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## St Mark's Church, Newnham

### Minutes of the Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting held in St Mark's Community Centre on Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at 11.30 am

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**1: Present:** Jeremy Whitton Spriggs (CW,Chair), Sue Payne (CW), Nigel Porter (Deputy CW), Marguerite Roberts (Assistant Priest), Peter Hampson (Hon.Sect. to St Mark's PCC), Stuart Lingard (Treasurer), Andrew Watts (Lay Minister), Derek Cummings, Anne Howie, Dorothy Elven, Hannelore Hägele, Margaret Banks, John Brady, Ann Silver, Rita Lingard, Richard Dyball, Angela Watts, Debbie Whitton Spriggs, Eleanor Jones, Chris Wagner, Susan Chester, Barry Domvile, Margaret Wiseman, Perrin Hardy, Clare Gye Coates, Richard Bauckham, Jane Plows, Julia Bevington, Loder Bevington, Kaija Hampson, Judith Lewins, Jeffrey Lewins, Hilary Murray, Roy Murray, Tina Wilson, Stella Innes, Sheila Harrison, Eleanor Scott, Alan Jones, Wendy Walford, Margaret Wiseman, Marcus Ngantcha, Jeremy Begbie, Ross Smythe, Kris Smythe, Lavinia Harding-Rolls

**Apologies for absence** were received from Margaret Hay, Robert Hay, Jean Jarvis, David Keeble, Valerie Keeble, Margaret Herbertson, Miles Elliott, Pam Landshoff, Ben Keeble, Roger Baker, Liz Baker, Sue Wagner, Andrew Chester, Nick Warburton, Robert Hamilton, Shev Roser Chris Hammond.

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### Vestry Meeting

**Written reports are included. Comments made at the meeting in bold type.**

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Agenda item 2: The minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 were unanimously approved by the meeting and signed by the Chair. (Proposed/seconded by Dorothy Elven, Jeffrey Lewins). There were no amendments or matters arising not to be taken elsewhere.

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#### **Agenda Item 3: Verger's Report 2016-2017**

In the continuing absence of a verger, as reported last year, a rota has been set up to cover locking and unlocking the church and the community centre, as well as putting out the bins. This continues to work efficiently for most of the time.

Volunteers continued to carry out our seasonal duties like clearing leaves. Unfortunately it remains the case that there is no facility for a 'green' collection of our massive leaf fall, and whilst we put what we can into the dustbins, once again, we had to organise a skip which goes to landfill. For this work, as for so much else which will be mentioned elsewhere, we must be grateful to Alan Jones, Chris Wagner, Chris Hammond and Barry Domvile. We were fortunate in that it was a milder winter and there was no snow to clear and relatively few mornings when grit had to be scattered.

Setting up for services continues to be carried out by volunteers and we are all grateful to them. Additionally, thanks are due to June Dathan for the washing of the linen, Margaret Herbertson for cleaning the silver, Jane Plows and helpers for cleaning the brass and plaques and, of course to Wendy Walford and her team of flower arrangers and to those providing coffee.

Barry Domvile, as part of his Administrator duties, is responsible for printing the service sheets, and for ordering candles, communion wine and wafers. After some chewing over we seem to have arrived at an acceptable gluten-free option for the wafers. Barry also carries out verging duties for funerals and memorial services.

We are all rightly grateful for the very committed volunteers who devote so much time and consideration to the continued smooth running of this church. As with a good umpire or referee, the fact that you don't notice them testifies to their dedication and efficiency; if they weren't there, however, we would not be able to benefit from the calm atmosphere we all enjoy in our worship. It is a true pleasure for us to thank, on behalf of all of us, those of you who already contribute so much. May we please urge others to come forward and share in the fellowship and service that helps to make St Mark's such a special community. **Jeremy Whitton Spriggs**  
**Jeremy read his report to the meeting and offered his thanks to Sue Payne (retiring CW) for the enormous amount of work she had done for St Mark's during her 3-year tenure as a CW.**

#### **4: Churchwardens' Report 2016-2017**

Thanks were given to Marguerite in acknowledgement of all her service. Sue Payne presented her with a bouquet of flowers in appreciation.

Sue Payne has completed three years as churchwarden, and I should like to thank her and acknowledge all she has done in that time.

**Sue was invited to speak at this point:**

“ It has been a huge honour to have been your churchwarden for the past three years and I have found it very rewarding although hugely challenging at times. Firstly I would like to thank Derek ( Cummings) for his guidance and also Jeremy (Whitton Spriggs) with whom I have enjoyed working with this year and building towards the future.

