



THE ANNUAL MEETINGS

were held in St Mary's Church at 8pm on Thursday 26 April 2018

MINUTES

(to be signed at the APCM 2019)

The meeting opened with a prayer.

A. The Annual Meeting of Parishioners

for the purpose of electing two churchwardens to serve for the coming year.

- Phil Bladen was proposed by Patrick Findlater and seconded by Ken George.
- Fouki Heller was proposed by Peter Boyling and seconded by John Reay.

Both were unanimously elected.

The Rector thanked Paul Teverson very much for all his help and support over the past 6 years and contribution to the life of St Mary's in so many ways. Gifts and a cheque were given as a token of the congregation's appreciation.

B. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Present: The Rector, Churchwardens and 35 members of the congregation.

Apologies were received from Christine Butenuth, Chris and Lucy Hine, Rachel Skilbeck, Giles Dimock, Annie Sullivan.

2. On a proposal by Geoffrey Barnett and seconded by Patrick Findlater, the minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 27 April 2017 were signed as a true record.

3. Cheryl Cole, Electoral Roll Officer, informed the meeting that there were 204 people on the Electoral Roll, a reduction of 10 on last year's figure.

4. Elections

a) There were four nominations for representatives to Deanery Synod to serve for two years:

- Annie Sullivan, proposed by Judy Gowing and seconded by Rosie Findlater;
- Phil Bladen, proposed by Fiona Barnett and seconded by Christabel Gairdner;
- Judy Gowing, proposed by Cilla Snowball and seconded by Fiona Barnett
- Tom Ridley, proposed by Phil Bladen and seconded by Paul Teverson.

All were elected unanimously.

The Rector explained that the Deanery Synod was open to all members of the congregation. It is an interesting forum to hear about matters in the wider church and to be a conduit to and from Diocesan Synod.

b) There were four nominations for election to the Parochial Church Council to serve for three years:

- Peter Boyling, proposed by Judy Gowing and seconded by Cilla Snowball;
- Paul Teverson, proposed by Phil Bladen and seconded by Francesca Wisdom;
- Katherine Passerieu, proposed by Phil Bladen and seconded by Lis Munden;
- Sue Mackworth-Praed, proposed by Judy Gowing and seconded by Phil Bladen.

All these were elected unanimously.

c) The election of sidesmen for 2018/19:

The following were elected:

(8.00am service) David Barrie, Rachel Elkington, Desmond and Josephine MacDermott, Christine Butenuth, Dermot Trimble

(10am service) David Blacklock, Claire Boyling, Brian Cleave, Tony Dundas, Anthony Figgis, Patrick Findlater, Ken and Tiziana George, Jonathan Iremonger, Sarah Kearney, Peter Siddall, Fiona Smith, Andrew Summers, Joan Wheeler-Bennett, Cilla Snowball and Paul Phillips.

(11.30 service) Paul Teverson, Francesca Wisdom and Sally Copland

(6pm service) Wendy Kyrle-Pope

(Thursday service) Linda Reid

5. The report on proceedings of the PCC had been printed in the Annual Review and was received by the meeting.

6. Report on the annual accounts.

The Treasurer declared himself to be satisfied with the situation. The Stewardship Appeal had increased income by £16,000 a year. 2017 was an extraordinarily successful year in Kitson Hall, which allows us to continue the employment of Charlie Auton, the Youth Worker, until mid-2019.

Our contribution to the Diocese in 2017 was £169,000, which pays for two-and-a-half clergy.

There was a reduction of cash in hand from £220,000 to £199,000, largely due to the expenditure on the lighting project. The CCLA investment account has grown satisfactorily. The first quarter of 2018 is on target.

The Rector thanked Patrick very much for all his work over the year. He in turned thanked Tiziana George, John Harries and Richard du Parcq for their help.

7. Appointment of an independent examiner of the accounts for 2018-19.

Alistair Cameron was proposed by Patty Darke and seconded by Andrew Summers. He was unanimously appointed.

