



Team Vicar:
Hon Assistant Priest:

Revd Grant Cohen
Revd Peter Macan

ANNUAL REPORTS AGENDA MINUTES

**Annual District Church Meeting
To be held after the 9.45 am Service
on Sunday 8th April 2018**

Membership of the Church Council after the ACM in April 2017

Sanderstead Team Vicar for St Mary's, and ex officio chairman of the DCC: Rev Grant Cohen

Churchwardens: Deborah Rastall (first elected 2015) and Sylvia Keats (first elected 2016)

Reader (Licensed Lay Minister): Robert Radley

Croydon South Deanery Synod representatives:

(to serve for duration of Synod to 2018)

Kim Brown

Ben Laundon

Sanderstead Parochial Church Council representatives (PCC)

Clive Christensen (elected 2015)

Tim Crump (elected 2015)

One Vacancy

St Mary's District Church Council representatives (DCC)

Ian Anderson (2015)

Suzanne Connor (2015)

Claire Stone (2015)

Rachel Woods (2016)

Matthew Hughes (2016)

Robin Colin Burtwell (2017)

Nora Lee (2017)

Standing Committee of the DCC

Rev Grant Cohen

Debbie Rastall

Sylvia Keats

Clive Christensen

Rachael Woods

Appointments

Vice Chair:

Deborah Rastall

Treasurer:

Clive Christensen

Secretary:

Rachael Woods

Registrar of Giving:

Tim Crump

Electoral Roll Officer:

Sarah Goaman

Safeguarding Officers:

Stephanie Clackworthy and Barry Nichol-

son

Health & Safety /

Disability Access Officer: Corinne Masters

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Vicars Report St Mary's AGM 2018

Fr. Grant

WARDENS' REPORT 2017-18

Holy Week and Easter

Fr Grant has again organised a range of services and worship experiences each week during Lent which included the Prayer Labyrinth and Stations of the Cross on alternate Monday and Tuesday evenings as well as the Lent Group on Thursday mornings. Holy Week was a full week of well-attended events with an increase of 25% on all our services with the exception of Saturday when we saw an increase of 50%. We were indeed fortunate and blessed to have Christopher Bishop of Southwark with us throughout Easter which certainly added to our joy at this special time. The Seder Meal was as popular as ever with the attendance now limited to 70 people.

AGM and APCM

The AGM was held on 2 April 2017 with a good attendance. The APCM was held at All Saints on 30 April 2017 when Churchwardens across the team were elected at the vestry meeting and the parish reports and annual accounts were adopted. Debbie and Sylvia were formally admitted to the office of Churchwarden at the Visitation Service at Christchurch Purley on 9 May 2017.

Services

The Patronal Festival on 17 September 2017 was well attended with a bring and share lunch

afterwards. Unfortunately neither Debbie or Sylvia were able to attend but understand it

was a lovely service and are grateful to everyone who helped with the service and lunch

afterwards. We are particularly grateful to Julia Storey for taking responsibility for the event.

The Harvest Festival in October was well attended with a generous variety of food donated

for the Purley Food Hub. The bonfire and fireworks on 5 November 2017 were very popular

with around 80 people attending. The highlight being a wonderful firework display from the

front garden of the Vicarage. Remembrance Sunday saw a strong turnout from 8th Purley

Scouts who played their usual part in the service.

Advent and Christmas

We were blessed with a wonderful season of Advent and Christmas services from Fr Grant

Supported by two glorious carol services on 3 December and 17 December 2017.

The Christingle Service on Christmas Eve saw the church packed with over 200 adults and children and was a wonderful service. Midnight Mass was also well attended with just over 100 people. The 10 am service on Christmas Day was a quieter event but a lovely start to the day.

Our fourth Christmas Tree Festival was held on 9 December and was again well attended with hundreds of people coming through the doors. The church looked stunning with so many beautifully decorated trees. Our special thanks to Ben Launden and Carole Lacey for organising the event.