Secondly a VERY BIG THANK YOU to the interregnum standing committee, Jeremy, Marguerite, Nigel (Porter), Stuart Lingard, Peter Hampson, Hilary Murray. I could not have done it without your wonderful help, support and friendship.....and I might even miss our early evening fortnightly meetings around the kitchen table with the odd glass of wine!

All the very best to Eleanor (Toye Scott) and to you all as we look forward to the future at St Mark's.”

Sue was presented with a bouquet of flowers and also with a membership of Cambridge Historic Churches Trust running through until December 2018 with our love gratitude and appreciation.

The most significant news of the year has been the interviewing and appointment of the Reverend Rachel Rosborough as the Priest in Charge of St Mark's Newnham and St Mary and St Andrew at Grantchester. She will take up her post in July 2017 following a move from the Cotswolds. We are delighted about this appointment and look forward to working with Rachel. Additional detail on this will be provided under Item 8 'The Vacancy.' The interregnum standing committee (ISC), set up last year to manage church matters, has continued to meet fortnightly. It comprises Marguerite Roberts, our Associate Priest; the churchwardens; Nigel Porter, our deputy churchwarden; Stuart Lingard, the treasurer; Hilary Murray, our ALM; and Peter Hampson the PCC Secretary.

**Services**

During the vacancy we have maintained our pattern of two Sunday services, one weekday service and a number of additional, special services throughout the year. To do this we have called upon nearly 30 visiting clergy, and we have benefited enormously from the variety of teaching. Thank you to Peter Hampson who has very efficiently kept the vacancy service plan, inviting one past archbishop, two bishops, two archdeacons, the rural dean, college deans and chaplains, and retired clergy.

Thanks, too, to the Fourth Sunday team, ably led by Hilary and Clare Coates, who organise the all-age communion service once a month. We are also indebted to Andrew Watts, our licensed lay reader, who has taken a monthly Service of the Word, and to Chris Hammond, who has taken an informal Evensong once a month.

We are grateful to Rachel Greene, who has regularly taken the Tuesday 11.00 communion. Rachel has taken over this service as we have finally said a sad farewell to the Rev'd Vivienne Lake, who decided she could no longer continue. We are immensely appreciative of the service she has provided so wonderfully and for so long.

Happily, attendances have been maintained during our vacancy year with an average of 80 adults and 15 children at the 10.00 a.m. Sunday service. Growth in the Junior Church numbers has been sustained and is very encouraging. Our monthly Messy Church service for young children and their parents or carers has grown steadily from an average of 24 children and 13 adults in 2014 to 42 and 23 in 2015, and this year averages 47 with 23. These numbers show how the efforts of our children's workers and the team of volunteers have borne fruit, and reflect the commitment of St Mark's to this wonderful ministry.

Our Holy Week numbers both in 2016 and this year were hugely encouraging: 176 adults and 47 children on Palm Sunday, 128 adults and 34 children on Easter Sunday and 36 and 40 adults respectively at our Ash Wednesday and Good Friday services. At Easter 2017 on Good Friday there were 97 adults and 15 children and on Easter Sunday 160 adults and 40 children.

The Pentecost service attracted 75 adults and 18 children. Unsurprisingly our highest numbers were for the Carol Service (130 and 17 – reflecting the time and nature of the programme), and the Crib Service (110 and 101).

## Departures and arrivals

We were delighted that Mark Scarlata, our curate, was appointed to St Edward's, but his departure inevitably placed an extra burden on Marguerite. We would like to express our enormous gratitude and appreciation to Marguerite; St Mark's could not have continued to function without her service.

We were very sorry to lose our hardworking children's worker, Anne Strauss – but for the good reason that she has been accepted for ordination training. In September we appointed Clare Coates as her successor.

## Life at St Mark's

Our various committees, covering pastoral care and support, social activities, outreach and artistic endeavours as well as the children's work and community centre activities, have again provided the solid basis on which the church functions. The reports of these committees follow.

Other important parts of the St Mark's year include the Lent course (this year on the theme of St Francis) and the autumn quiet day (on the Lord's Prayer). Both were led by Andrew Watts and Richard Baukham.

**Sue (as retiring CW) thanked all those who contributed so much to life at St Mark's, including Marguerite, Derek, members of the interregnum standing committee, Andrew Watts and Richard Baukham for organising the Lent talks and the quiet day, committee chairs, those who served coffee, Sue Wagner and others mentioned in the report. She was pleased to report that Anne Strauss (former Children's and Families' worker) has been accepted for ordination training, and the Mark Scarlata (former Assistant Priest) doing very well as vicar at St Edward's.**

## Community Centre

St Mark's Community Centre has again had a very successful year. Estimates have shown that our site has an average footfall of 1000 per week during school terms. This figure includes all activities on our site, including services and church led activities.