8. Reports on the fabric of the church (in the PCC report in the Annual Review), and of the church hall (in the Annual Review) were received by the meeting. Cheryl Cole and William Heller were both thanked very much for their considerable work making Kitson Hall a popular and well-maintained resource and venue.

9. Report on the Team Council. Peter Boyling reported on the status of 52 Boileau Road. This house is owned jointly in varying proportions by St Mary's, St Michael's and Holy Trinity. The Diocese is buying Holy Trinity's share. The house will still be available to us when we have a curate. At other times, the house is rented out on the commercial market, producing funds for maintenance of the building. Celia Cleave suggested that the house might be made available to a refugee family. The Rector explained that the difficulty is not knowing when a curate may be appointed and therefore the difficulty of committing to that family. Andrew Summers asked if there was any cause for concern that Holy Trinity wanted to extricate themselves from this arrangement. The Rector explained that Holy Trinity has an Associate Priest and they wish to use the resultant capital to house him. There is no concern that the future of the Team is threatened.

10. Rector's report – see appendix I

11. Churchwardens' report – Paul Teverson - see appendix II

12. Any other business - none

Date of next meeting: 4 April 2019

APPENDIX I

Rector's Address 2018

(At the beginning, the Rector showed a short film, which was filmed and edited by his nephew as part of his university course in film and TV production. All the filming was done on Palm Sunday).

I hope you agree that it gives an interesting insight to a few aspects of our ministry at St Mary's. To me it gives a lovely impression of our church community. And now, I mark the end of another year as Rector of this wonderful parish in this excellent team of three churches. There are always such a wide variety of experiences in my role as rector that makes it quite difficult to know where to focus one's attention as I look back.

Every year has been a busy year since I arrived in this parish seven years ago and this one has been no different. Our excellent Annual Review, beautifully produced for us again by Cheryl, tells the story of that busy year very accurately. But even a review like this can't tell it all. There is so much that goes on behind the scenes or under the radar that the casual observer just wouldn't know about.

In order to do all of this we need a really strong team to be able to do it. Once again I am indebted to Cheryl for running a very efficient and effective administration operation for the church and for Kitson Hall. Charlie has had another very good year serving both here and in St Margaret's parish. Our children and young people are encouraged and inspired by Charlie's faith which he communicates so effectively. And on top of that he has managed to get engaged too – congratulations! Charlie will marry Becky (who I hope we will be allowed to meet before too long), next February.

This year we have been able to welcome a new member of the St Mary's team. As you know, Henry Chandler started as our Director of Music last July and he has made a great impact in his first ten months with us. It's been wonderful to welcome Henry into the St Mary's community and he has impressed us all with his high quality leading of the choir and with his fine personal qualities of integrity and reliability.

As ever, I have been assisted in outstanding ways by the ministry team of Bishop Richard, Geoffrey and Christabel ably assisted by Sister Margaret Anne. I really cannot imagine being better served by four individuals than we are by them. For three years we were also blessed by the ministry of Ann Lynes who left us this time last year for her first incumbency. Ann made a big impression here in Barnes and we all miss her contributions and friendship very much. You may well have heard that Ann is doing very well in Northwood. She is busy there and she is very much enjoying the challenge.

There are so many others too who do such a lot at St Mary's. There are a phenomenal number of people who help to keep St Mary's going as a vibrant community looking outwards but drawing people to know the love of God and the fellowship of Christians. This year I would like to make special mention of Judy Gowing who I rely on hugely for everything to do with PCC meetings and indeed, this and every Annual Meeting. But Judy does so much more than that because she has a key role in the choir assisting the Director of Music with all sorts of practicalities and this year Judy has also taken on the significant work around data protection issues and, with help from several others, has got us well ahead of the curve of that particular challenge. I'd also like to thank Peter Boyling once again who with Fabric Committee, Faith in Action, Team Ministry Council, Under Tree Schools, Castelnau Centre Project and Vice Chair of the PCC, has so many hats you'd barely even notice him standing in your porch! But Peter is also a great help to me personally and I really do not know what I would've done without him. Margaret Thatcher in praising her great political ally, Willy Whitelaw, famously said, "Every Prime Minister needs a Willy!" but I can say slightly less controversially, "Every rector needs a Peter"! But not every rector is privileged to have one.

