

**The 453 Churches**  
***Barton | Gotham | Kingston | Ratcliffe | Thrumpton***  
**Minutes of the Annual Church Meeting (JOINT)**  
**held at St Lawrence Church, Gotham**  
**on 23rd April 2017**

Various reports are mentioned and brief summaries are included in these minutes, for the full report please see the Report Booklet which is filed with these minutes.

**1. Opening Prayer**

The Rector, Revd Richard Coleman opened the meeting in prayer and a hymn was sung.

**2. Apologies for Absence were received from:**

Barton: Bill Harrison, Diane Harrison, Matthew King, Liz Thornton  
Gotham: Craig Cowdroy, Peter & Elaine Inskeep, Judith Power  
Kingston: Diana Beeby, Norman Beeby, Beryl Elliott, Caroline Williams  
Ratcliffe: Barbara Allen, Margaret Pridmore, Pam Wisher  
Thrumpton: Debbie Bradley, Valerie Collins, David Greenwood, Chris Pilnick,  
Rosemary Seymour

**3. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

There being no corrections, the minutes were accepted.

**4. Matters Arising**

Gotham - A Meeting of the Parishioners took place at St Lawrence Church, Gotham on Sunday 2nd October 2016 at 11:00am to elect a replacement Churchwarden for the remainder of the year following the resignation of Valerie Brown due to health issues.

A vote of thanks was given to Valerie Brown.

Anne Farnsworth was proposed by Revd Richard Coleman, seconded by David Smith, with 38 votes for, none against, no abstentions.

Anne Farnsworth was admitted as Churchwarden by the Area Dean John Bentham on Sunday 6th November 2016.

**5. Appointment of Churchwardens**

Richard thanked the Churchwardens for their hard work which often goes unseen, but without which the church would not work. A vote of thanks was given to Norman Beeby and John Greensmith for their many years of service to the Church, who were both stepping down as Churchwardens of Kingston and Ratcliffe, respectively.

Churchwardens appointed were:

Barton: Carole Edis & Sue Davies  
Gotham: David Smith & Anne Farnsworth  
Kingston: Angie Howard  
Ratcliffe: Janet State & Angie Howard  
Thrumpton: John Collins

Visitation dates are 18th & 23rd May at Southwell Minster  
Churchwardens must attend in order to become Churchwarden.  
Churchwardens will also need to have DBS clearance and attend Safeguarding Training every 3 years.  
Anne Farnsworth will be in touch to arrange this.

## 6. Electoral Roll:

Barton: 24  
Gotham: 54  
Kingston: 13  
Ratcliffe: 12  
Thrumpton: 12

## Electoral Roll Officer:

Carole Edis )  
Pam Clarke ) All willing  
Caroline Williams ) to continue.  
Ray State )  
Debbie Bradley )

## 7. Deanery Synod

Not a lot happened at Deanery Synod this past year - there were only two meetings which were on patterns and forms of worship, and on encouraging congregations to give generously. Locally, there have been two training sessions for Dementia Friends, and as a consequence of these Gotham will be starting a cafe on Thursday afternoon, once a month – the first café will be 2-4pm on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017.

There is a new Area Dean – Mark Foster from St Luke's, Gamston

Deanery synod elects new members after a 3 year term of office; a new 3 year term begins this year.

*Where Electoral Roll < 31 have 1 rep, between 31-100 have 2 reps, and between 101-200 have 3 reps*

Deanery Synod Reps are:

Barton: 1. Bill Harrison  
Gotham: 1. Sonya Hawkins 2. Val Hopkins  
Kingston: 1. Angie Howard  
Ratcliffe: 1. Janet State  
Thrumpton: 1. John Collins

## 8. PCC

Richard reminded us that the purpose of the PCC is to cooperate with the Minister in promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social & ecumenical.  
He was glad to see folk growing in their awareness of how they can contribute to the mission of the Church no matter how small they might think their contribution is.