***Sue Payne and Jeremy Whitton Spriggs, Churchwardens.***

## 5: Election of Churchwardens

Eleanor Scott, nominated by Jeremy Whitton Spriggs and seconded by Hilary Murray, and Jeremy Whitton Spriggs, nominated by Nigel Porter and seconded by Hilary Murray were unanimously elected as churchwardens by the meeting.

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# Annual Parochial Church Meeting

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**Written reports are included. Comments made at the meeting are in bold type.**

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**1: Present and Apologies** – as above for the Vestry Meeting

**2: The minutes** of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 were approved and signed by the Chair. (Proposed/seconded by Derek Cummings/Sue Payne). There were no amendments or matters arising not to be taken elsewhere.

## Agenda Item 3: Treasurer's Report and Accounts

The Statutory Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2016 have been approved by the Independent Examiner and were posted on the church noticeboard on 2 April 2017. Copies of the 10 page document are available from me on request but to help present the figures, I have prepared the attached extract giving the Income and Expenditure figures and Fund Movements for the year together with Pie Charts for the General or unrestricted fund.

General/unrestricted income amounted to £109,838 compared to £113,797 in 2015; general/unrestricted expenditure amounted to £107,239 compared to £109,640 in 2015. This resulted in a surplus of income over expenditure for the year of £2,599 compared to £4,157 in 2015.

Total funds increased by £45,740 during the year to £305,012 mainly as a result of contributions from Community Centre lettings and an unrealised gain on investments.

There were no major projects undertaken during the year but the Community Centre fund is being held in anticipation of the need to replace the Small Hall roof.

#### ***Stuart Lingard***

**Stuart said we should note the small surplus in the income over expenditure for the year. The financial situation has been helped by some very generous bequests. He gave special thanks to those who give regularly. John Brady proposed and Sheila Harrison seconded that the PCC should approve the accounts. The meeting agreed unanimously.**

#### **4: VICAR'S REPORT**

In the absence of a vicar please consult the Churchwardens' Report in the minutes of the vestry meeting (above).

#### **5: Electoral Roll Officer's Report**

Five people have been removed from the Electoral Roll during the year: Mary Bligh, Shirley Palmer, Denis and Jane Petkovic and Gill Poulton. There were no additions. The number on the Electoral Roll is now 163.

*Peter Hampson, Electoral Roll Officer*

**Peter said that the Electoral Roll would need to be renewed from scratch next year as part of the CofE's 6-year cycle. Eleanor Jones said we would need to ask members of the congregation to help in this large task and suggested that the Visiting Group might help in reaching less mobile persons on the current roll. It was also noted that membership of the Electoral Roll is nothing to do with citizenship and people who attend St Mark's are eligible and should be encouraged to join.**

#### **6: PCC reports: Annual reports from working groups and committees**

##### **6.1: Land & Buildings**

The Church Fabric. The past year has been one of minor repairs and maintenance, the repair of the East Window, the planting of the new flagpole and the replacement of the audio loop amplifier, which an anonymous donor has offered to pay for. The only task outstanding is the repair of the spire, to which access will be difficult and unfortunately expensive. We are awaiting the return of three tenders for the work. *Alan Jones*

**Jeremy said that the previous Land and Buildings Committee had been disbanded and responsibility passed to the Churchwardens. He thanked Alan and Eleanor for their huge contribution to St Mark's over many years and in many rôles. He hoped persons might come forward to eventually relieve Alan of some of his work.**

##### **6.2: Community Centre**

"What's On in Newnham", published three times a year, shows the wide range of classes, lectures and other activities which ensure that both Halls are fully utilised. Bookings for children's parties, neighbourhood events and school holiday clubs have increased. The Small Hall roof will be replaced this summer. In the Large Hall fifty chairs need replacement. Introduction of Wi Fi is imminent.

Income in 2016 increased as did expenditure which included Utilities and Cleaning costs from previous years.

These items having been paid the outlook for 2017 is strong. The Committee is mindful that improvements to the Community Centre will ensure the approval, satisfaction and enjoyment of those who visit and use it.

