

## ST MARY'S CHURCH – ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

### Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 11th April 2018 at 8.15pm in Garden Hall, St Mary's Church

<b>Present:</b>	Rev'd Mandy Hodgson (the Rector), Alison Neilson, Liz Broad (Churchwardens), Alex Broad, Donald Broad, John Boyd, Juliet Boyd, J Bush, John Bush, Laura Campbell, Rosemary Chadder, Roger Chadder, R Chadwick, Anne Chester, Martine Clarke, Hilary Coleman, Helen Dean, Barbara Dowling, Sonia Elkin, Marion Godwin, Anthony Gubbins, Elizabeth Hallett, Drue Halling, Nick Harvey, Joan Heaton, David Hedges, Susan Hedges, Ann Hodgson, Gill Ibbotson, Rev'd Cynthia Jackson, Caroline Johnson, Diz Johnson, Jane Johnson, Rev'd Yunghee Koh, Andrew Lenon, Sheila Lenon, Anthony Leonard, Honor MacDonald Watson, Robert MacDonald Watson, David Marsden, Caroline McCowen, Robert McCowen, Nicholas Miles, Jane Moss, Diane Neil Mills, John Neilson, Claire Peppiatt, Jan Phillips, Jill Philpot, James Sherratt, Trevor Stuart, Anthony Taussig, Penny Taussig, I G Thornburn, S P Thornburn, Ruth Turck, John Veale, Dan Whitehead, Peter Whicheloe, Una Whicheloe, Wendy Ziegler.
-----------------	--

#### 1. Prayer

The opening prayer was said by the Rector.

#### 2. The Rector introduced Laura Campbell who agreed to act as Clerk to the Meeting.

#### Apologies

Apologies were received from: Rev'd Nils Bersweden, Jonathan Broad, Liz Hamilton, Barry Hamilton, Siobhan Holmes, Mike Leeson, Jan Levitt Yates, Susan Mayo, Jenny Michalacopoulos, Mary Ann Turnbull, Kezia York.

#### 3. Minutes of ACM held on 25 April 2017

The Minutes of the last meeting were signed by the Rector as a correct record of the meeting with no amendments.

#### 4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Copies of the Annual Review of 2017 were available to all attendees. Further copies will be available to the congregations both in hardcopy and on the website.

## **5. Treasurer's report**

See attached report

The year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017 ended with a surplus on unrestricted funds of £23,147 with unrestricted reserves balance at £324,820 and the development fund at £835,541\*. The budget for 2018 shows a potential deficit of £70,000 for reasons identified in the attached report.

Attendees at the ACM queried the potential deficit in the budget for 2018. The Rector confirmed that spending would be scrutinised this year as there is no intention to run a deficit.

\* It was pointed out that the figure for the development fund was an error in the report. The correct figure is £300,623.

## **6. Planned Giving Officer's report**

See Annual Review, pages 8 & 9

Roger Chadder gave his last review as Planned Giving Officer as from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018 this role has been undertaken by Jane Moss. Planned giving for 2017 was approximately £22,000 down on 2016. A stewardship campaign will be undertaken in 2018 with the exact timing to be confirmed. Margaret Swain was thanked for deputising for Roger and now for Jane. The team of four volunteers who bank the collections and envelopes each week were also thanked.

## **7. Churchwardens' report on fabric and property**

See Annual Review, pages 4-7

Following the quinquennial survey, the church is in good order but there are a number of issues relating to damp and masonry which will be addressed during the year. The works will require the erection of scaffolding. Couples who have booked their weddings at St Mary's will be informed. The wardens are looking for volunteers to deal with the Listed Monuments in the churchyard. It was reported that some of the Listed Monuments are on the 'at risk' register and the anticipated costs of the most essential repairs to these monuments is circa £85,000.

## **8. Church Committee Secretary's report**

See Annual Review, pages 9-10

**9. Church Electoral Roll Officer's report**

See Annual Review, page 10

Anthony Gubbins reported that the total names on the Roll are now 749 with a net increase of 19.