*Where Electoral Roll < 51 have 6 members, between 51-100 have 9 members, and between 101-200 have 12 members. Each church can co-opt 2 members.*

PCC Members are elected each year:

Barton (max 6): Pat Curtis, Sylvia Cutts, Diane Harrison, Pat Harrison, Matthew King, Joy Mayfield  
Gotham (max 9): Valerie Brown, Pauleen Butler, Craig Cowdroy, Andy Dzuda, Margaret Heys, Peter Inskeep, David Power, Christine Smith  
Co-opted: Revd John Moore.  
Kingston (max 6): Diana Beeby, Graham Grocock, Bridget Plimmer, Caroline Williams, David Woodhouse  
Ratcliffe (max 6): John Greensmith, Margaret Greensmith, Margaret Pridmore, Ray State, Pam Wisher  
Thrumpton (max 6): Debbie Bradley, David Greenwood, Peter Hawcock, Chris Pilnick, Mary Stephens

There is space for one more member on each PCC, except Barton

There being no other nominations, all were appointed. Richard welcomed new members, and thanked Beryl Elliott for all the work she has done for Kingston over the years.

Richard thanked the PCC Secretaries for their work

PCC Secretaries appointed:

Barton:	Matthew King
Gotham:	Gill Hind
Kingston:	Caroline Williams
Ratcliffe:	Ray State
Thrumpton:	Mary Stephens

Update on Youth for Christ worker was given here – Jo Leatherland is moving on but there will be another worker appointed before she leaves. They will work side by side until the end of the Summer Term then the new worker can hit the ground running in September.

## **9. Fabric Report**

As with any building the age of ours the Fabric is a constant issue.

Barton have had their path repaired and a metal ramp into church.

Gotham continue to build up reserves to cover maintenance - immediate concerns are the plaster in the porch and the clock chiming mechanism.

Thrumpton have had their reredos professionally cleaned

All 5 churches are in good repair and Richard expressed his thanks to all those who have helped to maintain our buildings for another year. Ways to keep the churches open for the public are still being investigated.

A full report on each church is included in the Reports booklet

## **10. Highlights over the year**

Besides what has already been mentioned, Richard also mentioned some notable highlights:

Website & Facebook page for the 453 Churches – continues to be well visited (over 60% of visits are identified as new sessions) by folk around the world - with a good many visits from Russia which is due to our link with Love Russia.

West Bridgford Singers concert celebrating the Queen's 90th birthday.

Kingston held a very successful Chamber Concert which will be repeated again this year.

Jonathan Veira came for his 3rd year

Sonya led Gotham's Family Crib service.

4 men went to the first ever Midland's Men's Convention.

Richard has delivered a session on funerals to curates in the diocese, as well as having 2 curates doing their placement with us.

Val was in Natal for Melanie's ordination.

Funerals were held for Sybil Beale, Barry Dabell, Mick Howard, Joan Kemp and Jean Dabell.

Sue Davies was awarded a British Empire Medal (BEM) in the New Year Honours.

There have been many more little encouragements over the past year.

Further details are listed in the Reports booklet.

## **11. Finance**

Along with the Treasurer's Report the Accounts are included in the Reports booklet.

Richard thanked the Treasurers for their continued diligence over the Finances.

The Accounts had been independently examined, and were accepted.

Treasurers appointed:

Barton:	Liz Thornton
Gotham:	Christine Smith
Kingston:	David Woodhouse
Ratcliffe:	Graham Grocock
Thrumpton:	David Greenwood

The Independent Examiners were thanked, and appointed:

Barton:	Richard Nowell
Gotham:	Debbie Anderton
Kingston:	Richard Nowell
Ratcliffe:	Brian Hill
Thrumpton:	Graham Cowley

## 12. Ministry Reports

Richard gave a brief summary of the reports and encouraged people to read them and to also consider how they might be involved in order to share the burden. Our children and young people's work continues to grow and do well. Little Cherubs, Sunday Club, Open the Book, Youth for Christ, Xplore were all going well and Richard thanked all those involved in these various ministries. The more people who get involved, the better the results will be, and the lighter the load for everyone. He also reminded us that we can't do our mission in our own strength, we need God to move and to work to fulfil His plan of salvation - and prayer is what makes it all happen because it shows our reliance on God. To this end, Share and Prayer, and the Saturday Prayer Breakfast are invaluable.

He also expressed his thanks for the vital role that the Welcome Team play in providing a warm welcome to everyone who comes into church.

Richard also thanked everyone who is involved in reading, playing the organ and providing refreshments.

Richard explained that during May to August there will be 2 joint services instead of just one - one at 9:00am and the other at 11:00am. These will start on the 21<sup>st</sup> May with a 9:00am at Kingston and 11:00am at Ratcliffe. Please provide any feedback to the Church Wardens.

