age group.

There was a very successful Light Party in October with over 50 children. There have also been Good Friday activities which were very positive.

Thanks were recorded to Liz and Sylvia.

10. Music

This is all going well. There are now three choirs: (i) at the 9.30am service and Evensong, (ii) the Gospel Choir and (iii) the Choristers.

Collette has joined as the Assistant Director of Music, and is successfully motivating the singers to 'sing out'. It was noted that St Mary's is very lucky to have such brilliantly trained singers.

The adult choir has lots of talent, is very keen and has a good sense of community spirit. A performance of the first part of the Messiah and St John's Passion was given which is remarkable for a Parish Church.

The gospel choir is a lovely group of mainly female singers. More men are required! This is a good alternative to a more formal choir with shorter rehearsals. The choir will be singing at Catherine's Wedding.

11. Church Electoral Roll

The old roll was at 729 before the renewal process started (similar number to that at start of 2007 renewal process).

The new roll is 601 (plus 1 rising 16 year old so 602 come June) which includes 111 people who were not on the old roll. New Roll figure in 2007 was 525.

12. Report on the two Church Halls

Fellowship House continues to be let to the Nursery. It has a new floor and some work has been done on the roof which will be tested at the next rainfall. Next year a new boiler will be needed in Fellowship House.

The Garden Hall continues to be widely used with a variety of regulars and one-off bookings. The Garden Hall will be painted (the facilities have already been done by Tony). The broken window has now been replaced.

Thanks were recorded to Jenny (individual hirers), and Liz (long-term hirers).

The Halls have contributed £74,000 to the Church Finances this year. This underlines the importance in investing in their upkeep - they are an important source of income.

13. Elections and Nominations for Election

a) **Wardens:** Sarah Canby will continue. Donald Broad has come to the end of his term. He has done an enormous amount of work and was very much thanked for his service. John Bush stood for election and was elected unopposed.

b) **Committee:** Davina Fernyhough, George Master and Jane Sanderson came to the end of their three year terms and were thanked for their services. Nominations had been received for the election of Sheila Lenon, Medarani Sugianto and Guy Gillon; all were unanimously elected en bloc.

c) **PCC:** the Churchwardens will be the wardens for the PCC. The Chair of Finance will be Wendy Ziegler, the Parish Treasurer will be Giles and the Parish Insurance Office will be Tom Hopkinson.

d) **Friends of St Mary's:** Guy Gillon will help with the launch of the FOSM.

14. Rector's Address

The text of the Rector's address, in which Mary talked about the life of the church and the many people within it who do much to maintain its ministry will also be posted on the website.

15. Any other business

None.

16. Closing Prayer

The meeting closed with all present saying the Grace.

JLH 28 April 2013