**10. Youth and Families report**

See Annual Review, page 14

**11. Safeguarding Officer's report**

See Annual Review, pages 10-11

The Rector thanked Pauline Bakker for her work.

**12. Pastoral team report (to include Fountain Group etc)**

See Annual Review, pages 13-18

Thanks were recorded to acknowledge: (i) all those who contributed to this section of the Annual Review; and (ii) all the (lay) assistants who give home communion.

**13. Deanery Synod report**

See Annual Review, pages 11-13

John Bright and Neal Harvey represent St Mary's at Deanery Synod. Neal Harvey will be putting himself forward for election to Diocesan Synod later in 2018.

**14. Music report**

See Annual Review, pages 18-20

The Choir had just sung Choral Evensong at Westminster Abbey (Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2018). Thanks were recorded to all concerned with music (particularly to Max Barley and Colette Boushell). There was a special mention of Andrew Lenon for his running of WOC.

**15. Green report**

See Annual Review, page 27

## 16. Nominations for election and elections

**Wardens for St Mary's Church:** After 3 years, Liz Broad is standing down as Warden. At present no replacement has been found but the Rector is hopeful that one will be found before the APCM on 25<sup>th</sup> April. An extraordinary Meeting will be held between the 9.30am and 11.15am services to confirm this appointment. Mrs Alison Neilson continues as Warden.

**PCC:** By convention the 2 Wardens represent St Mary's on the PCC.

**Retiring from St Mary's Church Committee:** Elizabeth Hallett, Siobhan Holmes, Nick Long, Dan Whitehead, Wendy Ziegler (Wendy continues as PCC Secretary and was thanked for her long service).

**Nominations for St Mary's Church Committee were received for the election of:**

Michael Canby, Laura Campbell, Nick Harvey and Mary Ann Turnbull. All were proposed and seconded by the Wardens and all were unanimously approved by the meeting.

## 17. Rector's Review of the year

See Annual Review, pages 1-3 for the full report

The following section from page 3 of the Annual Review is noted in particular:

*"While I hope that this year will be one principally of consolidation and community building there are some big decisions that are appearing on the horizon. In light of this I wanted to share with you my approach to leading the church when we have significant and controversial decisions to make.*

*We do not always choose the questions we need to answer, but we can choose how we go about making those decisions. My principal goal whenever we face such a challenge will be to make sure that the process we use to make the decision is one that allows everyone to have their say, so that together we can discern what is the best way forward for the church. I would expect that in any major decision that we needed to make there would be wide and full consultation, during which everyone has the opportunity to find out what exactly was being proposed. Once that is clear I would decide on what the appropriate form of consultation should be with the Church Wardens and Church Committee. The practicalities of this would be guided by the following principles: that everyone on the Electoral Roll of St Mary's who wants to, has a chance to contribute to the discussion, that good notice is given of meetings and votes on decisions, that everyone feels that they have been listened to, that the process is fair, transparent and accountable. We cannot expect to agree on everything all the time, however we can all expect to be treated with respect, kindness and for our views to be heard."*

The Rector confirmed that this statement referred to unformulated very early stage proposals by the AELTC regarding parking on the field which may not develop further, as well as property considerations within the Parish.

#### **18. Any other business**

- Sonia Elkin requested that the Agenda and reports be made available before the meeting. The Rector agreed that it might be possible to put them on the website.
- Juliet Boyd thanked the Rector for organising the Parish Away Day and noted that it was not referred to in the Annual Review. The Rector confirmed that the Parish Away Day would be referred to in the parish annual review at the APCM on 25<sup>th</sup> April.
- Alison Neilson spoke about the new parking policy for the churchyard which has been designed to ensure that the churchyard: (i) is accessible for emergency vehicles should the need arise; and (ii) a safe place, particularly for staff and children.
- Thanks were recorded to the congregation for all that they give to St Mary's financially, of their time and of their talents.
- Thanks of the Rector and all at St Mary's were recorded to Liz Broad for her excellent work in the past 3 years as Warden and particularly for being Warden during an interregnum for such a busy church. Liz was presented with a bouquet and two shrubs for her garden.

#### **19. Closing Prayer**

The meeting ended with the saying of the Grace.