

PARISH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, SPEEN

1. The Election of Churchwardens
2. Annual Parochial Church Meeting

7.30pm on Tuesday, 5th April 2011 in the Majendie Hall

Present

Tessa Ardagh-Walter	Stuart Atkinson	Jacky Barr	Michael Bell
Alan Booth	Jane Booth	Mavis Brind	Jane Burrell
Isobel Collyer	Peter Cook	Paul Cowan	Jennifer Davies
Val Dorey	Jo Fageant	Maureen Gilbert	Aileen Hewetson
Elke Holden-Bell	Denys Hughes	John Hughesdon	Mavis Hughesdon
Graham Loxton-Best	Sheila Loxton-Best	Brian Nobes	Denise Nobes
Jean Read	Robin Read	Julian Shelley	Billie Thirlaway
Alan Treasure	Janet Treasure	Jill Wilson	

Apologies

Shelagh Bell	Trevor Dorey	Janet Evans	Martin Evans
Alan Foley	Susan Foley	John Gregory	Margaret Howlett
Derek Shailes	Jean Shailes	Andrew Wright	Christine Wright

Meeting for the Election of Churchwardens

1. Vice-Chairman's Welcome

The Vice-Chairman, Michael Bell, welcomed all those present. He pointed out that anyone resident in the parish or on the electoral roll was entitled to participate in the meetings, but that only those on the electoral roll were entitled to vote.

2. Prayers

Prayers were led by the Vice-Chairman, and all present joined in the Lord's Prayer.

3. Election of Churchwardens

The present churchwardens had served the maximum six years allowed under the rule introduced into the Churchwardens Measure 2001 in April 2007.

'Where a person has served as churchwarden in the same parish for six successive years, he will be disqualified from being churchwarden for the next two years.'

In the absence of any other nominations, and having ascertained that the present churchwardens were willing to continue for a further 12 months, John Hughesdon proposed and Isobel Collyer seconded that the APCM waive the six-year rule for a period not exceeding 12 months; this resolution was passed *nem con*.

- a. Brian Nobes nominated by Martin Evans and seconded by Jennifer Davies,
- b. Jill Wilson nominated by Les Curtis and seconded by Mavis Brind.

There being no other nominations, the Vice-Chairman declared them elected to applause from the floor.

The Vice-Chairman thanked the churchwardens, Brian Nobes and Jill Wilson and wished them well in their seventh and final year; he extended his thanks to Denise Nobes. He asked those present who may be considering the post, or who knew of someone suitable, to come forward sooner, rather than later to allow a reasonable handover.

The meeting closed at 7.40pm.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Minutes of the APCM held on 13th April 2010

The minutes were approved as a true record by all present.

2. Electoral Roll Report (Jo Fageant, Electoral Roll Officer)

Just before her death (5th March 2011), Katy Haddesley handed over the Electoral Roll to the Communication Team, and Jo Fageant assumed responsibility. The file was a little muddled and the numbers didn't quite add up, but that the discrepancy would be resolved during the course of this coming year. She reported that during the course of the past year 15 names had been removed and 9 names had been added to the roll, making the total now 97. The new names are: Alan Booth, Aileen Hewetson, Margaret Howlett, Catherine Keegan, Geoffrey Keegan, Doreen McCarthy, Elizabeth Robbins, Adrian White, Josie White. The removals were due to death, moving to another church, couples who had been added in order to qualify for marriage, and not having worshipped in the church for more than two years.

Sheila Loxton-Best stated that she and her husband, Graham Loxton-Best, had given completed application forms to Katy Haddesley during the course of the year, yet they had not been included in the list of new members. Jo Fageant said she would provide new application forms if they could not be found, and in the meantime would add Sheila & Graham Loxton-Best to the electoral roll - making a total of 99 members.

The Chairman thanked the Electoral Roll Officer for her work.

3. Presentation of Accounts (John Hughesdon, Treasurer)

[See Appendix 1]

John Hughesdon outlined the accounts for the year ending 31st December 2010, and drew people's attention to the helpful notes at the end of the report. The accounts had been scrutinised by an Independent Examiner (Brian Tubman) and adopted by the PCC.

Julian Shelley queried the use of the General Fund for repairs to the Bell Tower because repairs to the fabric of the building traditionally came from the Restricted Fund; transferring the £3,981.00 expenditure on the Bell Tower from the General Fund into the Restricted Fund would make the decrease in the former less severe. The Treasurer replied that the Restricted Fund was being used to deal with the proposed lavatories and kitchen.