*Miles Elliott*

*A summary of the accounts for the Community Centre is attached.*

**Derek said that the Community Centre had had a very busy and successful year. In the spirit of serving the whole community, 4 members of the committee are not members of St Mark's congregation. Xanthe Langley is now taking the bookings and uploading items to the website, which Derek urged people to view regularly and give feedback to him. He reminded the meeting of the free Parish Walk and tea on May 21. Also Sara Payne's (free) talk on May 5 at 9.30am in the Community Centre which will include information about items to be seen on the walk.**

##### **6.3: Youth and Children**

There has been a steady increase in those attending Junior Church, Messy Church and Toddlers, with new families joining each group.

**Junior Church** has continued to be well supported by parent volunteers and I would like to record my thanks to Ted, Kirsty, Stephen, Dani and Rachel for their fantastic support over the last couple of months. I have donated a children's cross which is

handed to one of the children by the officiant and is then followed by all to the large hall where we gather for singing before splitting into the three groups: under 7s; 7-11 Godly Play; 11+.

I have been developing ways for children of all ages to engage in and learn to pray. Children are very open to talking about what prayer is and even very young children are keen to find out more. Different approaches are needed to suit the different age groups. For a very young child, prayer is simple: it could just be one word or holding an object, such as a stone or shell. Recently the under sevens were thinking about what to pray for, and to help them, I asked them to choose a shell and name a prayer, even if it was just one word. Strikingly all children wanted to pray for the world or for refugees. We then took our shell Prayers back into the Church, and placed them on the prayer table. Teenagers relish the chance to discuss the set gospel and how this relates to their daily lives. For example, one week we talked about the issue of bullying and how as Christians we should stand up for the vulnerable. We also talked about the difficulty of being a Christian in a secular world. All felt that Prayer rooted them in God and that it helped them process challenges and anxieties arising from school or home life. For example, one boy has been using prayer as a way of helping him face difficult situations in school, giving him strength and a sense of calm. Teenagers are remarkably aware of and affected by world issues, and recently they made a collage of where Christ's wounds are in the world today. Collage prayer helps them to be aware of where God's presence is most needed. Sticky note prayers have also been an effective way of interceding on behalf of those in need. One prayer activity in particular was enjoyed by all ages, adults included - we drew around our feet and wrote or drew our prayers on them, placing them in the Church when we returned for Communion.

Craft and art activities have been a particularly effective way of engaging the children in prayer. For Lent, all age groups participated in a "Stations of the Cross" project, making crowns of thorns, decorated crosses, jam jar lights, wilderness boxes, a Jesus tree, a Lent Garden, Palm print palms, a plaster prayers crucifix, collages and a stone prayer cross. In each activity, we thought about and talked about why we mark Lent, journeying together as adults and children with Jesus to Holy Week. These were then displayed in the Church for the whole of Holy Week along with pictures of Jesus and the crucifixion for members of the congregation and community to use as inspiration for their own prayers. In this way, creative prayer has opened our eyes to where God is at work in our Church, in our community and in our daily lives. It has enriched the spiritual lives of both the children and the adults who come to Junior Church, making God real, vital and fun, sparking our social conscience and our sense of being still and present before God. As a result, children and their families have become increasingly involved in leading worship in the Church for our all age fourth Sunday service, leading prayers and reading, as well as playing in the Church band or singing in the informal choir and in helping Marguerite setting the Communion table.

**Messy Church** has seen a steady increase in numbers attending, from all over Cambridge and the villages. For the last two months over a hundred children, carers and parents came for messy play and activities, with a slight decrease this month as it was held during the Easter Holidays. Themes include: Fresh Starts; God loves us; Mothering Sunday; and Easter and Spring. My grateful thanks to the brilliant team of volunteers who help run the service, make the food and clear up at the end and to Marguerite, for all her fantastic support. Messy Church is proving an excellent way of reaching out into the wider community and providing those families who are unable to attend on Sundays a Church Community of their own.

**Toddles** is thriving; Hannah is due to go on Maternity leave this Term and all sessions are now covered by St Mark's volunteers until she is ready to come back. I have been attending most sessions and am trying to learn all the songs! A lot of the Toddles families and carers have been coming to Messy Church and several have come to main services too. I really enjoy attending this group and it has been a brilliant way of reaching out into the wider community.

**Bumps to Babes** has had patchy attendance and after consultation with Hannah Bruce, we have decided to relaunch the group once Hannah has had her baby in May, with new publicity, and a new day and time to coincide with another children's class at the community centre and before the afternoon school run. Wednesdays from 2-3 has been agreed with Derek Cummings and we hope to launch this after Half Term in June.