Maintenance

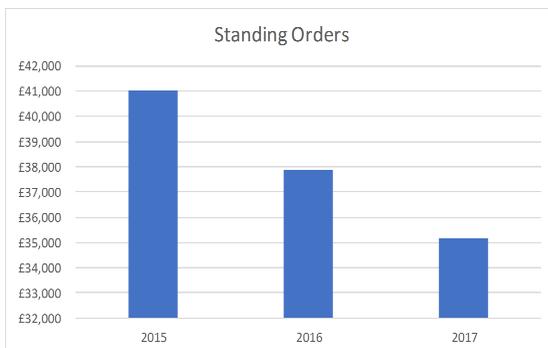
Unfortunately we have had persistent problems with the heating system. One of the two boilers has broken down and is beyond repair and we are now obtaining quotes for a new boiler. The organ has also suffered further problems which came to light with the routine maintenance inspection and will cost around £3,000 to repair.

Deborah Rastall and Sylvia Keats.

Promised Giving

At the beginning of 2017 we asked people to look again at their level of giving to St Mary's, although the number of responses was low it did result in an increase in promises of £3,600 a year.

However the amount given by Standing Order in 2017 has again reduced



Members of the congregation continue to be generous when special appeals have been made for example Candleholders in the choir and repairs to the organ.

As we leave the Sanderstead Team our Charity Number will change and so I will be asking everyone to sign new Gift Aid declarations

Tim Crump
Registrar of Giving

DCC Report

DCC has met on the following dates throughout 2017

DCC 14 March 2017

- This was the meeting prior to the Annual meeting where the DCC approved the 2016 accounts
- A report regarding repairs that will be needed to the organ was received

DCC 16 May 2017

- It was reported that Bishop Christopher relayed his thanks and appreciation for the warm welcome and enjoyable Holy week - numbers at the services were up by at least 20%.
- Discussion around children at St Mary's and how to encourage more young families to attend.
- Timings of services were discussed at both St Mary's and St James.
- There was a hall redevelopment update.
- Other business included the usual standing items, personnel changes, promised giving, choral scholar.

DCC 11 July 2017

- It was confirmed that the hall land had been revalued and increased from £546k to £610k - it was estimated works would start in February 2018.
- Discussion on St Mary's being an eco church and steps that could be implemented.
- The new service times were confirmed for St Mary's and St James.
- Other business included the usual standing items, organ fund, safeguarding, outside maintenance.

DCC 12 September 2017

- It was confirmed St Mary's were looking to appoint a new administrator.
- Advent and Christmas key dates were shared.
- There was a proposal for choir stall church holders.
- Discussion around mission action planning.
- There was a hall redevelopment update - it was estimated works would start in March 2018.
- Other business included the usual standing items, outside maintenance, pastoral re-organisation and eco church.

DCC 14 November 2017

- Discussion and agreement that wedding and funeral fees should stay the same.
- It was reported that MAP had been deferred to 2018.
- All agreed the fireworks night had been a great success.
- Other business included the usual standing items, pastoral re-organisation, eco church and the forth coming Christmas Tree Festival.

DCC 9 January 2018

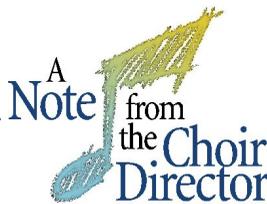
- The wardens asked that an admin assistant be appointed in order that Fr Grant can be free to do his priestly function.
- Discussion regarding the breakdown of one of the boilers and agreement to find out how much it will cost to replace.

Children's Society at St Mary's Church



Choir

The size of the choir has expanded significantly this year with four new trebles and a bass joining us. Our repertoire has expanded for both Sung Eucharist and Evensong services and we have performed several new anthems. Notably, Goodall's 'The Lord is my Shepherd', Rossini's 'O salutaris Hostia', Rutter's 'Look at the World' for Harvest and Chilcott's arrangement of 'Be thou my vision'. For Evensong, we have also performed new sets of responses and canticles, introits and new hymns.



For Passion Sunday, we performed Puccini's Requiem, accompanied by Angela Jones from the Sanderstead Handbell Ringers on handbells. Angela also provided music before and after the service.

The Easter services went well and was nice to get both St. Mary's and St. James choirs together again.