Alan Booth queried whether the Parish Council contributes to the upkeep of the churchyard. The Treasurer replied that it usually did, but not this year. The Sir Richard Sutton Settled Estate did contribute, however.

Formal receipt of the accounts was proposed by John Hughesdon, seconded by Jo Fageant and carried *nem con*. The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for his hard work throughout the year.

Brian Tubman had informed the Treasurer that he was happy to continue. Brian Tubman's appointment as **Independent Examiner** was proposed by John Hughesdon, seconded by Mavis Brind and carried *nem con*.

[See Appendix 2] The Treasurer pointed out that if our expenditure continued to exceed our income, the church would face financial difficulties during the coming months. Moreover, our parish share will be significantly increased in 2012 because of our higher Usual Sunday Attendance and our likely contribution to stipendiary clergy support. The Treasurer outlined the various methods to increase income:

- Review ones giving (increasing it annually, where possible).
- Gift Aid every donation if one is a tax payer, using numbered envelopes and/or a standing order (increasing the amount given annually, where possible).
- Consider a legacy (adding a codicil if a will already exists).

Some members were on low, fixed incomes rendering Gift Aid unallowable, but there was still room for increasing ones giving. He reminded the meeting of Christ's sacrifice for us.

Jacky Barr and others were concerned about how this message would be conveyed to the church, believing that it was of vital importance to inform the church of our financial position. It was agreed that the Treasurer would provide copies of his address, including a Gift Aid Declaration, a Bank Standing Order and a standard form of Codicil to all those who were not at the meeting; additionally, he would raise the subject during the post-service refreshments on

Sunday, 10th April 2011. Thereafter, the PCC may decide to be more forthright in transmitting the message.

The Vice-Chairman thanked the Treasurer for his accurate records and invaluable endeavours; these thanks were endorsed by applause.

4. Churchwarden's Report - General & Events (Jill Wilson, Churchwarden)

[See Appendix 3] This was taken as read.

5. Churchwarden's Report - General & Fabric (Brian Nobes, Churchwarden)

"I think we can all look back at the last 12 months with great pride and satisfaction. St Mary's has continued to flourish with Sunday attendance growing, thriving Cherubs, Tuesday Club, Robert Sandiland's lunchtime group, musicians, prayer groups and bell ringers - all of whom bring life and energy to our church.

"We have retained our working relationship with Community Services, who look after our much-admired grounds and car park. Our maintenance programme has been full (and expensive) with work carried out on the church roof, boiler, water pipe insulation and electrical circuits, especially in the bell-ringing chamber which has been transformed.

"We have hosted many weddings, and in particular the one on 11th September comes to mind [the wedding of Brian's daughter], and also baptisms and funerals. How wonderful it was for St Mary's to provide such a fitting service for Katy Haddelsey; how we shall miss her.

"The social side was busy with a Love & Marriage Weekend (concert, exhibition and special service), concerts, a growing input to the Village Fête, Harvest Supper and Christmas Bazaar. Speaking of Christmas, we were faced once again with clearing snow from Pound and Church Lanes, the reward being record attendances over the Christmas period.

"At this point I should like to thank everyone for all the time and effort which they have invested in St Mary's. In particular, my thanks go to my fellow churchwarden whose commitment is total, and to my dear wife who is a good listener!

"Circumstances have dictated that Jill Wilson and I shall serve another 12 months as your churchwardens, which we gladly accept. However, this time next year there has to be a change; we have to stand down and new churchwardens will be elected.

"Six years ago I was 'persuaded' to give it a try. I accepted, thinking that you were given a whistle and tin hat and just had to keep shouting "Put that bloomin' light out!" - which turned out not to be the case. Being churchwarden of St Mary's has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life; I would urge anyone to consider giving it a try. The pay is lousy, the hours are long, but the fulfilment gained and friendships forged are surely God sent.

"So, we set out on another year. Let's hope we can keep going in the right direction. Finishing on a selfish note, even if it was on my last day as churchwarden, please let there be mortar put on stone and our improvements underway."

The Vice-Chairman thanked the churchwardens and Denise Nobes (the wife of Brian) for their industry and achievements throughout the year. He urged people with an interest in being churchwarden to step forward soon, emphasising that six years was the maximum period a churchwarden may serve in any one period.

6. Vice-Chairman's Report (Michael Bell)

[See Appendix 4 & 5]

"The past year has again given the people of St Mary's cause to rejoice in the growth and positive development of our church community. We have seen both an increase in the breadth of our spiritual activities and a rise in the numbers who join us regularly for worship. In particular, our Sunday evening series has brought alternative ways of connecting with God to the attention of our own congregation whilst also attracting many who normally worship

elsewhere. And our Sunday morning services continue to see the pews filled more than for many years, with our usual attendance now over sixty!