I would also like to pay tribute to Philip & Shelagh Mitchell. They have been very active members of St Mary's for many years. Philip was a Reader (like Geoffrey & Christabel) until about 5 years ago. For years they have been the Sidespeople at the Thursday midday service and took great care over their duties. And then eventually owing to deteriorating health and to be closer to family, they moved down to Dorset about eight months ago. I know they miss St Mary's very much and we miss them too. Sadly, last week they were involved in car crash. Shelagh was quite badly injured and both were very rattled by it. That's why Shelagh is currently on our prayer list.

However, despite all of the amazing people who actively support the mission and ministry of St Mary's, there is still so much to do as I think you are all well aware. And it is in recognition of this (because this is not only a challenge in Barnes but throughout the Church of England) that there is a new CofE initiative which goes under the name "Setting God's People Free". This is not about plugging the gaps in the work of the church that can't be done because of reduced numbers of clergy. Instead, it is about realising that there is enormous untapped potential in our congregations and we need to draw on this and harness it for the furtherance of the work of God's church, not just for what we do within these walls, but in all aspects of our lives. In other words, it's about equipping every member of the church to serve God in all aspects of their lives.

We have been selected as a pilot parish in this diocese to help to guide this new initiative into effective implementation. I am delighted that Paul Teverson has offered to be Lay Ministry & Lay Leadership Champion for St Mary's and you will be hearing much more from him in the coming months. But as the first part in this process we would like to ask you to spend a few minutes filling out a questionnaire which the Diocese has asked us to do in order to gather initial impressions.

- Fill out questionnaires

We often comment on the difficulty of getting people to step forward to take on jobs and fill vacancies in our roles. This is true not just of St Mary's but of many other organisations in Barnes. Of course, so many people are really busy, but we are concerned with far more than just filling vacancies. We are about calling people to love and worship God and to follow Jesus Christ. We are charged with a sacred responsibility: to share the incredible news that there is a God who offers us a life of greater abundance and fulfilment than we could possibly imagine. Everything that we do in this church – the nurturing of faith in our children, the music that the choir makes, the care of our churchyard garden, the sale of Christmas cards, the words of care and concern we speak in our everyday lives, the funerals, baptisms and weddings that we take – everything is done to serve this overarching purpose. And it's for all of us to do. We are all charged with the same responsibility: to live our faith seven days a week and to do all that we can to make real the faith that we proclaim.

Alleluia, Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

APPENDIX II

Vote of thanks to the Rector given by Paul Teverson

You have reminded us Richard that we are all charged with the same responsibility to live our faith seven days a week and to do all that we can to make real the faith we proclaim.

Perhaps I am not alone in feeling the need to have my faith batteries re-charged on Sundays. Sometimes they are running low on power. Your ministry and that of the clergy team at St Mary's is the vital charger.

For those of us who were fortunate enough to go on the St Mary's pilgrimage to the Holy Land in February, the services conducted by you in Jerusalem and in the Shepherds' Fields at Bethlehem and standing by the shore of the Sea of Galilee were undoubted highlights. What shone through was your love of your ministry and the strength of your vocation.

It has been my privilege over the last six busy years to try and support that ministry together with my co-wardens. As you mentioned for three of those years, we were also blessed with the ministry of Rev Ann Lynes whom you trained and supervised during her curacy.

Since Ann's leaving, I am aware that our ministry team has at times been pressed hard by the calls made upon it, including covering the number of baptisms, weddings and funerals in the parish. We have identified a need for St Mary's to allocate a significant portion of its reserves to ministry support. It is proposed to recommend to the PCC that we establish a ministry support fund. Perhaps some of that may be used to support lay ministry. Perhaps some may go to supporting additional ministry staff for periods of up to three years if that is thought to be the right way forward. I believe there would be widespread support from the congregation for putting resources into supporting ministry, worship, education and lay ministry at St Mary's.

Thank you, Richard for your dedicated ministry in this your seventh year at the Parish. I do very much hope you feel affirmed by all of us.