Progress has been made on finding two young people to receive choral scholarships. An information pack was put together and emailed to many local schools. The first choral scholar was appointed for one year starting from May 2017. The second choral scholar was appointed for one year starting from September 2017.

In May, the choirs of St. Mary's, St. James and All Saints' got together for the Ascension Day Eucharist at St. Mary's. A total of 28 singers came along.

In June, a professional soprano provided a vocal masterclass to choir members. The general preference was that this should continue perhaps twice or three times a year. As a result, a second class was arranged for November.

In June, a Summer Concert was held at St. James. The choir sang four pieces.

The choir have sung at two weddings this year, including a Christmas wedding.

In July, we joined St. James for their Patronal Festival.

Work on the organ at the end of March has significantly improved the instrument. Problems caused by what turned out to be quite significant water damaged to the pedal section were repaired, covered by the insurance. The DCC received a quote for future work which needs to be carried out and a maintenance schedule was drawn up. A generous donation from a member of the congregation allowed the first stages of work to begin throughout August, improving a number of issues. An urgent repair was required in

January of this year when a large split was discovered in the leather of one of the bellows.

The DCC agreed to the purchase of a new piano stool from Yamaha Music.

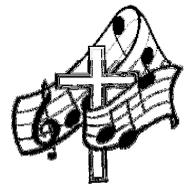
Christmas was eventful. The choir sang carols during the Christmas Tree Festival and for the annual carol singing, the latter raising £201.70 for the Children's Society. The Advent Carol Service and the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols were gratefully received by all those who came along. Donations by members of the congregation have allowed us to purchase candle holders for the choir stalls. These were first lit for the Advent Carol Service.

I would like to thank all members of the choir for their continued support and contribution to the music at St. Mary's.

David Thomas, Director of Music

St Mary's Band

St Mary's Band continues to lead the Informal Service, on the Second Sunday of every month. Current members are Leno D'Elia (electric guitar) , Tim Crump (acoustic guitar/ backing vocals), David Thomas (piano), and Beth D'Elia providing the vocals.



We attempt to practice at least once per month, generally on a Tuesday evening in church. Our musical repertoire continues to increase, as we add new songs into our Service.

In March last year, we were sorry to see Abby leave the Band. Abby felt the need to concentrate more on her A-Level studies. She has, however, managed to kindly step in to lead the vocals in Beth's absence, in July 2017.

Beth's last Service with the Band is likely to be September 2018, she then leaves to go on to university. The Band will therefore be without lead vocals from October 2018 onwards

If you enjoy singing and would like to help lead St Mary's in Informal Worship, then we would be delighted to welcome you to the Band.

Leno D'Elia

Sunday School



The Sacristy Team



Coffee Rota

Grateful thanks to all members of the coffee team for their continued support in providing refreshments after the Sunday morning services. Coffee after the services is always popular and as well as enabling church members to socialise it is also a great opportunity for newcomers to get to know everyone.



Our current team of volunteers remains unchanged but we are always delighted to welcome new volunteers. If you would be interested in joining us, do please let me know.

Anne Henderson

St Mary's Flowers

During the past year our team of enthusiastic flower arrangers worked very hard, producing a variety of fresh flower arrangements to beautify St Mary's each week. We have enjoyed creating floral designs for a number of weddings as well as displays for the various church festivals. Last Easter these included, by special request from Father Grant, an Altar of Repose arrangement for St John's Chapel and the decorating of a cross fashioned by Paul Carter, from the Christmas tree.



Very many thanks to all those members of St Mary's who kindly donated to our flower fund. Your support is very much appreciated.

Anne Henderson

Church Cleaning

Although Easter is early this year, it would be good to do the annual church clean before then. I would like to hold it on Saturday morning the 10th March at 9.30am. I will supply the cleaning materials but if you can bring a vacuum cleaner then it will make the work easier and quicker. As the church gets more use, it gets dirtier more often. Our small band of dedicated regular cleaners (Mazrene, Jo and Kate) has been joined by Kim, for which Grant and I are very grateful. We could still do with an additional two cleaners to fill in for periods when they can't make it, or after short periods of heavy use.



