

***ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH,
DUCKLINGTON.***

ANNUAL REPORT for 2014 – 15



Annual Church Wardens Vestry Meeting, Thursday 26 March 2015 in the Village Hall

Wine and cheese will be served from 7:15pm; the meeting will start promptly at 7:40pm

Agenda

- 1) Prayers
- 2) Apologies
- 3) Minutes of the meeting of 3 April 2014
- 4) Election of the Church Wardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Thursday 26 March 2015 in the Village Hall – starts immediately after the Vestry Meeting

Agenda

- 1) Minutes of the AGM of 3 April 2014
- 2) Matters Arising from the minutes
- 3) Secretary's Report
- 4) Reports (see booklet)
 - Church Wardens
 - Treasurer including adoption of accounts
 - Deanery Synod
 - Other Reports
- 5) Appointment of the Auditor for 2015/16
- 6) Election of PCC Members
- 7) Church Opening
- 8) Update on appointment of Rector
- 9) Any Other Business
- 10) Closing Prayers

The first meeting of the new PCC will take place immediately following the annual meeting with the purpose of electing the treasurer and secretary.

A note from the Rectory

It has been my custom, for the last sixteen years, to go into our lovely church on a Saturday evening to ensure that all is ready for Sunday, including me! I usually spend some time kneeling at the altar and often find myself looking up at the list of rectors, each one named alongside the date of their arrival.

I have become quite familiar with that list and with the significant number of my predecessors who have remained in post for over a quarter of a century, some for over 40 years! One can understand why: Ducklington is a lovely place to live and to worship. I have sometimes wondered what the starting date will be for the next name, after mine, on the list. I now know and also I appreciate even more clearly the difficulty that my predecessors have had in moving on!

All this is a reminder that we are simply the current custodians of this place. It is a truth which is reinforced for me as I reflect upon the wonderful people who have served God in St Bartholomew's during the last 16 years and have now passed into His closer presence.

And this booklet provides confirmation that this is continuing and I do thank God for all those whose faithful service to Him and to this community is reflected in these pages. There is so much here to inspire and encourage us all during the next few months of transition and I do wish to thank everyone for the energy, love and care which is so evident in the service which you give.

While it is invidious to highlight individuals, I would like to mention two 'team leaders', Meg Roberts and Roger Barnes. Meg's dedicated and sensitive leadership of the pastoral team is special, while Roger continues to make a massive contribution to maintaining and developing the church building - in addition to spearheading the notable advances among the expanding band of bell ringers.

During the interregnum, the key leaders of the church community will be the wardens and in Edmund, Gill and Peter, the church is greatly blessed. Rachael as PCC secretary and Jane as treasurer / administrator complete a great core team whose support and friendship I greatly value and who, I am certain, will continue to serve the church well.

But they know, and we all know, that it is the dozens of people who take on the less conspicuous roles in the church who make such a big difference; maintaining the church fabric, cleaning, visiting, offering lifts, joining June's wonderful coffee rota, supporting baptisms, weddings and funerals, decorating the church for festivals – the list is almost endless as this booklet illustrates. So, thank you to each and every member of our church community for your unique and valued contribution to the whole.

Bob Edy

Music

We are greatly blessed in the music Sunday by Sunday and in the musicians whose talents we enjoy. Paul Herrington's leadership of the music is inspirational, not least in the quality of the output from the Singing Group which has flourished under his benevolent 'baton'. While the Christmas services were an undoubted highpoint, contributions from the group throughout the year have been much appreciated. The Sunday evening congregation values the commitment of Ruth Almgill to that service while Harriet Warner, Pauline Parkman and Amanda Bennett complete a quintet of very special keyboard players, for whom we are very grateful. Bob Edy

PCC Secretary's Report

Well, made it through my second year as PCC Secretary, where did the year go?! Another busy year for the PCC with 6 meetings held in 2014/15 which have taken place at Edmund's farm come rain or shine. So what have we been doing apart from drinking tea and biscuits - which we do rather well. This year we have tried to focus on making our Church building fit for 2015 and getting things in line with what other Churches are doing. This has seen the formal appointment of a Health and Safety Officer to ensure the continued well-being of everyone who is welcomed into the Church. We have formalised policies and ways of working.

There have been some significant changes, in the Church, hopefully they will be viewed as improvements, including the use of the South Aisle and the Children's area in particular. We now can also look forward to the opening of the Church in the Spring. Thanks to the Fabric Group for driving this project forward.

