

**MINUTES OF GREAT BRICKHILL ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING,**  
**HELD IN THE CHURCH ON TUESDAY 29th APRIL 2014 AT 7.30pm.**

**The Reverend John Waller took the chair.**

The Rector opened the meeting with prayer, and welcomed all those attending.

**PART I: THE ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING**

**ELECTION OF THE CHURCH WARDENS:**

The Rector explained that with the New Church Wardens' Measure in 2001, the maximum term of office for a Church Warden is 6 years without a break – an exemption is possible for this Rule if a motion is passed before the meeting commences. Dr. Agambar who has served for 9 years said that she is happy to continue as Warden. A motion was passed that there is an exemption to the Rules in order to allow Dr. Agambar to stand for a further year of office. This was agreed by all present.

The following nominations had been received prior to the Meeting:-

- Dr. Christine Agambar proposed by Mrs. Valerie Beardmore-Baldwin, seconded by Mrs. Phillipa Cook.
- Mrs. Valerie Beardmore-Baldwin proposed by Dr. Christine Agambar and seconded by Mr. Simon Bennett.

Dr. Agambar and Mrs. Beardmore-Baldwin were duly elected.

On behalf of all present the Rector thanked Dr. Agambar and Mrs. Beardmore-Baldwin for their work over the last twelve months as Wardens. The Rector said that he was grateful to Dr. Agambar and Mrs. Beardmore-Baldwin for standing to serve for the coming year.

**PART II: THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

**APOLOGIES** were received from 9 people:- Mr. Tim Amies, Mrs. Clare Amies, Mr. Simon Bennett, Mrs. Juliet Bennett, Mrs. Rosie Dawson, Mrs. Marion Ralph, Mrs. Margretta Smith, Mrs. Pauline Waller and Mrs. Joy Wilson.

An Attendance Sheet was circulated. A total of 25 parishioners were in attendance incl. seven PCC members.

**MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 24th APRIL 2012**

The Minutes of the previous Annual Meeting had been available in advance. The Minutes were approved and signed by the Rector as a true record (proposed by Sir David Duncombe and seconded by Dr. Christine Agambar).

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

None.

**ELECTIONS:**

**a). Two Deanery Synod Representatives and Nine Members of the PCC.**

The Rector informed the Meeting that in addition to himself, the Wardens and the Deanery Synod representatives, the number of PCC members allowed for the size of our Electoral Roll is 9. At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in 2004 provision was made for the annual appointment of representatives on the PCC. There is also facility for two people to be co-opted on to the PCC. At the first PCC Meeting after the Annual Meeting it has been the custom to co-opt Mr. Neil Cook, the Treasurer.

The Rector expressed his thanks to those who had served as PCC members during the last twelve months and to those who were willing to serve this coming year.

Details of all the Nominations, received prior to the meeting:-

<u>Name of Nominee:</u>	<u>Proposed By:</u>	<u>Seconded By:</u>
Clare Amies	Phillipa Cook	Christine Agambar
Simon Bennett	Joy Wilson	Christine Agambar
Phillipa Cook	Clare Amies	Christine Agambar
David Duncombe	Sarah Duncombe	Henry Duncombe
Angela Northen	James Northen	Valerie Beardmore-Baldwin
Margretta Smith	Andrew Smith	Phillipa Cook
Julia Turner	Betty Kinsey	James Northen
Joy Wilson	Simon Bennett	Jeremy Hopkinson

As the number of Nominations was eight there would not need to be an election. All eight people were duly elected to serve on the PCC.

The current Deanery Synod Representatives are Mrs. Clare Amies and Mrs. Valerie Beardmore-Baldwin. Their three-year term of office comes to an end and so there needs to be an election. The Rector thanked them for serving as our representatives.

Mr. Jeremy Hopkinson (who has served as Deanery Treasurer in recent years) was proposed by Mrs. Joy Wilson, seconded by Dr. Christine Agambar – he was duly elected. The remaining post was not filled.

#### **b). Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2015.**

The Treasurer said that Mr. David Beatty had acted as Independent Examiner for this year and was willing to continue. Proposed by Mrs. Valerie Beardmore-Baldwin and seconded by Mr. Jeremy Hopkinson, Mr. Beatty was duly appointed as Independent Examiner for 2015. The Treasurer recorded his thanks to Mr. Beatty.