“The progress of St Mary’s is well recognised within the Anglican community, and, indeed, the Bishop of Oxford has recently asked us to be included as one of a small group of churches within the Diocese which pilgrims will be encouraged to visit.

“The PCC resolved a couple of years ago to ensure that the church retained a broad appeal to a congregation who come from a wide variety of Anglican backgrounds and we continue to try to keep that ideal at the forefront of our minds as we plan the life of St Mary’s. That planning has included the drafting of a vision for the next five years. This document brought together the preliminary thoughts of a small number of PCC members, but the draft is now being thought through and debated much more carefully, and put into action by a number of dedicated groups in those areas where we have the full PCC’s approval.

“Our Worship Group has recently recommended that we start to use a new hymn book for the majority of our services and many of you will know that this has now been introduced. It includes most of the hymns from our existing book (The New English Hymnal) as well as many others that will suit the variety of our worship and particularly children. We hope that you like it.

“A significant happening during the past year was the departure of the Rector of us and St Nicolas, David Stone, to become Canon Precentor of Coventry Cathedral. We wish him well in his new rôle into which we know he has settled quickly. There were many excellent candidates to replace David here in Newbury, and you will all be aware that the Reverend Will Hunter Smart was chosen to fill the rôle. We look forward to welcoming Will and his wife, Ellen. Will’s induction will be in early May and we shall see him at St Mary’s soon thereafter. Will has already made it clear that he wants to become deeply involved in the ongoing life of St Mary’s.

“We are all aware that our church and hall are not utilised by the community to maximum effect because we lack basic kitchen and lavatory facilities. An appeal was launched during the past year to try to raise £110,000 to remedy these deficiencies. Through the generosity of our congregation, the people of Speen, and a number of (especially local) charities, we have so far raised £70,000 and look forward to reaching our target soon. If you would like to contribute, please let us know.”

Michael Bell outlined what could happen next with the Building Appeal. Either the church could wait until it had raised the required £110,000 (a further £40,000) and deal with the works in one go, or it could split the works into two projects and deal with them separately. Splitting the project would incur additional costs and could render the outstanding applications void, but it would enable at least one part of the overall project to be completed. He exhorted everyone to contribute to the appeal so that the total sum required could be achieved.

“St Mary’s has suffered two sad losses over recent months. Katy Haddelsey was an inspirational member of our congregation having been one of the first to offer to lead our services when the need arose, and having also served as the secretary of our PCC and as Electoral Roll Officer. She will be much missed - may she rest in peace. In the latter part of 2010, our neighbours at Elmore Abbey moved to new accommodation in Salisbury. The monks had been great friends of St Mary’s for as long as we had lived side by side, and had been exemplary in their love and charity. We wish them well in their new home.

“I offer sincere thanks to all those who serve St Mary’s so enthusiastically, whether by leading our services, as churchwardens, PCC officers and members, musicians, sidesmen, caretakers, or in any other rôle. They are all tremendously appreciated.

“As we at St Mary’s now move forward into a new era under Will’s guidance and leadership, we can only be inspired by what has been achieved through God’s grace in Speen and we look forward to new and exciting times ahead.

“On a personal note, my time on the PCC has now come to an end and I can only say that it has been a privilege to serve St Mary’s over the past few years. I shall, of course, continue to serve in any way that I can.”

Julian Shelley queried whether the new hymn book was intended for the “majority” of services. Michael Bell said that was how it had been introduced to the PCC, but that most definitely the new hymn book was an additional resource for St Mary’s.

7. Deanery Synod Report (John Hughesdon, Deanery Synod Representative & Lay Chairman)

“We had three well-attended meetings since our last report and each was started with a presentation not directly concerned with ‘agenda business’: we heard from the Rev^d Canon Jonathan Gough on being an army chaplain (including spells in Iraq and Afghanistan), the Ven^{ble} Norman Russell on the new ‘Common Tenure’ arrangements for stipendiary clergy, and John Hughesdon on the World Assembly of Bible Societies in Seoul last September.

“We took forward the Deanery 5 year plan, though most of the action points are still being developed, including local training for the laity in various roles. We have established a Deanery website (for Synod members only). We had reports from General and Diocesan Synods. Quite a bit of time was spent on the ‘Parish Share’ - contributions to the diocese, mainly to pay clergy - this will be a continuing debate!

“People: The new team of Area Dean (Rita Ball), her assistant (Denise Brown) and Lay Chair [John Hughesdon] now have their feet firmly under the table. Mrs Vicky Russell (Norman’s wife) has been elected to General Synod and is our ‘eyes, ears and mouthpiece’ there. Our Deanery Secretary has recently retired and we are seeking a replacement.