Finally, it wouldn't be right to finish this article without mentioning our fantastic rector and his wife. We will all miss them dreadfully but wish them the very best in their very exciting time ahead. Rachael Levermore

Wardens' Report 2015

We were very pleased that Peter was able to continue as Emeritus Warden; his willing help, advice and experience have been a great asset over the last year.

The services during the year have been well attended, stimulated by our ministry team's thought provoking sermons and enhanced by excellent guest preachers; our grateful thanks to all of them. We are lucky to have so many helpers at our church; we will not list them in case we were to miss someone. Please take this as a personal thanks to you all for all the time and help you give to your church.

The Fabric Group, with Chairman Roger Barnes, has been a great help to the Wardens with their fabric duties. There is a more detailed account of the fabric in Roger's report. The work to the children's corner has made it a friendlier, comfortable retreat for the young people.

We are working towards opening the church during the day hopefully starting in the spring. Gill Long and Edmund Strainge

Wardens Report - Fabric Committee

The Fabric Committee met eight times during 2014 and much of the discussion centred on the work required to prepare the church for the proposed daytime opening in 2015. Tasks completed by the Fabric Committee during the year included: Repairs to plaster and lime-washing where required, installation of a CCTV system in the north porch, reordering the children's corner, new notice boards, and provision of storage chests in the south aisle.

Tasks currently on-going include: Proposals to replace the internal north porch door with a glazed and draught-proof alternative, a lockable cupboard in the priest's door in the chancel, a minimal lighting circuit for the interior of the church operated by wireless sensors, and proposals to utilise "the crypt" as a storage area.

We are thankful to volunteers who give their time to carry out minor repairs and inspections, thus saving the church money and helping to keep the fabric in good condition.

Roger Barnes

Treasurer's Report for 2014

During 2012 and 2013, the income recorded in the annual accounts rose considerably, reflecting the fundraising and generous giving linked to the West End development. The latest accounts show that in 2014 the total giving returned to approximately the 2011 level.

However, unfortunately, expenditure has continued to increase and so, for the first time in many years, we struggled to meet our payments towards the end of 2014, only managing to do so on the basis of accrual of gift aid income due from the tax authorities (which was received in 2015). Effectively we suffered an overall "loss" for the year of just over £1,300.

I would encourage everyone to consider increasing their weekly or monthly giving or to start a regular contribution if they can. Money is not the main focus of St Bartholomew's but we have to recognise that we need it – thank you to all of you who do contribute no matter how little. Every penny counts and is gratefully received. Please see me if you would like to know more. Jane Dines, Treasurer