**M&Ms**, the joint Youth Group with Trumpington, has met several times after Christmas, with a trip to Clip n Climb and going deeper sessions, which we host here at St Mark's. We also hosted a "great big fundraising bake off" last month with all cakes and biscuits being sold after the Mothering Sunday Service to help finance some of the more expensive trips planned for the future, most notably the Go-Karting outing in June and a visit to Go Ape in July. A brilliant £97 was raised by the Newnham teenagers!

**Open the Book** continues to be highly engaging outreach into the local school, with the team always bringing fun and laughter, but with the serious message always underscoring the drama. This is one of the highlights of my week. Thank you in particular to Roy, Derek, Wendy and Barry for producing and leading these assemblies which are thoroughly enjoyed by all.  
*Clare Coates*

**Clare said it has been an amazing year. She would like to thank parents and Messy Church volunteers for their help. She is looking forward to the arrival of Rachel and her family at St Mark's.**

#### **6.4: Education and Discipleship Committee - (JWS read this report to the meeting)**

In September twenty members of the congregation gathered for another Quiet Day at Little Gidding where we enjoyed the hospitality of Farrer House and its beautiful setting. The theme was "The Lord's Prayer" and each section of the day explored one of the petitions from this prayer, through, word, music, art and silence. It was good to think of the deep meanings of these very familiar words.

In the weeks of Lent leading up to Easter we had five talks on the life and teaching of St. Francis. Each speaker came at their topic in a different way and many of us found the series very helpful as a preparation for Easter. And challenging! - especially the session on "Poverty" in which we found ourselves asking what we might do to address the issue of poverty in our society. A follow up meeting to try and answer that question has been held to see if we can understand what God might be saying to us about this. *Andrew Watts*

**The follow up had had to be postponed. Andrew and Richard Bauckham were thanked for organising the events mentioned in this report.**

#### **6.5: Worship**

Since the last APCM the Worship Committee has, as usual, planned the special services for Father's Day (June), Harvest (October), with particular thanks to Ben Keeble for his creative ideas, and Mothering Sunday (March). Andrew Watts has given us some inspiring Services of the Word.

Clare Coates planned and organised another wonderful crib service on Christmas Eve.

Clare, Hilary Murray and Marguerite have continued to plan and develop the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday all-age services. Thanks to all those who play in the band for these services.

We continue to support the visiting clergy during the Vacancy.

However, special thanks must go to Peter Hampson, who has managed the Vacancy Service Plan so efficiently, as well as sending out the relevant booklets and instructions to the clergy, during the Interregnum.

And Sue Payne has, as always, kept an overall eye on everything from altar cloths to flowers and most importantly to welcoming people and making us all feel part of the St Mark's Team! Thank you Sue.

*Hilary Murray*

**The Chair thanked Hilary for the work she does for the Worship Committee.**

#### **6.6: Visiting Group Report to the APCM**

The group has been available to offer support to anyone in the parish who may be sick, disabled, frail, lonely or unhappy and would welcome support. All members are aware of safeguarding issues and the importance of confidentiality and most have attended the diocesan safeguarding awareness training sessions. The group meets to discuss concerns and share any relevant information about local services when necessary, especially for vulnerable adults.

Links with Lammas Court (sheltered accommodation) were maintained with the Christmas carols and mince pies party, a tea party and the Shrove Tuesday pancake party.

Attendance and support for the monthly Ploughman's Lunch has declined but it is hoped that when we have the new vicar we can encourage people from Grantchester to come, (following the success of the summer tea party which was attended by a group from their church.)

*Margaret Banks*

**Jeremy said the work of the Visiting Group is a very important part of Christian outreach by St Mark's, for which he thanked Margaret and the members of the group. It has been agreed that Lammas Court may use the Community Centre as a refuge in the unlikely event of fire, or other emergency. He and Peter are the contacts.**

#### **6.7: Arts Events Committee Report to APCM (no written report)**

It has been a slightly quieter year for the Arts at St Mark's in general, but there were some notable highlights. Wendy Walford's production of the play *Silent Night*, involving members of church and others, was a successful and very popular seasonal event. Other offerings included a dramatised reading of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and concerts with Granta Chorale with literary interludes from St Mark's performers. We are currently exploring the possibility of a commissioned play from Nick Warburton, exploring the relevance of Christmas today, for putting on at the end of 2017. *Debbie Whitton Spriggs*

**Jeremy said the Roy and Derek would be taken to supper at the Red Bull as thanks for their work.**

### **6.8: Social Events Committee Report**

The Committee has continued to provide refreshments for the many social and church events throughout the year. The community lunches continue to be very well supported and were held most months except during the summer. The St Mark's Day Dinner held on April 22 was again very successful and our speaker, Dr Mike Thompson, gave us an extremely witty view of his life in Newnham from the view point of an American. St Mark's hosted the simple lunch for our new Vicar interviews on November 2nd with members of Grantchester church also invited.

