

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

***ANNUAL REPORT for 2015 – 16***



*The Village Pond Ducklington*

**Annual Church Wardens Vestry Meeting, Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2016 in the Village Hall**

**The meeting will start promptly at 7:30pm**

**Agenda**

1. Prayers
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the Meeting of 26<sup>th</sup> March 2015
4. Election of the Church Wardens

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2016 in the Village Hall – starts immediately after the Vestry Meeting**

- 1) Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 26<sup>th</sup> March 2015
- 2) Matters arising from the minutes
- 3) Approval of 2015 AGM Meeting Minutes
- 4) Reports – Rector (see booklet)  
Church Wardens  
Interregnum  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Administrator  
Deanery Synod  
Fabric
- 5) Election of PCC
- 6) Discussion about the start time of the service
- 7) Feedback on service
- 8) AOB

## **Rector's Report**

As I have only been a few weeks in post I cannot presume to make any report, but what I can do is to offer some reflections on what I have seen and what may be the direction God is leading St. Bartholomew's as he has called Nicci and me to serve this community.

There is a tangible sense of "belonging" amongst the fellowship which speaks of the commitment that binds the church together and is evident in the care shown to both young and old. At a meeting of those involved in the children's ministry, I was greatly encouraged by the enthusiasm of the leaders and helpers as they reviewed the teaching and support programme.

Pastoral care of the housebound and elderly is provided both through the formal structure of the Pastoral Team and by the informal networks of friends who keep a lookout for each other. It will be good to equip those who want to develop their pastoral ministry particularly in the area of bereavement visiting, where the specific skills of attentive listening is so valuable in helping people to work through their grief.

There are several focussed areas where the needs of certain groups are known and activities offered in response. Some are self-sustaining which is good to see, but others such as outreach amongst men and young families and younger adults' needs upholding in prayer as existing groups look to re-energise and new groups begin to form and provide support.

In order to lift up to God the ministry in which he has called us to share, as we work and pray that "your Kingdom come", it is good to come together in prayer: during the week several now meet at 7:30 for Morning Prayer. If you can plan half an hour before work on Thursday or Friday morning, then please do join us. On Saturday morning, we meet at 8:30 with a less structured time of prayer and praise – and will occasionally include coffee and croissant, if people are interested!

Other means of supporting one another on our spiritual journey which I will hope to explore with the PCC will be the potential for Prayer Triplets, expanding Home Study Groups, occasional Open Forum events exploring issues of contemporary concern.

I would like to encourage alternative styles of worship to explore on Sunday evening, in addition to the traditional First Sunday Eucharist. This may perhaps be quarterly initially, but monthly if there is a positive response and could range from Taizé worship, through to contemporary praise, and include the occasional healing service. Other ideas are welcome.

Please do talk to me about any of the points I've raised: if something I have mentioned strikes a chord and you'd like to be involved, then I'd love to hear from you!

***Paul Boddam-Whetham.***  
***Rector.***

## **Wardens' Report 2016**

It has been a very challenging year for your wardens.

During May we had an emotional service when we said farewell to Bob and Ruth.

The interregnum then started; we endeavoured to continue the same pattern of services. We were helped by a very supportive team of visiting clergy especially Revd Mary Carney. All the congregation have been very helpful; always willing to assist when asked.

The Fabric Group, with Chairman Roger Barnes, have met regularly during the year and kept on top of the fabric items.

At the interview day on November 16<sup>th</sup> 2015 the attendance for the service at the church was excellent. The Archdeacon was very impressed by the numbers attending. Monday February 8<sup>th</sup> 2016 was a day we will all remember when the electric power cut could not stop the marvellous service when we welcomed Paul and Nicci in to our church.

Finally, we would like to thank the standing committee, PCC and all of the congregation of St Bartholomew's Church for their help and support.

***Edmund Strainge and Gill Long***

## **Wardens Report - Interregnum**

Our interregnum started in May 2015 following the departure of the Revd. Bob Edy to pastures new, and lasted for nine months. However the recruitment process for finding a new rector started soon after Bob's announcement to the congregation on Feb 22nd.