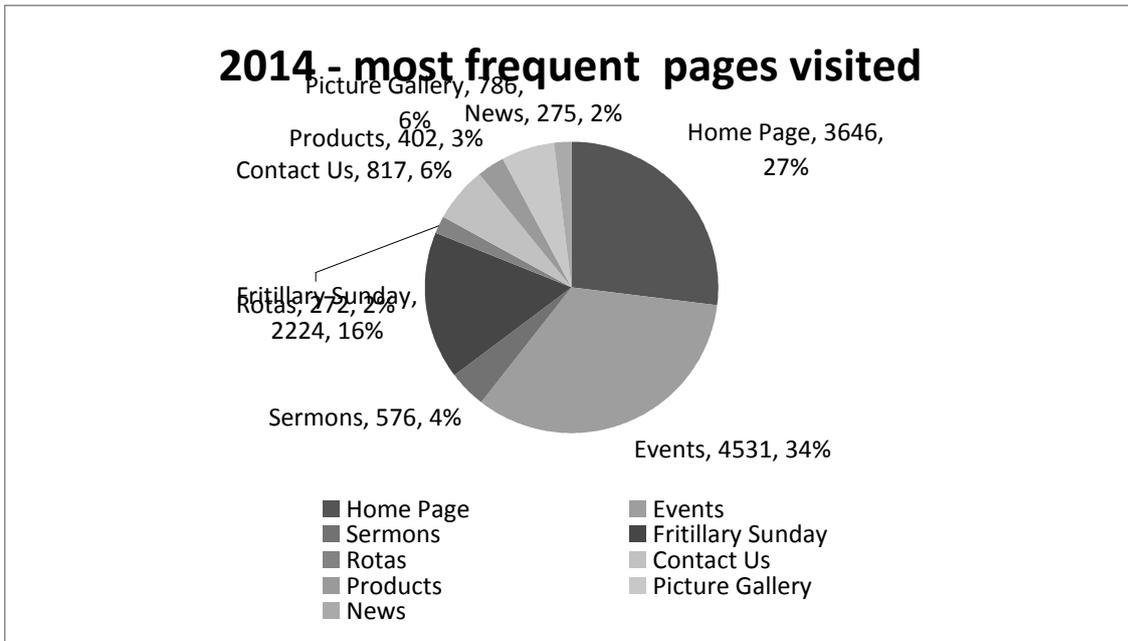
Services

During 2014 there were 9 weddings, 26 baptisms and 17 funerals in church. As usual, the numbers attending Sunday morning services fluctuated with the seasons with the number of communicants ranging between just over 100 to the low 70's and averaging about 80. Attendance on the first Sunday of the month was similar overall, but split between the two services.

In addition to the valued contributions from the lay-ministers, Ruth, Dave and Ian, inputs from Mary Carney and Pam Smith have been greatly appreciated as have the welcome, occasional return visits from Canon David Winter. Bob Edy

St Bartholomew's Web Site and Facebook page

During the year there were 6,901 visits to the website; a 7% decrease from 2013. Of these visits, 64.93% were first time visits to the site. 2,420 (35%) were returning visits which is encouraging as it suggests that those people have found it helpful and of interest. The highest months for visits were March to May.



The chart shows the most popular pages on the site during the year.

During the year, new sections/pages have been added to the website such as the Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals which aims to give an initial guide for those type of services. The Wayfinders Group section has also been added which has a private log-in area for the teenagers who have subscribed to it.

The aim for the site is to always be up to date (otherwise there is not much point!) to provide guidance and information and to provide a service for those who cannot make it to church. For example, we have the Sermons page so that you can listen again or for the first time. During Lent or Christmas we also produce specific pages so that there is one reference point of reference to the events/services taking place. If you have any suggestions for additions to the website do please let me know.

The weekly (electronic) newsletter, introduced last year, is sent out to about 50 users each week. The newsletter gives a further reminder of events taking place, not only at St Bartholomew's, but in the Diocese and further afield where applicable. If you want to received regular updates on events and other items then do subscribe to automatically receive emails by visiting www.ducklingtonchurch.org.uk

Facebook

Our Facebook page "likes" grew slowly at the start of the year, but had increased by 40% to 106 by the end of December. These are the number of people who have specifically liked the page and this means that they see anything posted by us on their own Facebook page. The post can then be seen by their own friends. If they also share the post or "like" it, then all their friends will be notified of that too.

These are still small numbers but I am encouraged by the steady increase and the way we can reach those "outside" of St Bartholomew's; another strand of outreach. The most popular post during the year was one about Christingle which was seen by 667 people; a post about Fritillary Sunday reached 545 people. This was closely followed in November by one about Remembrance Sunday (484 people) and the craft morning in church - 451 people.

If you use Facebook, do remember to take a look at our page which often links back to the website to try and drive traffic there, or tries to engage others in what St Bartholomew's is all about.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/St-Bartholomews-Church-Ducklington/> Jane Dines

Witney Deanery Synod

Witney Deanery Synod met twice in 2014. The June meeting agreed that the deanery should have three particular foci of activity: Developing a vision mission and action plan for the deanery which should spring from parish VMAPs, Mens ministry, and Schools ministry. The meeting also elected Synod Officers and Standing Committee members. The Treasurer reported that, having reached the 50% June target for the deanery share, we would receive a 1% rebate.

The November meeting heard reports on General Synod meetings and on the Oxford diocese link with Vaxjo diocese in Sweden. There were reports on Schools ministry and the VMAP process. The Treasurer reported that we would have to raise about £20,000 in the next six days to qualify for the rebate (about £16,000), and that the deanery share would increase by over 4% in 2015. (The £20,000 was in fact raised and the rebate secured; our Ducklington parish share for 2015 has been slightly reduced).

John Pearson

Tower Ringing 2014

In January the ringers held their annual dinner at The Strickland Arms which was well attended by ringers and their partners, with Bob and Ruth as our guests. On the first Sunday of each month we usually attempt a Quarter Peal, which is about 45 minutes of continuous ringing, before the evening Communion Service. Out of 10 attempts, 5 were successful. In July we held our annual outing, this year ringing at Windrush, Sherbourne, Great Rissington and Asthall, with an enjoyable lunch at The Merry-mouth at Fifield.