The church fete in 2016 was blessed with lovely weather which made for a very enjoyable and financially successful day. For the first time we raised over £3000 and in fact over £3300 which was a wonderful sum. Many people are needed to make this event a success and thanks go to over 40 people who are involved on the day. Many thanks also to the Volland family who allowed us to use the Vicarage garden and entered into the spirit of the occasion by running the coconut shy.

The Social Committee is quite small and we would welcome some new members especially if they are under 60 and enjoy cooking. *Sue Wagner*

**Sue and her committee were heartily thanked for their work.**

### **6.9: Charitable giving at St Mark's - Including Charity of the Month.**

Charitable giving continues to be an important part of our mission at St Mark's. The congregation is generous. The charity of the month collection on the second Sunday of each month focuses our attention, and there were also collections at the carol service, the crib service and at the Lent lunches.

#### **'Charity of the Month' in : 2016**

January	Cambridge Money Advice Centre	£ 603.91
February	Cambridge Churches Homelessness Project	£ 803.58
March	Cambridge branch of the MS society	£ 409.95
April	Cambridge Hearing Help	£ 369.91
May and Oct	Diocese of Gombe	£ 1625.51
June	Umoja	£ 632.53
July	Street Children United	£ 531.69
August	Church Urban Fund	£ 993.06
Sept.	The Bible Society	£ 450.00
November	ssafra	£ 792.09
December	Cochlear Implanted Children's Support Group	£ 614.95

The money raised at the **Lent lunches** in 2016, for Save the Children - Syria Crisis Appeal came to £1,900, and at the Lent Lunches in 2017 £1,850 has been raised for Emmaus.

We give our very grateful thanks to Tina Wilson for arranging the lunches, for all the friendship and fellowship shared at the lunches as well as the wonderful totals raised.

In December 2016, the collection at the **Crib service** raised £326.80 for The Children's Society, and the collection at the **Carol service** raised £462.74 for the Christmas appeal of Embrace The Middle East.

Donations of food items for the **Cambridge Food Bank** can be given on the second Sunday of each month. We thank both Rosey Gardiner and Eleanor Scott for making this possible. They take trouble to remind us of the collection and to highlight any particular needs for that month. They also gather up the donations and deliver them to the Food bank. I know I am not alone in being grateful to them for making it possible to help in this way. It is a monthly reminder of the great inequality of both wealth and security to be found in this city.

**Cambridge Convoy Refugee Action Group** - A collection was held 11.12.16 for donations of food, bedding and clothes. Many thanks to Rev Rachel Greene for making this possible. A further collection will take place on the afternoon of Sunday 11th June 2017.

The Charities chosen for the months of **2017** are :

January - Cambridge Churches Homelessness Project £781.63 given

February - Embrace the Middle East £ 502.67 given

March - Arthur Rank Hospice £703 given

April - The British Red Cross £520.01 given,  
May and October - Gombe, June -The Cambridge Money Advice Centre, July - Umoja , August - Kana Academy  
Educational Project, Ethiopia, September - The Bible Society, November - Walking with the wounded December - Church  
Urban Fund

The collection at the crib service in December 2017 will be for The Children's Society.

**Christian Aid Week** - in May each year about 20 members of the congregation join with some from different denominations to visit the houses in Newnham, for a house to house collection. Increasingly the giving may take place on line, but locally people are very generous. Also the visiting is a witness and a reminder of the need for funds that Christian Aid uses in its work alleviating poverty and suffering in many countries.

The meeting to discuss the allocations of charities for the months of 2018, and the for the Lent lunches will take place in the autumn, and we hope Rachel, our new vicar, may be able to join us then.

*Susan Chester.*

**Susan said the above list should include about £1000 towards Save the Children in Nigeria. Stuart was thanked for managing the financial arrangements needed in dealing with funds for charitable giving.**

### **6.10: Deanery Synod**

There has not been much action from the Deanery Synod but more seems to be happening now that a permanent Rural Dean, Father Robert Mackley has been appointed.

A recent meeting concentrated on the ELY 2025 Mission Fund which aims to support new mission initiatives.

Hopefully we can look at this and the available lay training options once our new vicar is established.