In March the Standing Committee met with the Archdeacon and the Parish Development Officer to clarify the roles and responsibilities during the interregnum and to confirm that the Area Dean and the churchwardens had overall responsibility for the church and its worship during this time of vacancy. They also started the process of drawing up a Parish Profile, a person specification and the advert. This proved to be a very challenging task and we were extremely thankful for the assistance of the PCC and members of the congregation for their contributions and prayers. It was therefore very disappointing to have no applications for the planned interviews in September. Subsequently we decided to re-advertise with a reworked Parish Profile and advert. We were blessed to have three applicants this time and following interviews in November we were pleased to announce that we had appointed Revd. Paul Boddam-Whetham.

The smooth running of the interregnum at Ducklington was due to the outstanding contributions from everyone in the congregation, the ministry team and the visiting clergy. The churchwardens are extremely grateful to all the priests who took our Sunday services each week, assisted with our Christmas services and prepared and conducted funeral services, wedding and baptisms. Our all-age services, often led by members of the congregation were very special and greatly appreciated by those who attended.

It is impossible to thank everyone by name as everyone has helped in some way or another but special mention goes to the Pastoral team, to everyone who helped on the interview day,

including the large congregation for the early morning service, and those who helped make Paul's Induction service one to remember.

It is a tribute to St. Bartholomew's church that during the interregnum our congregation numbers did not diminish, our children's work continued to flourish and our church was there for people during their sad and joyous times.

***Gill Long***

### **Secretary's Report**

This has been a very busy year for the Standing Committee and PCC with additional meetings needed to ensure things went smoothly during the interregnum. We held 10 Standing Committee meetings and 6 PCC meetings in 2015/6 all at the Strainge's farm with great hospitality from Edmund and Stacey. Special thanks to the Wardens and Administrator whose roles increased enormously during this time.

Apart from the additional responsibilities the interregnum brings with it, we have spent this year concentrating on improving the Health and Safety and safeguarding people who attend our Church.

We have had nearly a full year of the Church being open during the day and the overwhelming feedback has been positive.

Finally, we welcomed Paul as our new Rector and his wife Nicci and we pray that they will be happy in their new role and continue to lead us in our faith.

Below is the attendance list of the PCC members during 2015.

<b>PCC Member</b>	<b>2015/16 Attendance</b>	<b>PCC Member</b>	<b>2015/16 Attendance</b>
Dave Adams	4/6	Pete Nichols	6/6
Roger Barnes	2/6	John Pearson	4/6
Steve Bold	4/6	Ian Paul	4/6
Jane Dines	5/6	Marian Pitman	2/6
Dave Duthie	5/6	Meg Roberts	6/6
Rachael Levermore	6/6	Edmund Strainge	6/6
Gill Long	5/6	Sarah Varnom	3/6

***Rachael Levermore***

## **Treasurer's Report for 2015**

Having started to understudy Jane from the middle of November it soon became apparent how much work and how well Jane has managed the accounts over the previous years. For this we should all express our thanks to Jane.

Whilst income for 2015 was similar to 2014, our expenditure increased, mainly due to the cost of Interregnum. The result being that we fell considerably short on our commitment towards the Parish Share. (circa £10,000.00). This was not totally unusual (although not as great as this year), as for the last couple of years we have had to wait for Gift Aid Refunds in January, to meet/nearly meet our commitment.

However, the Good news was that the Deanery (through others over payments) managed to fulfil their share and has released us from our shortfall this year.

This has not though resulted in a lesser Parish Share for 2016. Indeed our Contribution has increased slightly. With our ability to meet this commitment slipping a little more year by year, we do need to think collectively and consider how we can raise a little more to meet our commitments.

***David Duthie***

## **Administration Report**

Well, 2015 was an eventful year from an administrative point of view! There were:

9 baptisms:	5 were in the interregnum
7 weddings:	4 were in the interregnum
16 funerals/cremations:	8 were in the interregnum

This meant arranging ministers to take the services and liaise with the families involved. An interregnum, by its very nature, is an unsettling time for all involved but particularly for those families dealing with life changing events such as baptism, a wedding or funeral. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who helped ensure that this vital part of ministry for the parish could carry on.

Part of the administration tasks are preparation of the weekly Notice sheet, ensuring there are enough copies in church for Sunday morning and also sending out email copies to quite a few each week. If you would like to be added to this list or know someone who would, please let me know. Also, if you would like something added to the Notices, again please let me know. The details should reach me before Friday each week as that is when I aim to print it up and copy it. An electronic, web-based, newsletter is also sent out on Sunday afternoons with links to events on the website or elsewhere in the Deanery. Again, let me know if you would like to receive this – or sign up on-line directly from the website.