It was a very successful year for recruitment and we welcome four new ringers: Pauline, Dave, Sarah and Hazel. All are making excellent progress, and a lot of extra daytime practices, often on a one-to-one basis, have been added to our ringing schedule. These are proving very effective in training new ringers in quite a short time-scale. A very successful year.

Roger Barnes

Pastoral Team

This group of eleven church members led by Meg Roberts endeavours to get to know as many church attenders as possible and offer a friendly and confidential ear for those with any sort of illness or worry, as well as occasional practical assistance during illness or infirmity, including transport to church or to medical appointments. We send cards to those who are unwell, and to those bereaved, and to the families of people whose funerals are held in the church; the latter also receive a card on the first anniversary. Much of this work depends on church members sharing, with permission, the news of any illness etc. with a member of the team. All confidences are strictly respected. Please speak to Meg Roberts or Rev'd Bob Edy if you are interested in any aspect of this work. I am very grateful for those who provide transport to church on a regular basis, and to those who have been most helpful with hospital transport and befriending over the past year.

Meg Roberts

Sunday morning activity group and events for children

We are indebted to the individuals who lead the children's activity each week - Angela, 'Liz, Celia, Julie and Ruth - and those who help them. We have settled into a pattern of bringing all the children back for communion each Sunday and that seems to work well for families. As teaching material, we use the *Roots* magazine and online resources, although leaders often use their own ideas as well.

The 'review' meeting in June each year is a chance to consider how well we are meeting the needs of church families. Those taking responsibility for the children, are continually trying to make the best use of the space we have at our disposal. During the year we have changed the venue for the crèche so that they have the whole of the downstairs of the village hall as some toddlers wanted a 'small quiet area' while others needed a bigger space. This is not without its problems with more exits to 'man'! Those of primary school age have been meeting in the upstairs room of the village hall (unless they are cooking in the kitchen!) which works quite well but means the Wayfinder group (who now meet monthly) have to walk to the Rectory for their sessions!

Other activities which families have enjoyed during the year are the all-age services, the summer picnic at Cokethorpe, the crib service, the Christingle service and the Saturday craft morning at the beginning of Advent, [also Fritillary Sunday, the bluebell wood walk, the Big Lunch and Greenbelt!] The refurbishment of the Children's Corner is an indication of how much the children are valued by most of the church congregation.

Many thanks to everyone who has taken responsibility for the children's well-being during the year – it is appreciated!
Ruth Edy

Creche

The crèche is a busy place on most Sundays and the skill, patience and dedication of those, who support the parents and meet the needs of each individual child so very effectively, is a wonderful gift to the church community as a whole. The four identified crèche leaders are Pippa, Rhoda, Laura and Karen while Charlotte, Catherine, Deborah, Harriet, Craig, Malcolm, Dan, John, Katharine and Chloe are involved regularly – as well as parents of children who need Mum or Dad to stick around for a while! Thank you all, very much.
Bob Edy

Wayfinders

Our small, but very special, group of teenagers have developed a programme of monthly meetings on the third Sunday morning, facilitated by John Phipps and Martin Dines, alongside occasional social events organized by Emma Dines. Our thanks to these three, and also to the Wayfinders themselves, several of whom are involved in other ways – sound system, working with younger children, etc. Bob Edy

Ladies' Away Day

In 2014 the AwayDay was at Denman College in Marcham with 25 ladies from the congregation. We very much appreciated the reflection from Sarah Varnom, Ruth Almgill's cello playing and Angela's thoughtful provision of craft activities. As well as having a room for our exclusive use in the college, we also had access to Marcham parish church which is next to the college. Ruth Edy

Friday prayers at the Rectory

A small number have continued to meet monthly for intercessions for our church, our village, and the wider community. Ruth Edy

Events Committee

As the new chair of the events committee I have been asked by Bob Edy to update the parishioners on the events planned for 2015.

Fritillary Sunday will be held on Sunday 19th April. The field will be open from 11.30am until 5pm. At the field we hope to have experts from Historic Meadows and the Lower Windrush Valley project to answer questions about Fritillaries and the field. We also hope to have representatives from Berks, Bucks and Oxfordshire Wildlife trust (BBOWT). In the church we hope that the Easter Experience displays will still be on view. The tower will be open and the Bellringers will talk about their roles. The Ducklington Handbell ringers and 'Handy Voices' will also be performing. Fairtrade and Christian Aid will be showing their wares. Outside, there will be performances from the Morris Dancers and Craig Warner will give a presentation and will be encouraging parishioners to join his volunteer group who clear ditches and care for the village environment. Adventure Plus will be bringing a Climbing wall for young and old to try. In the village Hall we will be selling Ploughman's lunches, teas and cakes. There will be plants on sale as well as Ducklington mementos.