It is the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the link with Natal and there are celebrations planned in September – details will be in Messenger.

## 13. Open Forum

There were no questions or comments

## 14. Rector's Remarks

Richard then handed the meeting over to Ray State who had been asked by Richard to give a short presentation on the next step in terms of our re-organisation.

Ray outlined the 2 basic options and addressed a number of concerns that had been raised through the questionnaire from last year – presentation attached

The meeting was then opened up for questions:

- *David Woodhouse (Kingston) asked if these models had been used elsewhere*  
Richard confirmed the Church of England has been using these models elsewhere  
*David then asked how they had worked and could we get some information from them as to how they worked*  
Richard can find out from the Diocese the other locations that have gone through this process and the working group would chat to them and find out the pros and cons, and how it is working for them

- *Mary Stephens (Thrumpton) asked what had happened to Option 1, is it still on the table*  
Richard said that yes, all 4 options were still on the table and the working group needs to talk through all 4 options
- *John Collins (Thrumpton) asked if Ray's presentation could be emailed to everyone*  
A copy will be included with these minutes
- *John Collins (Thrumpton) said that in Option 4 Ray had suggested the PCC meets 6 times a year and the DCC meets twice a year, so more meetings for the rep on the PCC and the DCC would need more than 2 meetings to get feedback from the PCC meetings*  
Ray said these numbers were examples and the PCC and DCC would decide the best mix of meetings for themselves
- *Pat Curtis (Barton) said that there is a difference between people living in towns & communities and those living in villages. She said she has asked people in Barton if they would still contribute to the church if there was a centralisation of finances. Out of 12 people she had asked 10 said they wouldn't*  
Ray said any money donated to a particular church wouldn't be used by another church, it would go to the church it was intended for.  
Richard said that if you put all the money in one pot you would get more interest, but each church would get their correct share of the interest allocated to them e.g. if a church put in 50% of the total pot then it would get 50% of the interest
- Richard said that if we went to 1 PCC then there would be 1 Treasurer, 2 Church Wardens, 1 Secretary, 1 Electoral Roll Officer but would need a financial team with 1 person identified as the Treasurer  
*Christine Smith (Gotham) said that all work is voluntary but with 1 PCC it will be a big job, and it may come to the point where we need to pay someone.*  
Richard agreed with this
- *Andy Dzuda (Gotham) asked if we had considered how we would roll this out to the wider community in the parishes*  
Richard said yes, once the Option had been chosen this would need to be communicated to the wider community, especially to the people who currently give to their parish church. The working group will produce a recommendation as to how the roll out might be done across the parishes and to assure current givers that their donations will go to their parish church
- *David Power asked what would the size of the DCC be if we went down the Option 4 route*  
Ray said he felt 3 or 4 with a leader  
Richard said that the number on each DCC would be considered and put in the constitution
- *Anne Farnsworth (Gotham) asked if we could try and find places that are very similar to us that are already working one of the models so they could talk to everyone, not just the working party*  
Ray said this would be a fully democratic process, everyone being kept informed on what is happening and could give feedback
- *John Greensmith (Ratcliffe) asked if the incumbent would be part of the DCC*  
Richard said no as part of the thinking is to reduce the number of meetings he attends – if he attended all DCC and PCC meetings he would have more! Legally he is ex-officio on every committee within his parishes but he doesn't have to be at the meetings. He would not attend DCC meetings unless requested for a specific reason. In terms of the number of people on the DCC, it needs to operate without him
- *Sonya Hawkins (Gotham) asked where do we go from here*  
Ray put up the final slide of the presentation. A working party needs to be formed – 1 or 2 people from each parish so that at least 1 is able to attend the meetings
- *John Collins (Thrumpton) said that the 19<sup>th</sup> May Churchwardens' meeting was too soon to give nominees for the working party as it needed to be discussed at a PCC meeting*  
Ray said there was no need to wait for a PCC meeting, get some ideas of who to nominate and talk at the meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> May and then go back to the PCC for endorsement

Richard proposed that a small working group be set up, which would consist of one or two representatives from each church who would look at giving a better picture of what these options might look like in practice, and to report back at next year's AGM.

This was seconded by David Power.

All in favour.

Richard thanked Ray for his presentation.

## 15. Close

The meeting closed at 5:30pm with the Grace, and was followed by a short Communion service.