Other printing duties include the monthly prayer diary, prepared so ably by Faith Truran, and the monthly diary which is prepared, in bulk by Tricia Hughes. Thanks to both for their invaluable help with this.

Another “task” is rota preparation; a list that is out of date as soon as it is published! The rotas are prepared quarterly and the aim is not to overburden people with too many tasks.

We do always need more people to help so that the load can be spread. If you would be willing to help in some way, please let me know. The old adage, “many hands make light work” is very true!

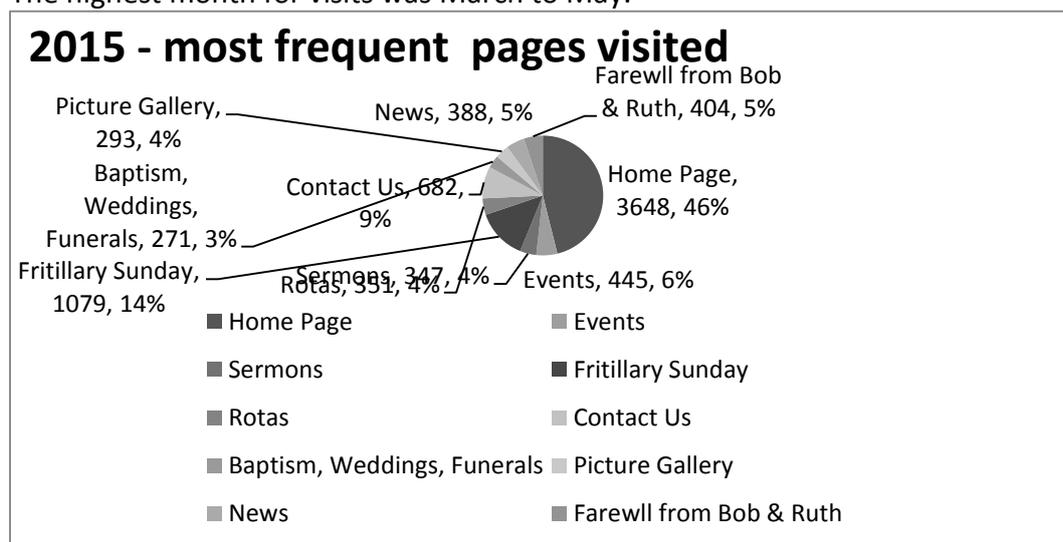
Maintenance of the web site and Facebook pages (see reports below) are also a regular administrative task and I would recommend that you take a look at pages such as the Sermons one – we try to ensure that the weekly sermon is recorded and uploaded so that you can listen again or hear it for the first time – there are now 104 sermons stored in our “library” and you can even choose which preacher’s sermons you want to listen to.

*Jane Dines*

### St Bartholomew’s Web Site and Facebook page

During the year there were 6,347 visits to the website which was slightly lower than 2014. Of these visits, 65% were new visits – in other words, first time visits to the site. 2,187 (35%) were returning visits which is encouraging as it suggests that those people have found it helpful and of interest. This is the same percentage as last year so has remained consistent.

The highest month for visits was March to May.



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

We try to ensure that the website is always up to date and relevant. Special events during the year such as Lent, Advent, Christmas and Fritillary are usually given their own “page” so that there is one place to visit to find out all that is happening. This is then taken down when we move on to the next special event. Sermons are published, weekly, if possible, and numbers of those listening again, or for the first time, show that this is a welcome service. Like those welcoming parishioners and visitors every week at church, the website can be a first point of contact and it is important that we try and provide what is needed and required. If you have any ideas for other items to be included, please let me know.

The weekly (electronic) newsletter, introduced in 2013, is sent out to about 55 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](http://www.ducklingtonchurch.org.uk)

## **Facebook**

Our likes increased again this year by just over 16% and were 123 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.

Our Facebook page is a relatively small part of our outreach work but social media is an ever growing medium and important in long term engagement, particularly for those not in regular attendance at St Bartholomew’s.

Unsurprisingly, the most popular posts throughout the year related to the interregnum; over 1,600 people viewed posts about Bob and Ruth’s final service and nearly 600 looked at the advert for a new rector. Frittillary Sunday and a front page article about it in The Oxford Times brought over 900 people to the page and the weddings throughout the year always attract post views with best wishes for the couples involved. Over 70% of engagement is from women and the majority fall in the 35-44 age bracket but 12% are in the 65 plus proving that outreach is for all out there.