Edmund Strainge will be hosting his annual Bluebell walk on 3rd and 4th May. Later in the year, the Horticultural show will be on 31st August and then comes the Harvest Supper!

More information about Easter, and the Away Days can be obtained from the church website. Glyn Rees

Julian Group Meetings

This year eight of us have met at June's house, to continue to grow in the practice of contemplative, silent prayer in the Christian tradition. We have followed learning about Julian of Norwich, her life and ways of giving God time and complete awareness and attention. Not asking for anything just attention and listening to what God wants. We had a reading first, 30 minutes of silence, then a cuppa and time together. Barbara Farrar

Cradle Roll

Children Baptised at our church receive two cards a year, one on the Anniversary of their Baptism and one on their Birthday for four years. On these occasions the family receive a copy of the latest Church Newsletter. For many years now, Ruth Bushnell has helped to distribute these around Ducklington. Unfortunately, Ruth is unable to continue. I would like to say a big thank you to Ruth, as I am sure everyone else would to.

Thank you, also, to Margaret Warner, who has helped with cards around Witney.

Barbara Farrar

Flower Report

This last year seems to have flown by and we are still the same group of volunteers arranging the flowers on a rota each week, it is great fun and very rewarding. We would like a few more to join us if you have the time, as I said last year no qualifications are needed, just a love of flowers! It would also be great to have a few extra to help decorate the church for Easter, Harvest and Christmas.

We have several weddings booked for the coming months which are a challenge as we never know until the flowers arrive from the Bride what we will have to work with. We hope you all enjoy the flower arrangements in the coming year. Jane Nichols

Christian Aid Report

We had another very good response to our House to House collection in Ducklington in 2014, raising £1,057 thanks to a group of 20 collectors, to whom I am very grateful. Paul Langley now leads the Witney committee of representatives from 10 churches. Christian Aid Week 2015 is from 10th to 16th May. More collectors are always welcome, including any who live in Witney who would be willing to distribute and collect envelopes in a street near their home which is not covered. Please speak to Meg Roberts if you would like more information about this very worthwhile work, and please respond as generously as you are able. The government will add approximately 25% to a Tax- payer's contributions to charities if they fill in the Gift Aid form on their envelope, so please consider spending that extra minute when filling your envelope.

Meg Roberts

Witney Area Fair Trade Action Group

This group continues to maintain awareness of the importance of Fair Trade in this area. We had a scaled down half-day event at the High Street Methodist Church Witney last year, which was still quite a success, and this year plan to extend it to the whole day (February 28th), with a mini-market of Fair Trade goods and information, and entertainment once again by the Songscope Children's Choir. Thank you to our supporters, and if you would like more information speak to Meg Roberts. Volunteers who would like to get involved with the group are always welcome.

We are a Fair Trade Church, and have pledged that all the tea, coffee and sugar we use at church events (and anything else that is appropriate) should be Fair Trade if possible.

Meg Roberts

Friends of St. Bartholomew's

The concept of churches having 'Friends' organisations, is no doubt a very old one. When it was first mooted that we have one for St. Bartholomew's, the diocese was asked for advice and the main item which came from them was that any income had to be to support the church building and not the general running costs of the church. This advice was taken on board and no doubt a number of our church projects have since been assisted with this income - which does not have any ties, questions or doubts as to whether it should, or could, have been better used elsewhere.

Looking on the web, for the first time, at the Friends' organisations of some other churches it is obvious that ours is very low key in comparison. We do not have a committee as such, a constitution, meetings or AGM's. Our objectives are very simply set out on the membership application form 'to enable the Church to keep in touch with families and individuals, some who might have left the area, and to inform them of events and services and to enable those same families and individuals to keep in touch with St. Bartholomews. We have endeavoured to meet those objectives with a twice yearly Newsletter - which I gather is appreciated, particularly by those living away from Ducklington - and an occasional 'Cheese and Wine' evening. The subscription has remained at a quite modest amount of £12 since inception and no obligations at all are placed on members.

Whilst the Newsletter was intended for people who do not, or are unable to, attend St. Bartholomew's regularly, a number of our congregation have signed on the dotted line and their membership is appreciated. Also very much appreciated are those who so willingly let me twist their arm to submit interesting articles to the Newsletter, and others who help in its distribution.

