

## **ST MARY'S CHURCH – ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

### **Minutes of the Meeting held on Sunday, 20 April 2008 at 7.45 pm in Garden Hall**

1. The meeting opened with a reading from St Paul to the Philippians and a prayer led by the Rector.

#### **2. Attendance**

Rev'd Canon Hilary Johnson, Rev'd Bruce Rickards, the Churchwardens (Mr Robert MacDonald Watson and Mrs Rosemary Chadder) and some 37 members of the congregation were present. Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Jenny Baker, Mr and Mrs Broad, Mr Mark Bide, Mr John Bright, Mrs Sharon-Cubley Mack, Mr and Mrs Cornock-Taylor, Miss Sonia Elkin, Mrs Jennie Gubbins, Miss Liz Johnson, Mr Anthony Leonard, Mrs Jenny Michalacopoulos, Mr and Mrs Peppiatt, Mrs Anthea Richardson.

#### **3. Minutes of Annual Congregational Meeting held on 29 April 2007**

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

#### **4. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

#### **5. Churchwardens' Report on the Fabric of the Buildings**

Overhaul of the organ was proceeding satisfactorily. The new arrangements to prevent unauthorised parking in the churchyard had met with partial success. Virtually all items requiring immediate attention are being attended to or have been dealt with. The Diocesan Architect is advising on necessary re-roofing of the nave, vestry, Warrior Chapel and organ blower roofs.

Thanks to volunteers, the appearance of the churchyard has improved enormously. The East Surrey Family History Society has volunteered to record the monuments and memorials in the church and churchyard. Generous donations have funded the purchase of robes for the choir, two new acolyte candles, a Paschal candle, a digital projector and Bibles.

Both furniture and fittings are generally in good order; however a new altar cloth is urgently needed and the four altar frontals, pulpit frontals and lectionary markers also need to be replaced. The processional cross needs re-gilding and the Rector's dream is to improve the entrance to the church by replacing the inner doors of the West Porch with engraved glass doors with simple elegant handles.

The Churchwardens thanked all those whose efforts have contributed to the running of the Church, particularly mentioning Elizabeth Hamilton, Wendy Ziegler and Tony Winship.

In response to a comment from the floor, the Churchwardens explained that the untidy state of the bin area had often been raised with the nursery using Fellowship House. A suggestion from the floor, that details of items which needed replacing should be included quarterly in the weekly pew sheet as members of the congregation might like to fund the purchase of these, was accepted.

The Rector thanked the Churchwardens for their hard work and support.

#### **6. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's Report and Audited Accounts to 31 December 2007, as approved by the Committee and subsequently publicly displayed in the Church Porch, were tabled. The Treasurer thanked all those who had helped her in her first year as Treasurer mentioning Alison Neilson, Roger Chadder, John Bright, the Rector and Churchwardens.

The overall year-end figures showed a small surplus of £9,000 which exceeded expectations; however, as the figures included some non-recurring income, there was a need to remain cautious and contain costs in 2008.

Congregational giving increased by £11,000 as a result of the appeal in October; the apparent increase in letting income arose because amounts billed in 2006 were collected in 2007; income from Tennis parking had benefited from the Davis Cup but will continue to be adversely affected by the loss of the Picnic Stall.

Expenditure in 2007 was £87,000 higher due in part to costs of the organ works, costs for the expanding youth ministry were for a full year, and a number of other smaller items.

## **7. Covenant Secretary's Report including the Development Fund**

The Covenant Secretary reported that the Appeal for Regular Planned Giving last October resulted in an increase in regular income of £43,800 pa and one-off donations of £11,500; the appeal generated 190 replies including 30 new regular donors.

Total receipts to the Development Fund amounted to £59,000. The year end balance was £179,000 (after allowing for £74,000 already spent on the organ) of which some £110,000 will be needed to complete the organ project. The anticipated roof repairs will need to be funded.

The fairer shares review to determine payments to the Diocese for the next three years takes place this year; this payment is based on the average income of the congregation. An anonymous survey of the income of individual members on the electoral roll will be undertaken to see whether we are properly assessed at the top level.

## **8. Committee Secretary's Report**

The Church Committee met five times during the year. The main matters dealt with related to -

- The ministry of the Church through normal and special services, discussion groups, the establishment of Celebrate! the service aimed at younger members and social events for the whole congregation.
- The finances of the Church including regular giving, fund raising through Wimbledon Fortnight and the Church's own charitable giving.
- Maintenance of the fabric of the Church, Garden Hall and Fellowship House, renovation of the organ and garden maintenance
- Health and safety issues involving the provision of a gate between the Garden Hall Lawn and the Churchyard and the necessity to stop the use of the churchyard as a 'dropping off' point for children attending classes/functions in the Church Halls.

## **9. Church Electoral Roll**

The revised Electoral Roll now stood at 549 (v.525 last year); this figure reflected 14 removals and 38 additions.

## **10. Report on the two Church Halls**

Upgrading work at Fellowship House continued as planned. The cost of repairing flood damage at Garden Hall had been met by the insurance claim. The damaged glass door of Garden Hall would be replaced.

## **12. Elections and Nominations for Election**

- a) **Wardens:** Both Mrs Rosemary Chadder and Mr Robert MacDonald Watson were standing for re-election and were unanimously re-elected.
- b) **Committee:** The members not eligible to stand for a further period were Mrs Sharon Cubley-Mack, Mr Jonathan Head, Mrs Honor MacDonald Watson and Mr Walter Reid. Mrs Alex Demery was not standing for re-election as she was moving away from the area.

Nominations had been received for the election of Mr John Bush, Mr David Drummond, Mrs Joanna Page, Mrs Iris Ronayne, Mrs MaryAnn Turnbull and Dr. David Williams. As there were six nominations and five vacancies, an election would be necessary. There was a suggestion from the floor that, in order to avoid this, five people could be elected and one co-opted; Mrs Joanna Page immediately volunteered to be the co-opted member. The meeting voted unanimously in favour of the suggestion, the election of Mr John Bush, Mr David Drummond, Mrs Iris Ronayne, Mrs MaryAnn Turnbull and Dr. David Williams and the co-option of Mrs Joanna Page.

- c) **PCC and Deanery Synod:** Elections would take place at the Committee Meeting on 28 May.

## **14. Rector's Address**

The text of the Rector's address, in which she commended the energy and commitment of her ministerial colleagues, the Churchwardens and the congregation in supporting her and the work of the church, is appended and will be available to the Congregation at the Cross Aisles; it and these minutes will also be posted on the website.

## **15. Any Other Business**

House of Commons Reception on 9 July: The Churchwardens reminded the meeting of the necessity to confirm purchase of tickets without delay.

Lighting of Garden Hall Pathway: The meeting agreed that this should be improved.

Rev'd Canon Hilary Johnson, on behalf of the congregation, said how pleased we are to have Rev'd Mary Bide as our Rector.

The meeting closed with a prayer by the Rector.