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 Report**

There were 3 meetings since the last AGM; in June, October and January.

Each meeting has a General Synod Update which is followed by

“Inspiration” which over the three meetings included a couple of talks,

- The Reverend Philip Sutton, Head of Chaplaincy & Bereavement Services, JR Hospital
- Indigo Valley Coffee – Andrew Salisbury Discussion on the Seven Disciplines of the National Reform and Renewal programme.

After Inspiration there is then discussion on,

- Calling and purpose
- MAP (Mission Action Plan) - structuring, equipping and enabling across the Deanery for the next ten years.
- WWW – What Went Well - stories from the parishes/benefices of something that is going well that we would like to celebrate and share with others.

The Business part of the meeting is always about,

- Business Resourcing the Vision – Finance

The final section before notices is A Bible Study. If you would like to see the full reports for each meeting these can be can be obtained from Ian Paul.

*Ian Paul, John Pearson and Martin Dines  
Deanery Synod representatives*

### **Wardens Report - Fabric Committee**

The Fabric Committee met five times during 2015 and much of the discussion centred on the work required to prepare the church for daytime opening. The church has been open since April and no issues have been encountered.

Tasks completed by the Fabric Committee during the year included:

- 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
- Rewriting the church guide book.
- A new door for the crypt.

Tasks currently on-going include:

- Proposals to replace the internal north porch door with a glazed, and draught-proof, alternative
- Proposals to utilise "the crypt" as a storage area
- Consideration to re-ordering the west end of the north aisle around the kitchen 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. We are also very grateful to the rota of volunteers who unlock and relock the church daily.

*Roger Barnes*

### **Singing Group Report**

THANK YOU to all the present members for their commitment and willingness to assist in the musical aspect of the Church's Worship.

Singing group meets to rehearse on Thursday evenings from 7.30 - 9pm (with a break for a drink) and at present functions when I am due to play for the following Sunday service (generally 1st and 3rd Sundays - depending on my personal holidays and other musical bookings/exam work)

The group consists of 10/11 people who faithfully turn up and are prepared to be involved with taking part in services, be it singing introits, leading during communion, or assisting in teaching the congregation 'rounds' or adding 'descants'. They are prepared to have 'new' material introduced and are willing learners! From a 'musical' point of view, it would be lovely if there were more men involved on a regular basis, so that arrangements can be made for Soprano, Altos and 'Men'.

Thanks to Kath Luce who has taken on the role of doing some of the admin work and produces a list of rehearsal dates for people to use and book dates in diaries.

Reading Music is not essential, but it can help. All that is needed is a willingness to learn (and of course 'sing in tune!') and be committed to the rehearsals and services when being used.

Extra help is given for special occasions such as Christmas or as at the Rector's 'memorable' Induction Service. Thank you to those who help for such occasions.

Thank you also to Amanda, Harriet, Pauline and Ruth for playing the keyboard at other services.

***Paul Herrington***

### **Tower Ringing 2015**

In January the ringers held their annual dinner at The Lord Kitchener 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 7 attempts, 4 were successful, and we congratulate Dave Duthie and Pauline Day for ringing their first quarter peals and gaining their Stage 3 of "Learning the Ropes". Learning the Ropes is a formalised teaching plan which systematically introduces and progresses new recruits into the art of bell ringing. As we have two registered ringing teachers, we also train ringers from other towers, notably from Witney and South Leigh.

In July we held our annual outing, this year ringing at Bibury, Rendcombe – where we were entertained by Bob and Ruth; – North Cerney and Lechlade, with an enjoyable lunch at North Cerney.

It was a very successful year for improving the ringing of our recent recruits, and extra daytime practices have been added to our ringing schedule. These are proving very effective in developing new ringers in quite a short time-scale. A very successful year.

***Roger Barnes***

### **Pastoral Team Report**

We have eleven members at present, with several other people involved with Sunday transport. Our thanks are due to all of them for their faithful service. We have continued our practice of sending or delivering cards to the bereaved or sick, which are well received, and we also send cards to and visit elderly members who are no longer able to join us in church. We are always willing to visit, especially those in hospital, and are more than happy to respond to requests. Home communion is also available on request – the only criterion is to be unable to get to church. We can usually find transport for those who are less able to hospital or other medical appointments. We do suggest that people offer a donation towards petrol costs, especially in the case of longer journeys to the hospitals. We can only do this important caring work if people let us know of those in need - their own or others. All confidences are strictly respected. If you would be willing to join an informal list of people

who can offer transport, or know of an unfulfilled need, please speak to Meg Roberts at any time – contact details are always in the Monthly Diary. Please pray for this team and their work.