Maurice Spalding

Ladies Reading Group

The library has selected a variety of books for us which were sometimes outside our comfort zone. We have read a psychological thriller, a zany book about literary characters being kidnapped and a memoir of an English graduate who establishes a book club whilst fighting for the British Army in Iraq and Afghanistan.

We quite enjoyed the two science fiction novels. Fahrenheit 451 (Ray Bradbury) imagines a futuristic society where books are banned, whereas The Chrysalids (John Wyndham) is set post-apocalypse where the society requires a perfect race, so anyone with even small imperfections is killed or banished to "The Fringes".

We also empathised with people caught up in conflict in Africa. Tears of the Desert is a true account of a clever village girl in Sudan who overcomes obstacles to become a doctor. She was targeted for treating any patient, regardless of their race and political persuasion, and had to flee to England. Half of a Yellow Sun provided another informative read as it is set during the 1960s in Nigeria during the civil war. We are all agreed that our latest book, a biography of Brian Clough, is a step too far and we are reverting to listing our own preferences from the libraries catalogue for future reading.

Thanks to Ruth Edy for hostessing our evenings and apologies to Bob for making him retire to his study! Alison Souster provides a sterling service getting and returning the books and liaising with the library.

Rosemary Bold

Mothers' Union

The group continue to meet every month and hosted the Deanery Festival, welcoming members from groups in West Oxfordshire. Many found the church attractive and interesting. Visitors to the group included a representative from Helen and Douglas House hospice speaking on counselling.

The group visited Kidlington Church for Eucharist and to hear Rachel Aston from London speak about her work and travel for the MU regarding violence against women and children. Members – encouraged by Bette - continue to knit blankets. Some have gone to Uganda and its representative (a nurse) will be with us soon.

Thanks go to the few ladies who host our meetings – and provide very good coffee!
Brenda Cook

Ducklington Primary School

Foundation Governor Report – Ducklington Church of England Primary School

The last year in school has been brilliant with a whole host of events punctuating the children's learning and development. There has been an Easter assembly in St. Bartholomew's, a May Dance and also, as a part of the schools 'Healthy Living Week' the Family Sports Day which was very much enjoyed by all who went and especially those who took part.

The school topic of WWII provided a chance for a visit to the 'Steam' museum in Swindon, the visit of a former Land Girl Joan Clifford to talk to the children and a popular V.E. Style Street Party. Other excitement was created by the visit of musicians from the Welsh National Opera providing a singing workshop and then the chance for some children to perform what they had learnt with members of the WNO in the New Theatre.

There was a SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report) inspection for which the school was given 'Good', with the report highlighting many strengths of the school.

Christmas highlights were the Ducklings Forest School Nativity and the Key Stage 1 'Grumpy Sheep' performances which were wonderful. Key Stage 2 had a brilliant World Themed carol service.

This calendar year has started well with a Foundation and Key Stage 1 visit to the Story Museum and each class for their current topic class has chosen a Country of the World with amazing displays developing around the school.

The continued strong emphasis on excellent teaching and good behaviour makes the school a brilliant place to be a student, a teacher or if you are fortunate, a Governor.
Henry Cooke

Minutes of the Annual Meeting held in the Village Hall on 3 April 2014

Present: Rev'd R Edy (Chairman), R Levermore (Secretary) Mrs J Dines (Treasurer) and 33 church members

Apologies were received from 11 church members

The meeting was opened in prayer by the Chairman (Books of Proverbs) and prayers

Annual Church Wardens Vestry Meeting

01/14 Minutes of the 2013 AGM Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 April 2013 (see Annual Report Booklet Page 14) were approved as a correct record proposed by A Walsh and seconded by B Farrar.

02/14 Proposal of the election of Church Wardens

B Edy explained the proposal put forward by the PCC to rescind the previous decision, (made in 2007 and implemented in 2008) of electing Church Wardens for a maximum of 6 years. M Spalding asked how long the Church Wardens would be in post, B Edy explained that they would come up for re-election every 12 months. P Levermore noted that this was recommended by the Bishop and asked what has changed since the decision was made in 2007. B Edy noted that the Bishop and some members of the congregation would have preferred that both Church Wardens did not stand down together. D Adams noted that the decision should not be rescinded but rather that it could be deferred in the event that both Church Wardens stood down at the same time. R Bold suggested that we could extend it to seven years. B Edy noted that as there were so many suggestions we should consider the original proposal to rescind the decision and vote on it. This was proposed by J Pearson and seconded by M Spalding. Those in favour – 25 and Against – 6.