#### **c). Sidesmen.**

The Rector gave the names of those who currently serve as Sidesmen:- Clare Amies, Tim Amies, Chris Baker, Juliet Bennett, Simon Bennett, Phillipa Cook, Betty Kinsey and Alan Poynter. The Rector thanked them for fulfilling the role of Sidesman saying that it is an important task to welcome visitors as they arrive. Following a proposal by Mr. Robin Dawson, seconded by Sir David Duncombe, all the Sidesmen on the above list were elected for the forthcoming year.

#### **REPORTS:**

The Rector said that the official reports appear in the written Annual Report and Accounts for the year to December 2013, copies of which had been available to read in advance of the meeting. Brief updates would be given and then any questions could be raised. The following verbal updates were presented to the Meeting.

#### **(a). Wardens including Fabric.**

Dr. Christine Agambar presented the Wardens' report:-

## **WARDENS' SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT FOR JANUARY - APRIL 2014**

The Church Report for 2013 is published in the papers already circulated for this meeting. We have been engaged in a full range of the activities mentioned in this report. We will not repeat what we have already reported but we are both happy to answer any questions that you have on this report.

As we are already through one third of the year 2014 Val and I thought that you would wish to hear about the Wardens' Activities during these most recent four months. There are three matters that we wish to raise:

### **1 "Thank you Coffee Morning"**

Val and the Rector hosted our second "Thank you Coffee Morning" on 22nd February 2014. As last year, we invited over 80 people in our Church Community who regularly serve the church in many ways as volunteers and friends. Over 60 people were free and able to join us to hear our thanks and to meet each other in fellowship – and a cake was cut! Our job as Wardens would be impossible without such support and we both consider ourselves truly blessed by the ever present and frequently, the unasked for help, from so many people. We would like to thank everyone.

### **2 Water leak in church**

Unless you spent this winter's months in the Maldives or the Caribbean it cannot have escaped your notice that January and February were the wettest and stormiest months since records began. Sadly, we have to report that a considerable amount of water leaked from the Tower roof into the church over this and the Christmas period. The water ran down the interior walls of the church by the pulpit and by the vestry screen and into the vestry down the wall by the table and the cupboard where the altar frontals are stored. The piano got wet because it was pushed up against the wall, but it dried out and appears to be unharmed (possibly because it has a steel frame which doesn't distort in damp conditions). The altar frontals in the hanging cupboard against the wall in the vestry were not damaged.

The problem occurs when a vast amount of rain falls in a short time together with a southerly or northerly wind. None of the downpipes were blocked and the lead is intact. The water, unable to get away through the downpipes, whipped up into waves on the roof, over lapped the top of the lead flashing.

We don't think that anything can be done to stop it - and the occurrence is rare. The problem has been reported to Bruce Deacon who will take particular notice of this problem when he undertakes the Quinquennial Inspection of the church, which is scheduled for the 1 May 2014 and will advise us on any remedial action.

### **3 Organ tuning and maintenance contract**

Following the withdrawal of Tickells from holding the contract to tune the organ we were asked by the PCC to approach Midland Organ to take on a contract with us. After discussions with Christopher Gray, he advised that we have a Tuning **AND** Maintenance agreement. This means that he will undertake regular maintenance and tuning of the organ twice a year and make minor repairs, as necessary. He will also give us timely advice of incipient major problems. We agreed that March and October were good times of the year for this work. Christopher Gray considers that he should be able to keep our organ in a good state for a number of years until we have the funds for a major restoration project. He also provided us with a list of charities who support the repair and renewal of church pipe organ of historical interest. He is confident that matched funding grants will be available. On researching these charities it has become clear that we need to engage in a new area of activity in order to fulfil the criteria of many of these charities. In short we need to introduce an educational programme to encourage interest and awareness of our heritage organ especially with children and young adults. We are blessed with a number of music teachers and instrument players within our church community and I have approach them to ask for help and ideas to introduce an education programme that will find favour with, and support by, the organ charities.