***Meg Roberts***

### **Sunday Morning Activity Groups Report**

The Sunday School consists of three groups: the Crèche, Children's Activities and Wayfinders. We have about 24 children overall. Please see separate Crèche Report below. The age range in the Children's Activities group is from four to nine and the Wayfinders from ten to fifteen.

The children in the Children's Activities group listen to and sometimes act out Bible stories, have a prayer time, carry out creative activities and listen to CD's. A variety of materials are used such as "ROOTS", Children's Bibles and a new resource, "Fischy Music".

The Wayfinders and the Youth Group focus on: teaching and discussion of the current gospel reading, the Christian year, topical issues and fun and fellowship.

We are very fortunate to have a very supportive and able group of individuals to lead and help with the children and young people at St. Bartholomew's Church.

***Angela Williams***

### **Crèche Report**

Our crèche continues to meet in the main hall of the village hall, for babies, toddlers and pre-school children, during the morning service. Occasionally we join with the Sunday school class upstairs for a joint activity. Most Sundays, we spend our time playing with a selection of toys, reading books including Bible stories (we now have some 'big books' of Bible story retellings as used in primary school classrooms, to enable us to read Bible stories and share pictures in a small group setting), drawing and colouring, role play and singing. More volunteers are always welcome! Do see Rhoda or Pippa if you would like to join the team or find out more.

***Rhoda Hardie***

### **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. This has been a good way for many years of keeping in touch with every family.

The names and address are passed on to me and dates of Birth and Baptism. Cards are bought from Mothers Union and Bills passed to our Treasurer. There are 45 children now on the roll. The delivery of these cards has been carried out by helpers and myself. Many thanks to all previous helpers.

***Barbara Farrar***

### **Christian Aid Report**

Once again we managed to find collectors to cover the whole village last May, and collected £764, a good result, but more than £100 less than 2014. My thanks to all the people who gave up their time to collect that week, to Sarah Varnom for helping to put together the bags of envelopes for the collectors, and to Faith Truran for helping me with the counting. This year Christian Aid Week is May 15<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>. The campaign is focusing on families in Bangladesh. Apart from the money raised, which is very useful to Christian Aid partners around the world, this is a positive act of Christian witness to the village.

I would be very pleased to welcome some more collectors, especially to work in partnership with others, so that people could go out in pairs. This year we may drop some of the roads in which responses are less positive. I definitely wish to give up this role after about 14 years, and hope that someone will come forward to take over from me.

***Meg Roberts***

### **Witney Area Fairtrade Action Group Report**

This group continues to work to raise awareness of the benefits of Fairtrade to overseas producers of many goods – tea, coffee, sugar, chocolate, bananas & other fruits, nuts and cotton probably being the best known and available. Many of Witney's myriad coffee shops sell Fairtrade coffee, hopefully you look out for them and ask for it! By the time this is published Fairtrade Fortnight will have passed and we hope many people will have sampled a Fairtrade Breakfast on March 12<sup>th</sup>. We are always looking for new members, and when I resign at the AGM later in the year, will be in need of a secretary. New volunteers are always welcome.

We are a Fairtrade Church, and have pledged that all tea, coffee & sugar (and anything else that is appropriate) used at church events should be Fairtrade. For more details speak to Meg Roberts.

***Meg Roberts***

### **Mothers' Union Report**

One new member has joined us since moving into the area. We have had some good speakers about Helen House and Away From it All Holidays. Our knitters still supply blankets to Care Homes and Hospitals; these are much appreciated. We are grateful to the members who invite us to their homes and serve coffee for our meetings. The Deanery Festival this year is at Cogges Church on Friday June 17<sup>th</sup> at 11am. Please bring a packed lunch, drinks will be provided. We have had a special request to take our banner. Our meetings are always open to anyone. Please remember that we organize the delivery of donations for the Foodbank, and try to get into the habit of bringing an item to church for the box in the North Porch.

***Brenda Cook***

## **Flower Report**

This year has been a little different for us flower arrangers. Firstly Frances Barratt-Hone retired from the regular rota after many years of enthusiasm and talent for flower arranging, we miss her, thank you Frances.