03/14 Election of two Church Wardens

P Nichols will stand down as Church Warden and was heartedly thanked for all his hard work.

Three nominations for Church Wardens were received for G Rees, E Strainge and G Long. Those present voted on the election for two Church Wardens and E Strainge and G Long were elected. B Edy noted that their official start date would be 6 May after being sworn in by the Bishop.

Close of the meeting.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

04/14 2013 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 April 2013 were approved as an accurate record with one exception - P Hamilton's name was missing as being elected to the PCC. The minutes were proposed by P Hamilton and R Barnes.

Action: R Levermore will make the changes to the 2013 minutes

05/14 Baptisms

B Edy highlighted the request on Page 15 for Church members to stay after the main service for Baptisms. He encouraged the congregation to stay on for one baptism a year and anyone that is interested should speak to S Temple who will offer you a role for greeting the Baptism party.

06/14 Secretary Report

R Levermore noted that there was nothing further to add to the report already submitted other than to thank J Pearson for his support whilst she got used to the new role as PCC Secretary. The report also asked if those present wanted to know how many meetings the PCC members attended and it was widely agreed that this was a good idea. This was voted on with 14 for 6 against. R Levermore confirmed that she will provide this information for next year's meeting.

07/14 Church Wardens Report

E Strainge thanked everyone for their support and electing him again. B Edy thanked E Strainge and P Nichols for their hard work. B Edy expressed thanks on behalf of everyone for P Nichols.

08/14 Treasurer's Report

J Dines noted that reserves had fallen in 2013 due to West End project. Overall, giving receipts have fallen but Friends of Ducklington giving has increased by 6%. J Dines thanked M Spalding for his efforts in this area. J Dines reported that all fundraising events did well last year and that the Gift Aid Scheme is vitally important to the Church. It was noted that the Church responded to appeals as they come up and also supported Christian Aid Week as well as other causes with non-financial support such as the Porch Group in Oxford. It was noted that the Mother's Union also raised funds for good causes. J Dines confirmed that the funds given to other causes could only come from the unrestricted funds. In the past the Church has given 10% of its income to other causes but this was stopped as some members wanted their donations to go directly to the Church. B Edy noted that the PCC has been looking to focus on one outreach cause per year which will be done on an informed way with the congregation being able to make the decision about which cause to support. L Chapman wanted to express her strong feelings in favour of projects that were working with persecuted Christians overseas.

B Edy advised those present that if they had strong feelings then they should let a PCC member know.

The accounts were adopted. A Walsh proposed the M Roberts seconded. J Dines was thanked for everything she did.

T Rees was unanimously approved to be the auditor for 2014/15 and thanked for her work.

09/14 Deanery Synod Report

B Edy thanked all those involved with the Deanery Synod.

10/14 Other Reports

10.01 Rector's Report

B Edy thanked all those who worked with the children. L Chapman said that it was important that we exercised tolerance with the children and should be thankful for them coming to Church. B Edy encouraged the entire congregation to help with the children and to speak to R Edy if they could assist (they already have Leaders) once every two months. P Levermore noted that the older children's parents did not support the group as much as the younger crèche. A Williams suggested that we should have a football group to get older members of the local community involved, especially boys who don't want to come if they are the only boy there. B Edy noted that there is a meeting each year to raise these points and invited everyone to attend who may be interested in suggesting changes to the way that we currently work.

10.02 Fabric Report

B Edy thanked R Barnes and the team for all their hard work and invited anyone who was interested to join the Fabric Group as they are looking for volunteers.

11/14 Website / Facebook

B Edy thanked J Dines for her hard work providing a great website and social media presence.

12/14 Fritillary Sunday

B Edy noted that the date for Fritillary Sunday had changed to 27 April and this has gone out to all media outlets who were informed of the previous date. The Saturday Telegraph will publish an article in the Gardening Supplement on 5 April.

E Strainge confirmed that the fritillaries are now coming through. J Dines noted that someone is coming from Victoria, Australia to look at the fritillaries.

13/14 Singing Group

B Edy encouraged anyone to come along.