*Margaret Banks*

**Jeremy noted that various grants are available from the Diocese and that the PCC will look into them.**

**Margaret said, at a meeting on the Ely 2025 Mission Fund, that she felt the diocese did not give enough support to parishes in vacancy. The Mission Officer said he would consider the matter.**

### **6.11: Burial Ground**

There have been three burials and several internment of ashes at the Memorial Garden over the last year.

The development of the wildflower meadow at the extension area was successful last summer with quite a range of different flowers. It is hoped that in this coming summer the full area proposed for the meadow will also be successful, but there has been quite an invasion of moss over the winter which may reduce this. With a confidence in the future success of the wildflower meadow, we have preferred to use scythes rather than mowers to cut the meadow in late summer and autumn and we have invested in two scythes and several of us have had a short course in scything from a professional.

The driveway into the Burial Ground is the only part not owned by St Marks and the proposed double leaf agricultural gate at the entrance, to keep out rabbits, had to have the agreement of the owner of the land, in this case of the adjacent orchard, Mr Offord. Eventually it was decided to locate the gate outside the leased area, requiring it to partially traverse the carpark. With this location it is more difficult to prevent entry by the general public into the driveway and recently there has been a bad case of fly tipping at the side of the carpark by people unknown.

The grassed areas between the existing graves and at the sides (paths) of the wildflower meadow continue to be very well maintained by our contract gardener, John Deaney. There has been a very attractive showing of spring flowers in the older part of the Burial Ground in the last few months. There has to be a further programme, the last two years ago, of lopping extensive overhanging branches on the larger trees, including some overhanging into the Barton road verge, and this work will commence towards the end of April.

*Chris Wagner, Sexton*

**A CCTV camera has been installed to deter fly tipping. Chris will contact the County Council regarding the difficulty drivers have leaving the BG because of the speed of the traffic on Barton Road at that point.**

**Chris was thanked for his work.**

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### **7.1: The Parochial Church Council**

Further to the retirement of John Brady and Kristine Smythe after their 3 years' service, and Eleanor Scott having been elected a Churchwarden, the following were elected or re-elected:

John Brady, proposed by Stuart Lingard and seconded by Peter Hampson

Kristine Smythe, proposed by Barry Donvile and seconded by Peter Hampson  
Ross Smythe, proposed by Hannelore Hägele and seconded by Peter Hampson

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### **7.2: Independent Financial Examiner**

Further to Stuart's recommendation Lisa Burdett King was unanimously appointed to this post after being proposed by Jeremy Whitton Spriggs and seconded by Andrew Watts. She was thanked for her contribution.

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### **7.3: Election of Sidespeople**

A list of proposed sidespeople was presented by Sue Payne and this was accepted unanimously. They are: Margaret Banks, Margaret Herbertson, Miles Elliott (reserve at 8am), Hannelore Hägele, Shev Sen, Hilary Murray, Roy Murray, Nigel Ede, Stuart Warren, Judith Lewins, Jeffrey Lewins, Gill Kelly, James Kelly, Margaret Wiseman, Sue Payne, Derek Cummings, Nick Warburton, John Firth, Sarah Squire, Richard Dyball, Rita Lingard, Eleanor Jones, Jeremy Whitton Spriggs, Barry Domvile; Jane Plows (reserve), Rachel Begbie (reserve), Robert Hamilton (reserve).

### **8. The Interregnum (officially "The Vacancy")**

It is now two years since Maggie Guite announced that she was leaving to take up an appointment as Team Rector for Linton and adjacent parishes. At the time of our last APCM the process to replace her was underway but proceeding slowly. I am sure that you will all be aware that it was finally agreed that our new Vicar would act as a Priest in Charge, sharing duties between St Mark's and St Andrew and St Mary Grantchester. Despite the duties involved, the Diocese decreed that the stipend would be at 80% of a full time post. The parish profile was produced as was the person profile and the post was finally advertised in September 2016. There were 9 applicants of which 4 were shortlisted for interview. On the evening before one dropped out. The interview process included candidates preaching here at St Mark's and attending a lunch, giving parishioners a chance to meet them.

Following a recommendation from the interviewing panel Bishop Stephen met and subsequently appointed The Revd Rachel Rosborough as Priest in Charge of both Churches. Rachel is currently Rector of Bourton on the Water, Gloucestershire. Arrangements for her licensing on 6 July at 7.00 pm are currently being discussed by our two parishes and the Rural Dean. Rachel will live in the vicarage in Grantchester together with her husband and children.