Also there have been fewer weddings due to the interregnum. As a result of this our income for buying flowers for the rest of the year dropped considerably and we had to ask for assistance from the treasurer.

We hope you all enjoy the flowers each week, please tell us of any new ideas you might have, and we always need new talent on the rota!

***Jane Nichols***

***« End of Reports »***

## **Saint Bartholomew's Church, Ducklington**

### **Minutes of the Annual Meeting held in the Village Hall on 26 March 2015**

Present: Re R Edy (Chairman), R Levermore (Secretary) Mrs J Dines (Treasurer) and 30 church members

Apologies were received from Angela Williams, Adrian Walsh, Ann Marie Walsh, Wanda Adams, Marian Pitman, Ruth Edy, Martin Dines, Sally Craig, Emma Dines, Malcom and Rhoda Hardie,

B Edy opened the meeting with a reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians and a prayer.

### **Annual Church Wardens Vestry Meeting**

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#### **01/15 Chairman's Opening**

B Edy welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded everyone that during the interregnum we should use this period as a time for growth. It should not be a time to become political and he urged those present not to do this but rather to pull together and give a little more during this period of change. He noted that some members of the congregation have already started taking on extra responsibilities.

#### **02/15 Minutes of the 3 April 2014 AGM Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 April 2014 (see Annual Report Booklet Page 12) were approved as a correct record proposed by R Bold and seconded by J Pearson.

#### **03/15 Election of Church Wardens**

Two nominations were received for the role of Church Wardens: E Strainge and G Long. Those present voted on the election for two Church Wardens and E Strainge & G Long were duly elected.

**Close of the meeting.**

### **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

#### **04/15 2014 Minutes**

It was noted that the AGM minutes in the Annual Report were incomplete so only the first two pages were signed off. The complete set of minutes would be posted on the Church website and would be signed off at the PCC meeting. The partial minutes were proposed by M Spalding and G Rees.

#### **05/15 Matters Arising**

05.01 Church Warden Emeritus

M Spalding asked if the position of Church Warden Emeritus was for life. B Edy confirmed that Warden Emeritus was so P Nichols will no longer have to be voted on the PCC annually. It was noted

that if there is future resistance to this decision P Nichols will not want to stand if this is against the will of the congregation.

#### 05.02 Church Giving

B Edy apologised for the lack of progress with the development of a Church Giving policy and this is something that the PCC will work on in 2015.

#### 06/15 Secretary's Report

R Levermore advised those present that she had nothing to add to the report other than there were copies of the PCC member attendance on their seats (details below) with their voting forms.

Meeting Date	2013/2015	2014/15
Adrian Walsh	10/12	5/6
Bob Edy	12/12	6/6
Dave Adams	8/12	4/6
David Cole	6/12	3/6
Edmund Strainge	11/12	5/6
Gill Long	9/12	5/6
Glyn Rees	10/12	4/6
Ian Paul	7/12	2/6
Jane Dines	10/12	5/6
John Pearson	10/12	5/6
John Phipps	8/12	4/6
Marian Pitman	6/12	5/6
Meg Roberts	11/12	6/6
Peter Hamilton	5/12	3/6
Peter Nichols	10/12	5/6
Rachael Levermore	11/12	5/6
Rachel Cole	6/12	2/6
Roger Barnes	10/12	6/6
Sarah Varnom	3/5	3/5

#### 07/15 Church Wardens' Report

E Strainge thanked those for electing them again and said that it was an honour to serve the community and work with Bob. E Strainge confirmed that he has served under six ministers as Church Warden. E Strainge also noted that the Church Wardens greatly value everything R Barnes does on the Fabric Group. B Edy thanked them both for their hard work and support.

#### Fabric Committee

R Barnes said that there have been some updates since the report was written including the introduction of low level lighting in the Church. It was suggested that we could put up a notice to say that the lights will stay on for up to 20 minutes after they have been turned off to stops calls to

the Rectory about the lights being left on. He also noted that the crypt door has been completed. All of the windows have been cleaned by M J Wells.

The Church opening will coincide with Fritillary Sunday. The Fabric Committee will be concentrating on how to safeguard the valuables in Church but it was confirmed that the vestry will be locked when the Church is open during the and the Church Wardens will be responsible for removing the valuable items on Sunday and putting them back again on for the first service of the week. It is likely that the Church will be unlocked by 09:00 and be locked at sundown up to the end of September for 2015 but possibly opening for the entire year in 2016. R Levermore suggested that there should be an emergency number inside the Church in the event that someone is locked in by mistake. If anyone is interested in unlocking and locking the Church then they should contact the Church Wardens. B Edy thanked R Barnes for all his hard work and commitment. P Nichols confirmed that all volunteers will be briefed in relation to their roles and responsibilities.