14/14 Pastoral Team

B Edy thanked M Roberts for all her hard work. He asked that if anyone would appreciate an Easter Card who can't come to Church, please let M Roberts know. L Chapman said that M Roberts always arranged for people to get lifts to church. B Edy noted that if 12 people went on a 'taxi rota' once a quarter it would be really helpful and to let M Roberts know if anyone could help out.

15/14 Easter Experience

B Edy noted that it is Ducklington's turn to host this in 2015.

16/14 Foundation Governors

B Edy confirmed that Laura Edwards, Henry Cooke, Glyn Rees and Sarah Varnom were all governors.

17/14 Flowers

B Edy thanked those who did the flowers week in week out.

18/14 Friends of St Bartholomew's

M Spalding advised those present that he would like to increase the number of givers. B Edy thanked M Spalding with everything he is doing. J Nichols suggested a leaflet drop round the Village might increase the number of Friends of St Bartholomew's. E Strainge suggested that we use the Fritillary Sunday to promote Friends' of St Bartholomew's. M Roberts further suggested putting it into the Village Newsletter.

19/14 Tower Ringing

B Edy thanked R Barnes for all his efforts. R Barnes noted that there was a Barn Dance on Saturday 5 April in aid of the bells.

20/14 Cradle Group

It was noted that they are looking for new members. B Edy thanked those involved with the Julian Group.

21/14 Ladies Reading Group

B Edy thanked R Edy for arranging the Ladies Away Day and Craft Day.

22/14 Mother's Union

B Cook thanked B Puffett thanked for her work. The Mothers' Union is supporting overseas charities.

23/14 Creation of Church Warden Emeritus

B Edy outlined the role of the position of Church Warden Emeritus and that they would act as a supporter to the existing Church Wardens. E Strainge and J Long supported this position. This was proposed and supported nem con.

24/14 Election of Deanery Synod Members

J Pearson and M Dines were elected for a further three year period. I Paul, was proposed by J Dines and seconded by A Walsh.

25/14 Election of PCC

The following people were elected for a further one year period

Glynn Rees, Meg Roberts, John Pearson, Roger Barnes, Jane Dines, Rachel Cole, David Cole, Adrian Walsh, Rachael Levermore and Marian Pitman.

J Allen noted that S Varnom may be interested and could be co-opted at a later date.

The current secretary and treasurer would be elected at the next PCC meeting.

26/14 Church Opening – Open during week unattended.

P Nichols noted that wherever he and Jane travel there is always a church which is open. The Church belongs to the Parish and people should have unrestricted access to the Church. There would be a Church rota to open and close the Church. R Barnes noted that there would be 24/7 CCTV coverage of the outside of the Church and new PIR lighting would be put in and only one door would be open. R Barnes noted that approximately 80% of Churches are open during daylight hours. B Edy confirmed that we had checked the position with the Church insurers and this is acceptable. E Strange noted that if the church is opened unattended then we will have to accept that there may be thefts. M Roberts noted that Ducklington was a low crime area. Most people supported the opening of the Church.

27/14 Improving the use of the South Aisle and Children's Area

It was noted that there is a need to look at how the South Aisle and Children's Area is used and consideration given to how this space could be more flexible and storage improved for the chairs and other pieces of furniture. R Barnes presented a diagram of a suggestion for how it could be used which meant removing some of the pews and replacing these with chairs on Sunday and possibly a movable table for meetings. Some other suggestions included:

- We could make a storage area under the Fritillary Window to store the chairs (which are currently in the Children's area) and use the South Aisle window as a focal point
- We could take out the Choir seats/pews in the Chancel Area and move the pews into the Children's area.

P Levermore and M Roberts supported greater flexibility of the Church and its outreach to other people outside of Church activities. E Strange noted that it was difficult to hold large meetings in the Church and that the Village Hall works well for large meetings. It was noted that the Children's Playground which currently meets in the Village Hall every day is moving to the School and the

Village Hall would lose a significant amount of revenue. E Strainge noted that this Group does take up most of the storage area in the Village Hall as well as most of the costs associated with the running of the Village Hall such as the heating.

A quick hand count suggested that over 20 of those present wanted to keep the pews. R Barnes also noted that the Fabric Group is looking at erecting a shed in the church yard.

28/14 Any Other Business

K Smith noted that B Edy had been in post for over 20 years and we have a lot to be thankful for. He noted that it was a good fellowship in the Church with a good leader and a good team and he thanked B Edy and the team for all their hard work. A Williams also took the opportunity to thank R Edy for all her hard work and B Edy thanked everyone for their continued support.

Meeting Closed
R Levermore