*Jeremy Whitton Spriggs*

**Margaret Wiseman had heard, earlier in the vacancy period, that the vicar who will be appointed after Rachel would live in Newnham. Derek and Sue said that this offer had never been formalised in writing by the diocese.**

**At our Section 12 meeting the diocesan representative admitted that the present points system is flawed but we had to live with it until it can be improved. It should be noted that Rachel applied for the vacant post partly because it is an 80% appointment, not 100%.**

**Use of the vicarage garden for the fête is by permission of the tenants, currently the Vollands (who have kindly agreed to allow it).**

**The meeting felt it is essential that a regular mid-morning communion service should be held every Sunday, especially to keep the pattern of Junior Church going at that time. Jeremy Begbie said he would be in a position to officiate at such services between May and November.**

### **9: Deputy Churchwarden**

Jeremy proposed, and Hilary Murray seconded, that Nigel Ported be appointed Deputy Churchwarden (with a place on the PCC). This was unanimously agreed.

**Nigel thanked Sue Payne for hosting the Interregnum Standing Committee at her house over the past year. He felt that St Mark's work has not been properly supported by the diocese, but he felt sure we would all work together to meet the future challenges.**

### **10: Any Other Business**

Sheila Harrison asked the meeting to recognise the contribution that various musicians make to the life of St Mark's, especially by Jonathan Hellyer Jones. The meeting agreed, also recognising Christophe's current work as choir director, as well as Louisa's previous work.

## **PCC members 2017-2018**

Marguerite Roberts (asst priest)

Jeremy Whitton Spriggs (churchwarden)  
Eleanor Scott (churchwarden)  
Andrew Watts (Licensed Lay Minister)  
Stuart Lingard (Treasurer – appointed at following PCC meeting)  
Nigel Porter (Deputy Churchwarden)  
Peter Hampson (Secretary to the PCC – appointed at following PCC meeting)

## **Elected Members**

Margaret Banks (Deanery Synod to 2020)  
Sue Payne (Deanery Synod to 2019)  
Barry Domvile (2018)  
Nigel Ede (2018)  
Ben Keeble (2018)  
Judith Lewins (2019)  
Debbie Whitton Spriggs (2019)  
Clare Coates (2019)  
Richard Dyball (2019)

## **Co-opted and invited to attend PCC meetings (at following PCC meeting)**

Hilary Murray (co-opted)  
Rita Lingard (invited to attend)  
Miles Elliott (invited to attend)

## **Sidespeople 2017-2018**

Margaret Banks, Margaret Herbertson, Miles Elliott (reserve at 8am), Hannelore Hägele, Shev Sen, Hilary Murray, Roy Murray, Nigel Ede, Stuart Warren, Judith Lewins, Jeffrey Lewins, Gill Kelly, James Kelly, Margaret Wiseman, Sue Payne, Derek Cummings, Nick Warburton, John Firth, Sarah Squire, Richard Dyball, Rita Lingard, Eleanor Jones, Jeremy Whitton Spriggs, Barry Domvile ; Jane Plows (reserve), Rachel Begbie (reserve), Robert Hamilton (reserve).

## **Meeting of the new PCC, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 1.10pm**

**Present:** Eleanor Scott, Sue Payne, Jeremy Whitton Spriggs, Nigel Porter, Margaret Banks, Barry Domvile, Chris Wagner, Stuart Lingard, Rita Lingard, John Brady, Andrew Watts, Clare Coates, Richard Dyball, Judith Lewins, Debbie Whitton Spriggs, Ross Smythe, Kristine Smythe, Peter Hampson (secretary)

### **The following were appointed:**

**Vice-chairpersons of the PCC:** The Churchwardens, (proposed seconded by Sue Payne/Hilary Murray)

**Treasurer:** Stuart Lingard, (JWS/John Brady)

**Secretary to the PCC and Electoral Roll Officer:** Peter Hampson (JWS/SP)

**The Standing Committee of the PCC:** The Clergy (2), Churchwardens (2), Deputy Churchwarden, Treasurer, Secretary, Hilary Murray. (AW/RS)

JWS proposed and Nigel Porter seconded that Hilary Murray be co-opted to the PCC, and that Rita Lingard and Miles Elliott be offered a standing invitation to attend PCC meetings. Derek Cummings to attend if Miles was not available.

## **Dates of Future Meetings**

PCC: Wednesday, May 17 at 7.30pm in the vestry (or small hall)

Interregnum Standing Committee: Wednesday, May 10 at 7pm at 25 Selwyn Road.

END