K Smith said it would be nice to recognise those who had helped build the new West End. It was agreed that it would be added to the Fabric Group agenda for discussion. J Pearson noted that we could include the name of the person who carved the screen.

#### **08/15 Treasurer's Report**

J Dines reported that the accounts were largely stable although the reserves were slightly lower than the previous two years but that was due to fund raising and now we are back to 'normal'. She also noted that it makes a big difference for gift aid and thanked those who paid directly via BACS. The Fabric Fund has approximately £19,000 in it and money had been set aside for the sound system. J Dines further noted that we had a VAT refund of just under £400. The West End Fund had a residual £200 which had restricted funds remaining in the account (must be spent on West End). J Dines will ask permission from those who gave monies to move the remaining amount into the Fabric Fund. E Strainge proposed the formal adoption of the accounts and this was seconded by G Rees. B Edy thanked J Dines for her work and T Rees as the auditor. It was suggested with the Church opening that we should make it easy for visitors to give money.

#### **09/15 Deanery Synod**

J Pearson noted there was nothing to add over and above that was already in the Annual Report.

#### **10/15 Other Reports**

##### **Music Group**

B Edy noted that he was grateful for the quality of talent in the congregation.

##### **Website and Facebook**

J Nichols thanked J and M Dines for all their hard work for the website. J Dines advised those present that they are able to offer. If you want to add something to the website then just drop her a note; it doesn't have to be just about the Church – it can also be about Ducklington or Witney.

##### **Tower Ringing**

R Barnes confirmed that there are four new recruits. B Edy thanked the ringers for all their hard work.

### **Pastoral Team**

M Roberts noted that it is really important during the interregnum period that the congregation look after each other and let her know if there is anyone who may need some help. B Edy thanked M Roberts and the team for their help. If anyone can support the team then please let Meg know.

### **Sunday Morning Activity Group**

B Edy noted that there is a good provision for the children but it could be improved, one suggested is to reinstate the Pathfinder ages groups (8+ years). L Chapman noted that some people will criticise the management of the children but that they are trying to make the best with what they have and asked people to try and be patient. B Edy thanked those who helped with the running of the Sunday morning activity groups. M Dines, J Phipps, E Dines, L Chapman, C Cunningham, R Edy and A Williams were thanked for their support as well as all of the helpers.

G Rees asked if the Rectory will be available to the Church when they leave. B Edy responded that he hoped that the office will be available to the Church during the interregnum. M Roberts said that she liked that the children were taken up for blessings when they came back into Church. B Edy noted that he and the parents liked to use the children's names when giving the blessings and asked the Church Wardens would consider if name badges could be created to help the ministers in charge of the blessings during the next six months.

### **Ladies Away Day**

The Ladies Away day will take place on 16 May.

### **Friday Prayer Group**

M Roberts noted that the Friday Prayer Group was a small but important activity and other people were asked to come along and pray for Bob and Ruth as well as the new Rector and how we conduct Church life during the interregnum.

### **Events Committee**

G Rees asked for help for Fritillary Day especially people to distribute the quiz and help selling the ice-cream. It was suggested that volunteers were provided with name badges to identify themselves.

### **Julian Group Meetings**

B Edy noted that the Julian Group is having a break at the moment but it's been a very important part of the Church for some people and it would be good to see it come back.

### **Cradle Roll**

It was noted that the cards distributed to children who had baptisms in the church is seen as a really important job and there is a vacancy after B Farrar's retirement. It is estimated that 8-10 cards need

to be delivered in the village annually. Please approach B Farrar or M Roberts if anyone is interested in taking over this role.

### **Flower Report**

It was noted that the flower funds are low due to wedding parties not paying as much for flowers but it was confirmed that these funds can be topped up if necessary from the Church accounts. Any new volunteers would be welcome and should approach J Nichols if they are interested. B Edy stated that this is a greatly appreciated service provided by all of the volunteers.

### **Christian Aid Report**

M Roberts noted that Christian Aid starts w/c 10 May. If anyone can assist with collecting donations then please speak to M Roberts.

