

St Simon's Church, Southsea

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 12th March 2015

Note: These minutes are subject to acceptance at the next annual meeting.

WELCOME: The meeting was opened by Rev Matthew Holland at 7.30 p.m. 43 people were present.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Gail Chipperfield, Barbara Diani & Pat Griffiths.

Rev Bob Mason led the meeting in an opening prayer.

A. VESTRY MEETING

1. Minutes of the annual meeting in March 2014

Acceptance of the minutes for the meeting held in March 2014 was proposed by Phil Gower and seconded by Barbara Moore. This was carried unanimously.

2. Election of Church Wardens

Matthew Holland thanked Ruth Warner for her role as Church Warden, and announced that Mike Taylor had been nominated as her successor. The meeting then voted that Hugh Mason & Mike Taylor should serve as Churchwardens from June 2015. This was carried unanimously. Sue Piper presented Ruth Warner with a bouquet of flowers, as a token of the Church's appreciation and thanks for her role as Church Warden.

B. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1. Minutes of the meeting in March 2014

It was proposed by John Diani, and seconded by Lois Earl, that the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 12th March 2014 be accepted as an accurate record. This was carried unanimously.

Matters Arising A question was asked about whether any savings had been achieved in the costs of electricity and gas. Dave Howell (treasurer) replied that electricity and gas contracts were now part of the C.of.E. "basket" that negotiated better deals than were otherwise possible, so a saving on overall costs was likely.

Election of Deanery Synod Members

No election was necessary since Hugh Mason and Sue Piper were willing to continue in these roles.

2. Election of PCC members

Rev Holland announced that Dave Howell, Paul Jenkins, and Scott Stanley were not seeking re-election to the PCC, and Mike Taylor's move to Church Warden meant that there were four vacancies on the PCC. Nominations had been received from Diana Carruthers, Cliff Golledge & Michael Piper. In the absence of further nominations, Rev Holland declared that these people were elected to serve on the PCC. This meant that there was still one vacancy on the PCC, and that it was hoped that a fourth person could be co-opted to serve at the first meeting of the new PCC. Cliff Golledge asked whether there were any implications about the PCC being one member short, but in reply Rev Holland said that this would not affect the legitimacy of the PCC since although there was technically still one vacancy, the PCC could still pass decisions providing that a quorum was achieved at each meeting. People cannot be forced to serve on the PCC unless they were willing to do so.

Rev Holland thanked the outgoing PCC for their work this year, in particular their role in guiding the Church towards its ongoing relationship with St Jude's.

3. Presentation of Accounts

The treasurer (Dave Howell) presented the accounts for the financial year ending 31st December 2014. He began by thanking the Waverley Trust and the Coffee Tavern Trust for their continued support over the year, which had paid the salary of the Church administrator, and also contributed to the salary of the Youth & Children's pastor's salary. The Coffee Tavern Trust had also paid for the Church Insurance, and made a loan for the refurbishment of 31, Gains Road prior to letting.

The treasurer then spoke in detail about the accounts. Some of the points he stressed were:

- Incoming resources were down slightly this year on last year, but there had been a welcome increase from Church Centre Lettings this year.
- Total resources expended was down slightly this year but overall there was still an operating deficit of approximately £4,000, which was predicted to increase in future years unless new sources of income were forthcoming.
- The Balance in the Development campaign fund was £24,802, but costs still to be met included the architect's fee (approx. £4,000) and the refurbishment of the Prayer Room (approx. £9,000)
- 10% of income from unrestricted giving is allocated to the Alms Fund. The total this year (£10,935) was up mainly due to the £5,000 income from the Roy Scott legacy.

After the presentation of the accounts Mick Walters asked whether it might be possible to achieve a simpler method of presenting the accounts in future years. In response Rev Holland said that this was being considered. Rev Holland and church warden Ruth Warner then thanked Dave Howell not only for his work this year, but for all he had achieved in his seven years as treasurer. In recognition of his work a collection had been made for him by the congregation, but the treasurer very generously expressed his wish that this money be donated to the Chernobyl Children's Campaign that the Church is hoping to support this year from some of the income received from rental of the Church minibus.

Rev Holland thanked Margaret Burke for acting as independent examiner of the Church accounts. He indicated that she was willing to continue to serve in this capacity. It was proposed by Hugh Mason, and seconded by Sue Piper that the Church accept Margaret Burke's offer to continue to serve in this role. This was carried unanimously.