The cloth on the chairs hasn't been thoroughly cleaned since they were installed 18 years ago. In that time, a lot of builders dust has added to the accumulation of ordinary dirt, not to mention an amount of candle wax. The only good remedy is to have them steam cleaned. I know that at present our funds are stretched with the boiler replacement but we will soon reach a stage when people get up dirtier than they sat down (try hitting a chair seat hard with a piece of wood).

I Look forward to seeing you all on the 10th and thank everyone who turned out last year. It made an enormous visible difference. If you would like to help on a regular basis then you can always see me in church or ring me on 8657 8003

On your behalf I express my thanks and appreciation to the cleaning team for all their efforts throughout the year.

Bill Jackson

St Mary's Office and Hall

Safeguarding Children and Young/Vulnerable Adults

Guided by the diocesan manual “A Safe Church”, we operate approved procedures and principles to ensure the safety of our children, young people and vulnerable adults. As reported last year we were in the process of completing our audit to a Diocesan template, which extended to safety of the wider congregation and church users. We found a few minor points in need of updating and can report that everything is now complete. Our results were submitted to the DCC and PCC. At the earliest, the next audit will be late this year.

Safeguarding
Young people and vulnerable adults

The process of renewal and initiation of Disclosure and Barring Disclosures and of Confidential Declarations for volunteers continues. We would like to record our thanks to our team of enthusiastic and committed volunteers. Stephanie Clackworthy and Barry Nicholson

Purley Food Hub

Every year, as I start to write this article, I hope to be able to tell you that the requests for food and similar help have diminished and that the end of the hub is in sight. Sadly, I can tell you only that the reverse is true - to the extent that in January this year, the Hub experienced a 66% increase in demand over January 2017. This at a time when demand normally falls off after Christmas and inflation is still historically low. The hub's busiest month ever was December when they provided 4,000 meals in that month alone. As a result, they urgently need your help to replenish their food stocks. What may happen later this year if food and energy inflation increases as predicted and wages and/or benefits no longer cover their client's rent, as is now often the case, is a very disturbing thought.



The hub organises supermarket food collection days (all Saturdays) 3 -4 times a year. They need more help to collect it. If anyone would care to join me for an hour (I do Waitrose , Sanderstead) on these occasions, I would be happy to have their company. In the hub's 10 collections in 2016/7, supermarket shoppers donated a total of very nearly 100 trolleyloads of food, toiletries etc and £1, 618 in cash. In 2017/8 their six collections to date have brought in 57 trolleyloads of items plus almost £900.

Eighty agencies refer clients to the hub, including job centres, services and departments of Croydon Council, hostels and refuges, children's centres, churches, schools and a wide range of other statutory and voluntary health, mental health and care organisations.

These rather dry statements conceal an increasing despair and concern on the part of the families and individuals who receive the donations. I really recommend that you read the “ In their own words” section of the next annual hub report .

Prayer underpins the work of the food hub (as it does the floating shelters). It gives our volunteers a chance to practice what Jesus preached

and shows a society largely convinced that belief in God is the source of much of the world's ills, a very public and visible demonstration of the love of that God in action.

May I express my personal thanks and appreciation of the generous and outstanding response St Mary's congregation makes every time I walk to the front of the church on Sunday mornings to make yet another appeal of one sort or other . (I'm always gratified that ,when I turn round, everyone is still there). When you read about or experience the reactions of those this church helps in the food hub, the floating shelters and in other places, you will know that we are helping people who live on the very edges of our society but who none the less exist in the very places where Jesus is most likely to be found and encountered.

Thank you all
Bill Jackson

Croydon Churches Floating Shelter (CCFS) Report

You may recall that my report for 2017 spoke of a Croydon Council initiative named CR



Croydon Churches Floating Shelter

...Offering hope to the homeless through faith in action

ZERO 20 20. This Government funded measure is intended to eradicate homelessness from Croydon by 2020. I know that greater efforts have been made to accommodate the emergency homeless and I'm sure these will continue. Whilst this is welcome, unless society can seriously address the root causes of homelessness , I cannot see how this will ever fully succeed. As soon as the current numbers of homeless are housed they are instantly replaced by more – it's like trying to drain a bath with both taps full on.. We see this in our shelters where demand for the 14 guest places grows year on year. The Borough would love to see the shelters operating 52 weeks a year but even that would be to continue to treat the symptom and not the disease. Rough sleeping is on the increase and so are the requests for free food. Coroboration of that is in my report on the Purley Food Hub.