## **4           Quinquennial**

Bruce Deacon has agreed to carry out our Quinquennial on 1 May 2014. His charges are £625 and have been included in the accounts for 2013.

### **(b). Treasurer Including Adoption of Accounts.**

Copies of the Annual Report had been distributed in advance of the Meeting. The Treasurer, Mr. Neil Cook, presented the Accounts and referred to the “Review of the Accounts” section in the Annual Report.

In February the PCC received a bequest, the sum of £10,000 from Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Willett (nee Jackman) who died in April last year. She was married and baptized in Great Brickhill Church, as was her father and mother. The PCC has not as yet made any decision on how best we should use this most unexpected and generous gift. There are no restrictions as to the use of the money.

The Rector recorded his thanks for all of people’s commitment in giving, Gift Aid, collections, fundraising etc. – this is never taken for granted and we should give thanks to God and to those who have donated in any way in order that we are able to look after our church

Adoption of the Annual Report and Accounts was proposed by Mr. Jeremy Hopkinson and seconded by Mrs. Julia Turner. All were in favour of the adoption of the report.

The Rector thanked the Treasurer for his continuing work as Treasurer.

### **(c). Deanery Synod.**

Mr. Jeremy Hopkinson referred to the Deanery Synod section in the Annual Report. At present there is no Deanery Secretary and the current Area Dean has moved away. There are only two fully paid incumbents, out of the five posts. There should be an appointment in Wing in July, leaving two posts still to be filled.

### **(d). Electoral Roll.**

Mr. Jeremy Hopkinson referred to the Electoral Roll section in the Annual Report. Since the start of the year one person had moved away and so there are currently 50 on the Electoral Roll.

### **(e). High Ash School.**

Mrs. Juliet Bennett had written the item included in the Annual Report.

The Rector highlighted the vacancy that exists for a third Foundation Governor and asked anyone who might be interested in finding out more about the role and responsibilities to contact him for details.

The Rector outlined a possible new initiative at the school “Open the Book”, a three year scheme which has a national support structure. It requires a team of people to be available during term time to help at assemblies, using a selection of bible stories. Bow Brickhill School are interested in joining in – training sessions will be offered if there are enough people interested.

### **(f). St. Mary’s 2000.**

The Rector referred to the item at the end of the Annual Report stating the current position with regard to the project. Advice is being sought through the Diocese and Charities Commission as how to manage the existing funds. There is nothing else to add to this.

A long statement was read by both Miss Kay Seaman and Mr. Robin Dawson who had both resigned from the PCC as they do not approve of the new plans. A long discussion took place and several people said that somehow the situation has to be resolved.

The Rector said that this is clearly a difficult time, with a huge range of views to consider. Dr Christine Agambar said that we have to find out what the authorities will allow us to do and look for a way forward that the majority will sign up to. Following this meeting the PCC will discuss everything that has been said and try and make progress.

**(g). Bells.**

The Rector thanked Mr. David Middleton, the Tower Captain, and the band of ringers for their support throughout the year.

**(h). Music and Choir.**

Mrs. Juliet Bennett had written the item in the Annual Report. She had sent the following update:

For 2014 we have a timetable agreed for January - June and there is one concert at Great Brickhill on Sunday 15th June as part of the service. For July to December we are looking to have all service details until end December in time to publish the second part of the timetable before July. We are also looking to have the confirmed list of 2014 wedding details a.s.a.p. in order to get the dates in diaries and be able to confidently say we can support a wedding service.

The Rector thanked the organists, Jerry Breslin, Juliet Bennett and the members of the Benefice Choir for their commitment to the large number of services and concerts.

**(i). Youth Café.**

Mrs. Clare Amies gave the following report on the Youth Café:-

“This year has been one of consolidation as well as change. In May last year a new cafe opened in Wavendon Gate School managed by our girl worker Lizi Sweetnam. This is funded by Walton Parish Council who had been unsuccessful over a number of years to engage young people in their community. After a slow but steady start the numbers are now at a regular 20-25. Great Brickhill cafe continues with around 25-30 young people and they are looking forward to the summer and being outside. Great Brickhill parish council continues to fund this work with some funding from the Parish councils in Little Brickhill and Stoke Hammond. Marco continues to explore new opportunities to open cafes in Milton Keynes and also works with his own church with young people. A small cell group continues to meet once a week in Ruth and Simon Irwin’s home with some of the older members of the cafe