4. Presentation of Annual Report 2014

Activities at St Simon's given by Ruth Warner (Church Warden)

Ruth Warner thanked all those who were involved in any capacity at St. Simon's, a church where the sentiment in Galatian 5 "Serve one another in love" was very evident. An overview of all activity within the Church identified many areas not specifically recorded in the official report, but all of which were so important. For example she thanked those involved with

- The making and updating of banners;
- Christmas tree and decorations;
- Running the Good News Coffee Morning & Library;
- Prayer ministry & rest home teams;
- Home group leaders;
- A/V in church services;
- Musicians;
- The Cradle Roll;
- Minibus maintenance and driving;
- Website manager;
- Distribution of The Source and service invitations in the parish;
- Fund raisers and organisers of events

Mick Walters (Church Administrator) felt that there was little more he could add to what Ruth had said. In conclusion Rev Holland endorsed Ruth Warner's sentiments, and he also thanked Mick Walter's for his continued efficiency in his role as Church Administrator.

Youth & Children's Work

given by Babette Shaw

A full and detailed report had been included in the written Annual Report. In presenting the report Babette emphasised the following points:

- A Thursday afternoon youth café and evening youth cell are now running in conjunction with St Jude's
- An all age communion service on the third Sunday of the month is now running in addition to the KISS service on the first Sunday of the month, both of which are designed to appeal to children and young families.
- Links with Mayville School have increased over the year particularly with the Infants.
- New initiatives to engage young people through the arts have included a newly formed Youth Theatre Group for ages 11-17, and a Youth band that meets on Monday evenings.

Sunday Suppers & Breakthru report

given by Lorna Sandilands

Lorna Sandilands (Community Development Worker) spoke about the continuing work of Breakthru and Sunday Suppers, emphasising how people attending had continued to benefit, and grown in trust through these activities. The Sunday Suppers ministry again has had the support from many different churches and individuals, as detailed in the written report. Sunday Suppers and Breakthru are at the heart of the ministry at St Simon's, and Lorna thanked all those who had helped her settle in so quickly to her new role.

Fabric & Development Work

This was presented by Pete Trowell & Jayne Holland. Gail Chiperfield and Dave Howell have stepped down from the fabric committee, that now consisted of Pete Trowell (chair), Pat Jolly, Gorik Melikian, Kenneth Slater & Mick Walters (secretary).

Jayne Holland spoke about the priorities for the immediate future. The following areas have been identified:

- Re-plastering and completion of the prayer room;
- Refurbishment of the worship area to include the replacement of the pews with chairs, the provision of underfloor ventilation, and the re-carpetting of the chancel area. A Faculty for this work was granted on 3rd February 2015 and is valid for one year.
- Repairs to the East and West windows
- Replacement of the flat roof over the Church lounge.

As the development fund only has just over £20 000 new sources of funding will be needed in the near future. It was asked whether the underfloor ventilation of the worship area was

essential, but is apparently needed to be in line with the latest building regulations. The Quinquennial Inspection of the buildings is due to take place later this year.

The future

Hugh Mason (Church Warden) outlined some of the procedures that would be followed after Rev Holland's departure in April, and the Church began the process of finding his successor. During the inter-regnum period he encouraged all members to remain faithful to St Simon's, as evidence suggested that the experience of some churches was that people tended to drift away during these periods. It was planned to hold a number of listening meetings where people can meet to share their visions about the future, thus helping to inform the wardens and PCC about the views of the congregation. Hugh Mason stated that Rev Bob Mason had kindly offered to assist during the period, and that we were very fortunate in being able to call upon his expertise. The inter-regnum is likely to last for approximately nine months, but may be longer according to how things go. During this period the PCC will meet more regularly than normal, probably once a month

St Jude's has responded favourably to the proposed Mission Partnership document submitted to them, and a small committee will meet with a similar number from St Jude's to discuss how the Mission Partnership should be established, now that this course of action has been decided.

AOB

As this was his last annual meeting as Vicar, Ruth Warner thanked Rev Matthew Holland for all that he had achieved through his ministry at St Simon's and for his vision in establishing ministries such as Breakthru.

There being no further business, the meeting closed with the Grace at 9.45 p.m.