### **Witney Area Fair Trade Action Group**

M Roberts noted there was nothing further to report other than we try to use Fairtrade ingredients where we can.

### **Friends of St Bartholomew's**

M Spalding thanked B Edy and those who provided articles for the newsletter. It was confirmed S Bold will take over from M Spalding shortly. B Edy thanked M Spalding for all of his work over the last 10 years and noted that his efforts have raised significant amounts of money.

### **Ladies Reading Group**

R Bold thanked R Edy for all her support for the years she has been hosting the Reading Group.

### **Mother's Union**

B Cook noted that our Mother's Union Group are growing when many other groups are closing. B Edy thanked her for her hard work.

### **Ducklington Primary School**

G Rees expressed how much he was impressed with the children especially during the Easter Experience and how much they remembered from what they had been taught in school. They have received a SIANS report which graded the school as good.

### **Men's Group**

It was confirmed that a number of the congregation are looking at reviving the Men's Group for 2015.

### **Cycle and Ride**

The cycle and ride is scheduled for 12 September and we require more cyclists. J Nichols noted that Ducklington Church gets 50% of all funds raised.

### **11/15 Appointment of the Auditor 2015/16**

B Edy noted that we have not found a replacement for T Rees following her retirement and asked that this be referred back to the PCC.

### **12/15 Election of the PCC Members**

The following people were elected for a one year period

Angela Williams  
David Duthie  
Glyn Rees  
Jane Dines  
John Phipps  
Marian Pitman  
Meg Roberts  
Peter Nichols  
Rachael Levermore  
Roger Barnes  
Sarah Varnom  
Steve Bold

The current secretary and treasurer would be elected at the next PCC meeting which would take place immediately following the AGM.

### **13/15 Church Opening**

This is covered under the Fabric Report above.

### **14/15 Update on appointment of Rector**

E Strainge updated those present with the following report on the current status of appointing a new rector:

When a rector leaves a parish, the parish goes into what is called an interregnum until a new rector is licensed. During the interregnum the Church Wardens and rural Dean are in charge of all of the items that the rector had been responsible for. To name a few – organising the services, looking after the rectory and its garden, monitoring all expenses and bills as well as looking after the Churches congregation's Christian needs. There is a special order for things to happen before the new rector arrives:

The Parish Profile: This is an information document about St Bartholomew's which potential clergy can learn more about our Church before applying as our new Rector. The Standing Committee has been busy preparing this document and we are grateful for your comments provided by personally and by email. We are now on our third draft and it is now being checked by the Area Dean and Rural Dean and then by the PCC. When this has been done a suitable advert is put in the Clergy's Paper – the Church Times. Then a short list is drawn up for interviews. The day of interview usually starts with an 8:30 communion service in the Church when our congregation and the prospective clergy can meet each other. There are then visits around the village and the rectory with the day finishing with the formal interviews. The Panel usually consists of our Bishop, Archdean, Rural Dean and two representatives from our Church. We hope that a suitable Rector can be found. It is usual for them

to have to give three months' notice and we hope to have a new rector licensed in the autumn and settled in before our Christmas services.

As to our time from when Bob leave to when our new Rector arrives your Church Wardens are planning to keep the pattern of services throughout the interregnum as they are now and we are working at booking the necessary clergy for our services. We also have a very strong team of people in our Church with all sorts of things and I am confident that with help we will be able to continue to grow our Christian faith at St Bartholomew's during this time.

G Rees about the possibility of sharing the role with Cokethorpe School and it was confirmed that this may be possible depending on the right candidate. M Spalding asked who the Profile is sent to and B Edy confirmed that it is displayed in the Church Times vacancy section. B Edy also confirmed that the Church Wardens have the right to veto any decision that is made on the appointment of the new rector.

### **15/15 Any Other Business**

Two motions were put forward:-

15.01 The first proposal was that from 2016 the 3 Deanery Synod Representatives are part of the lay team nomination process. The votes were 18 for and 3 against.

15.02 The second proposal was that Peter Nichols as Warden Emeritus would be an ex-officio of the PCC and not be required to be nominated annually. This was voted for overwhelmingly.

15.03 Rector's Retirement

A Bushnell spoke on behalf of the congregation to offer a huge thank you and sincere heartfelt best wishes to Bob and Ruth for the pastoral care and their hard work. J Nichols also read out a message from A Williams where she thanked Bob and Ruth for their ministry over the years.

**Meeting Closed at 22:00**

**R Levermore**