We never know what challenges we may encounter from season to season but our pre-Christmas shelter this year was a very rewarding and pleasant one. Our guests were responsive and willing to engage with us, despite the health and many other problems which rough sleepers and the homeless have to contend with. As always, the shelters not only provide respite from the dangerous, and cold streets but allow our guests vital space and time to consider their futures free from the constant battle to find shelter and food and to re-establish family and friend contacts and to pursue job and accomodation possibilities

In the 7 weeks, which started on 6th November at All Saints church and finished on 18th December at Sanderstead United Reformed church we were hosts to 30 guests, 4 of whom were women. A few were with us for one or two weeks only but most stayed for at least 4 or 5 . By Christmas, all the women had been found accommodation and to date (Feb 2018) there is

only one guest still in the shelters who came to on 6th November. There are currently no women guests. (the national statistic for the % of female rough sleepers is 16%). Despite a very slow start , 8 guests have been housed and more have had pre-admission interviews post Christmas. Three of our guests continued to work at night and special provision was made to admit them well after the normal evening admission time .Apart from the first two weeks we were running at, or near the capacity of 14 guests until Christmas. The mother of one guest came with him to our penultimate shelter and she is now on our volunteer list and will cook for us on one evening in November. Many of you will remember Hugo , who was a guest last year. This year he came back as a volunteer both with us and the other churches. At one of them, he cooked the evening meal – Portugese style.

We were not entirely without incident. One guest had his drink spiked with ecstasy before he turned up and I had to call an ambulance which took him to CUH. I'm glad to say that he suffered no lasting effects and was fine by the following night. Another guest, whilst on his way to us, had a collision between his motorbike and a car, which suddenly pulled out of a feeder lane. The ambulance checked him over but he arrived considerably shaken but otherwise unhurt. Unfortunately his bike was a write – off and he relied on it to get to work.

The Croydon shelters closed for 5 days over Christmas and 11 of our guests were bussed up to the London Crisis Centre at Camden. On the first afternoon of the their stay I saw 3 of them on BBC television's Southeast News. One guest enjoyed his stay so much, he said that he would like to have stayed there permanently. The Croydon shelters resumed on 30th December and by now, the second group of churches is about to hand over to the final group who will continue until the closedown at the end of March.

Thanks to your great generosity, we were able once more to give each guest who was with us in the last shelter before Christmas a VUE cinema voucher , enough for 2 films. This year, there was an added bonus. When I went to buy the vouchers, the manager asked me why I wanted so many, so I told him. He went away and came back with 14 complimentary tickets worth £10 each so each guest was able to see 3 films. An extremely nice gesture and I thanked him on their behalf. With the annual release of the next STARWARS film on 16th December, it wasn't difficult to guess where they spent their vouchers. They asked me to pass on their grateful thanks to you all.

The CCFS Christmas carol singing day on the 11th December in the Whitgift Centre was a great success and raised over £1,200. It was good to see those who could make it. Next year, I hope that it doesn't again coincide with our Christmas Tree Festival and we see more from this church. This money was a welcome addition to a number of other individual and church donations received this year, including a generous £500 cheque from All Saint's church. Our starter pack scheme for former shelter guests that have moved on into accommodation, is now established and in frequent use.

We are becoming quite established at All Saint's as our first shelter venue. We welcomed new volunteers from St John the Baptist Church,

Purley and hope to see them again in the Autumn. . We now have volunteers from 8 local churches as well as those we value with no church connections.