“Jill Wilson & John Hughesdon are St Mary’s deanery representatives (but we are now entitled to three!)”

The Vice-Chairman thanked John Hughesdon for his report and Jill Wilson and John for representing St Mary’s on the Deanery Synod.

8. Team Council Report (Jane Burrell)

[See Appendix 6]

The Vice-Chairman thanked Jill Wilson and Jane Burrell for representing St Mary’s on the Team Council.

9. Vision Group Reports

[See Appendix 7]

Reports from the **Communication Team** and the **Church Inventory Project** (part of the Church & Churchyard Group) were received.

Mavis Hughesdon reported on the work of the **Young People Group**, describing the various options available to occupy children during services (eg treasure bags), to involve children during services (eg the use of *Junior Praise*) and to provide resources (eg Girls’ Brigade packs). Advice will be given to the Worship Group about ‘child-friendly’ services, and resources will be explored within and without the Newbury Team. Rock Solid (a children’s club held in Robert Sandiland’s School at Thursday lunchtime) continued to flourish with over 30 children on the books, although the maximum attending any one session had been 19. When there were appropriate services and facilities available in St Mary’s, the members would be invited to the church.

The Vice-Chairman thanked Mavis Hughesdon for leading a team dealing with such an important area of our ministry.

Isobel Collyer of the **Music Group** reported that a choir would take part in services, probably once every month.

10. Election of Parochial Church Council Members

A new system for electing the PCC had been adopted at the 2009 APCM, with members serving no more than three years before standing down for a minimum of one year. Accordingly, this year Michael Bell, Jane Booth and Mavis Brind retired. In addition, there had been two resignations, both of whom had been elected in 2010. Three nominations had been received:

- a. Tessa Ardagh-Walter, proposed by Jane Burrell and seconded by Isobel Collyer
- b. Mavis Hughesdon, proposed by Jane Burrell and seconded by Mavis Brind
- c. Derek Shailes, proposed by Jane Burrell and seconded by Michael Bell

These were carried *nem con.* There were no nominations from the floor to fill the vacancies caused by the two resignations of members elected in 2010; had there been, these would have been for two years only, completing the remainder of the original three-year election period.

The Vice-Chairman thanked Jane Booth and Mavis Brind for their help whilst on the PCC, and for the invaluable work they do for the church in general. The meeting endorsed the thanks with applause.

The PCC will comprise the following elected members for a period of 12 months (with the year of their election in brackets):

Tessa Ardagh-Walter (2011)	Stuart Atkinson (2009)	Jacky Barr (2009)
Isobel Collyer (2009)	Jo Fageant (2010)	Mavis Hughesdon (2011)
Derek Shailes (2011)		

The Rector, Churchwardens, Deanery Synod Representatives and Team Council Representatives are *ex-officio* members of the PCC.

11. Election of Deanery Synod Representatives

St Mary the Virgin’s allocation had risen from two to three representatives. Three nominations had been received:

- a. Jane Burrell, proposed by Mavis Brind and seconded by Stuart Atkinson
- b. John Hughesdon, proposed by Brian Nobes and seconded by Isobel Collyer
- c. Jill Wilson, proposed by Denise Nobes and seconded by Valerie Dorey.

These were carried *nem con.* The representatives will serve for three years.

12. Election of Team Council Members

Two nominations had been received:

- a. Jane Burrell, proposed by Aileen Hewetson and seconded by Michael Bell
- b. Jill Wilson, proposed by Mavis Brind and seconded by Les Curtis.

These were carried *nem con.* The representatives will serve for three years.

13. Appointment of Sidesmen

Shelagh Bell	Mavis Brind	Jane Burrell
Les Curtis	Jennifer Davies	Val Dorey
Denise Nobes	Robin Read	

The above-named sidesmen were appointed *nem con.* Jill Wilson would welcome enquiries throughout the year from anyone interested in becoming a sidesman.

14. Comments and questions from the floor

- a) The Vice-Chairman thanked Paul Cowan for his help, good counsel and care during the interregnum, to applause from the meeting. Paul Cowan responded by saying that it had been a pleasure to be involved with a church which had been an inspiration to others around Newbury.
- b) Will Hunter Smart will take the service at St Mary’s on Sunday, 5th June 2011.
- c) The date of the next PCCM will be 16th May 2011.

There being no further business, the Vice-Chairman closed the 2011 Annual Parochial Church Meeting with the Grace at 8.45pm.

Signed.....

Date.....