Marco was involved with some of the young people from Great Brickhill, in a mission event in Milton Keynes last October called Hope MK. They ran a youth cafe in the city centre for four days with around 30-40 young people invited off the streets. It was a huge success and altogether youth from 20 churches across the city ran different outreach events that week. The highlight for the Cafe team was a challenge in Newport Pagnell that resulted in the gift of a £1900 wedding dress being donated to the young people which was worn at the marriage of a man who has since died and which had to be arranged within a few days. Milton Keynes are now planning another Hope MK event this year.

Marco has decided that he wants now to set up his own charity to continue this work and from July, will cease to be drawing funds from the church.

Marco and Lizi and those of us on the original team are very grateful for all the help and support the church has given to this work over the past two years to enable it to become established. Neil, particularly, has given a great deal of time and help to Marco in the early stages helping him to set up his self employed business as well as ongoing with the monies coming in and going out of the fund held by the church. I hope we shall continue to occasionally have feedback from Marco with how his work is developing.

**(j). Drop-In, Thursday Group etc.**

Mrs. Betty Kinsey gave the following update for January to April on these various activities:-

No Wednesday midweek Holy Communion services have been held this year. They will re-start if there is sufficient interest shown.

The Thursday Group held its New Year Lunch in January and from then fortnightly Thursday Group sessions have been held at Janet Simpson’s home. There is no programme of talks but it is a chance to meet up for a cup of tea and a chat. There was a break during Lent and the Thursday

Group will re-convene on 8th May.

There were two Lent courses held in Great Brickhill:

- Wednesday evenings, "The Bible Course", a talk via a DVD followed by discussion. This has proved to be very popular with around 15 people attending each week.
- Thursday afternoons in either the Lady Chapel or the New Room at the Parish Hall - a series of talks by the Rector, "Faith and Experience", followed by refreshments and discussion.

**(k). The Benefice Website, Pew Sheet etc.**

Mrs. Phillipa Cook reported that, as mentioned in the Annual Report, the number of "hits" on the website continues to grow. The website is the easiest tool to get information out to people.

Information is circulated on a weekly basis through the Pew Sheet and more widely to the village through the monthly Parish Newsletter, and so there is plenty of opportunity for everyone to receive details of all services and events

**(l). The Rector.**

The Rector gave the following report:-

Personal Thanks:- I have probably said similar before but it is important to say it again now, I remain very grateful for all the understanding and support we receive in relation to Pauline's situation, for people's understanding of its impact on me, and all the help and support Pauline has, and people's efforts to include her in church/village life and events.

Clergy/Ministry:- Following conversations with Bishop Alan, in late 2012 / early 2013, he and the Archdeacon encouraged a NSM priest to come and work in the benefice. Having had discussions they decided not to make the move. There is no other possibility as yet of anyone else – the Wardens try to remind the Bishop / Archdeacon when they can.

Service Pattern:- A new pattern of Sunday Services in the benefice started in March. The aim is to review it at the end of the year.

PCC Agendas/Priority for Mission:- A new style of Agenda has been used across the benefice – I believe it has been helpful (if challenging) and is worth continuing for now.

The Rector concluded by reading a statement with regard to an incident that had happened in the Ringing Room in 2010:-

"There was an accident in the Ringing Room in August 2010 whilst a lady was having a bell ringing lesson. Some injuries were caused and the lady submitted a claim to Ecclesiastical Insurers.

Last October we were informed that the solicitors acting on behalf of the claimant have served court proceedings. Plexus Law have been instructed by Ecclesiastical to refute the allegations on our behalf. The Defence Statement was served in January and all papers including witness statements have now been exchanged.

It is expected that the matter is one that will be defended to Trial, although it is still the hope that the defendants may choose not to progress with the claim. If the court proceedings go ahead then any hearing will be within the next few months.

As the matter is sub judice we do not intend to elaborate or comment any further".

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

There were no matters raised.

The Reverend John Waller thanked everyone for attending and the meeting concluded with Compline (a short said service of evening prayer) at 9.05pm.