Last year, I said that the shelters were a major example of God's love in action – which they are. I asked you all to pray that someone would be found to take over from me as the lead coordinator in the Autumn . Those prayers have been answered and the continuation at SURC and all Saint's has been assured . We constantly need new or replacement volunteers to maintain our service in Jesus name. Please remember us in your prayers when you are talking to friends or relatives this year and put anyone interested in touch with Paul or myself. Because Paul has no previous experience with the shelters, we have decided that this year we will manage it together but Paul will be the lead coordinator and I will act as assistant coordinator in much the same manner that Sheila Emerson and I worked . I shall spend less time in the shelter but I shall still be around quite often.

I have already thanked our volunteers elsewhere but before I hand over to Paul as lead coordinator this year I should like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Fr Grant and the whole congregation of St Mary's for the outstanding and unwavering encouragement and support shown to me in the past 5 years. To have an enthusiastic ,responsive and generous church behind you has been a source of enormous strength and help. Thank you all. (I'm afraid I shall still be making demands on your pockets and resources from time to time).

Paul

We should all give thanks that God has sent CCFS the services of an exceptional new lead coordinator. Paul Hollingum has lived in South Croydon for about 25 years . I first met him and his wife Jenny at St Mary's and he served here as a churchwarden. Some of you will remember him, his elder daughter was married here just after Christmas .They then moved to the Sanderstead United Reformed Church where he is currently acting as an accredited lay preacher. My son Oliver and I have been friends with him and his family since they moved here and I know that we will work well together.

Paul came to one shelter in December and before the new season starts I shall introduce him to the network of rough sleeper support venues such as the Salvation Army Well, Nightwatch, the Link and St Mildred's. We will both attend CCFS meetings and Croydon Council run courses and he will come to another shelter before they finish in March. By the time we start again in November Paul should have a fairly clear idea of the homeless and rough sleeping provision in Croydon. He retired before Christmas as the Headteacher of a large school in London , responsible for children aged 4 to 17 together with a special needs facility. This makes him the perfect choice to deal with our shelter guests and their many and varied needs and problems. I welcome him to our CCFS family and thank him for choosing to join us.

Bill Jackson



**AGENDA FOR ST MARY'S
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
to be held on Sunday 8th April 2018**

(Following our 9:45am Sung Eucharist, after coffee)

PARISHIONERS' MEETING

(open to parishioners & church members)

Opening prayer

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Notification of Any Other Business** (*It is a great help in planning the AGM if this can be notified to the DCC secretary, in advance*).
3. **Minutes of the Parishioners' Meeting on Sunday 2nd April 2017 and any Matters Arising from the Minutes**
4. **Nomination of 2 Churchwardens to the Annual Parishioners' Meeting**

ANNUAL DISTRICT CHURCH MEETING

(for church (Electoral Roll) members)

1. **Minutes of the ADCM on Sunday 2nd April 2017, and Matters Arising**
2. **To receive the accounts for 2017**
3. **To appoint an independent examiner for the church accounts for 2018**
4. **To receive a report on St Mary's Electoral Roll**
5. **To elect lay representatives to the Croydon South Deanery Synod (2 members)**

6. To elect a lay representatives to the St Mary's Parochial Church Council (PCC)

It is proposed that Elected members of our previous DCC who have not served their three year term automatically become members of the new PCC

NOTE: The following are ex-officio lay members of the PCC:

The churchwardens, Robert Radley (Reader), the elected Deanery Synod Members.

The candidates must be communicant, aged 16 and upwards and on the Electoral Roll of this parish. Those elected will be in law 'Charity Trustees'. Accordingly, anyone disqualified under section 72 of the Charities Act 1993 because of bankruptcy or conviction for an offence of dishonesty or deception is not eligible. Their consent to be nominated must have been obtained. The proposed and seconder must be on the Electoral Roll as well as the candidates and voters.

7. To receive St Mary's (written) Annual Report

8. Questions to church officers (Churchwardens, Treasurer, Secretary) – *please submit any questions in advance of the meeting if possible*

9. Any other business

Closing Prayer, and the Grace

CHURCH OF ST MARY SANDERSTEAD

Sanderstead Team Ministry

Minutes of a meeting of parishioners and members of the electoral roll of the Parish Church of St Mary's Sanderstead held in the church on Sunday 2nd April 2017

Present:

Fr Grant Cohen in the chair, 19 parishioners, Revd David Butlin and Revd Peter Macan

Apologies for absence

Fred & Margaret Irvine

Minutes of the previous meeting

Adoption of the minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 13th March 2016 were proposed by Clive Christensen, approved and signed.

Nomination of Churchwardens

Mrs Deborah Rastall and Mrs Sylvia Keats having agreed to serve again, were proposed and seconded and, there being no other nominations it was agreed their names will be put forward to the Annual Sanderstead Parish meeting for election.

Close

The meeting closed at 12.40 am

CHURCH OF ST MARY SANDERSTEAD

Sanderstead Team Ministry

Minutes of the Annual District Church Meeting held in the church on Sunday 2nd April 2017

Present:

Fr Grant Cohen in the chair, 19 parishioners, Revd David Butlin and Revd Peter Macan

Apologies for absence

Fred & Margaret Irvine

Minutes of the 2016 Annual Church Meeting

The minutes of the Annual Church Meeting held on Sunday 13th March 2016 were proposed by Nevile Henderson and approved and signed without dissent.

Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2016

The Treasurer, Mr Clive Christensen, presented the unaudited financial statement for the year ending 31 December 2016, which had been approved by the DCC at their meeting of 14th March 2017

Questions on the accounts.

None

Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Barry Nicholson, seconded by Revd David Butlin with everyone in favour.

A vote of thanks was proposed and agreed by all to Clive Christensen for all his hard work acting as our treasurer.

Appointment of independent examiner of the church accounts for the year ending 31 December 2017

By unanimous vote, Church and Charity Account Services (Peter Saltiell) were appointed as independent examiner for 2017.

Electoral Roll

The electoral roll stands at 124 (114).

Fr Grant

Fr Grant asked if there were any questions or comments to what he had written in the Annual Report (None)

The redevelopment of the Hall

The redevelopment of the hall has been held up by trying to get a faculty. After discussions with the Archdeacon Rev Chris Skilton we have confirmed that if we do not join the hall to the church and leave a gap approx. the width of the path then no Faculty will be required. The DCC are happy to proceed on this basis so long as the design allows for creating a join at a later date. We are now awaiting the Diocesan Registrar to confirm the gap needed, we will then get the buildings team and the developer to look at and adjust the plans.

It has already been decided to dispense with a wet room and instead to install a platform lift.

Questions

Bill Jackson: As there will be no join would it not be beneficial to have a modern design of hall rather than something to match the church. A modern design might be more flexible.

Fr Grant: Thanking Bill for raising this Fr Grant said that #Bill had written to him in more depth regarding this question and that Bill's letter will go to the buildings team as part of the considerations now that we are not building an attached hall.

Election of lay representatives to the Croydon South Deanery Synod.

Two vacancies, Ben Launden and Kim Brown had both been proposed and seconded, there being no other nominations there were elected.

Election of lay representatives to the Parochial Church Council

One vacancy, no one stood for election

Election of Lay representatives to the District Church Council

Two vacancies, Nora Lee and Robert Colin Butwell had both been proposed and seconded, there being no other nominations there were elected.

Reports

The meeting received the written annual report for the year ending 31st December 2016. Adoption was proposed by Tim Crump, seconded by Clive Christensen and approved unanimously. A copy of the report is available

from the DCC Secretary.

Safeguarding

Barry Nicholson gave an overview of what Safeguarding means at St Mary's. A lot of people think it is just about getting DBS checks done and protecting children. Actually it is protecting any venerable person, regardless of age, disability or anything else and to provide a friendly environment. More details are available from the Southwark Anglican website which defined procedures that we follow.

Questions to Church officers

None

Any other business

Bill Jackson wished to thank everyone and particularly Fr Grant for all the support we give to the Purley Food Hub and to the Floating Shelter, both on a weekly basis and when we are asked to respond to particular appeals.

Sylvia Keats proposed a vote of thanks to Fr Grant for all his care, dedication and hard work.

Close

The meeting closed with the Grace, at 13.10 pm

