

The 453 Churches
Barton | Gotham | Kingston | Ratcliffe | Thrumpton
Minutes of the Annual Church Meeting (JOINT)
held at St Lawrence Church, Gotham
on 29th April 2018

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: Liz Thornton, Sylvia Cutts, Matthew King, Sue Davies
Gotham: Sonya Hawkins, Gill Jackson, Vic Taft
Kingston: Caroline Williams, David Woodhouse
Ratcliffe: Margaret Pridmore
Thrumpton: Christine Pilnick, Daid Greenwood, Valerie Collins

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

There being no corrections, the minutes were accepted.

4. Matters Arising

None.

5. Appointment of Churchwardens

Richard thanked the Churchwardens for their hard work which often goes unseen, but without which the church would not work. Debbie Bradley was welcomed as Churchwarden at Thrumpton.

Churchwardens appointed were:

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

Visitation date is 16th May at St Wilfrid's, Wilford at 7.30pm. 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 if need be.

6. Electoral Roll:

Barton: 24
Gotham: 54
Kingston: 12
Ratcliffe: 13
Thrumpton: 10

Electoral Roll Officer:

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

7. Deanery Synod

Last year we had a change of Area Dean with John Bentham standing down to focus more on the chaplaincy department at the university and Mark Fraser from St Luke's, Gamston was appointed. A new Deanery Leadership Team were appointed as well, and it has taken Mark a little while to get up to speed in his new role.

Mark has stated that he would like to see more "open" synods to benefit the wider deanery. The focus so far in recent synods has been on growing disciples, and we had an encouraging talk from the Curate at Stapleford about a new Church community being developed in a small part of Stapleford, which came out of a dog walking group.

Deanery synod elects new members for a 3 year term of office; a new 3 year term begins in 2020. Chris Pilnick has taken over from John Collins at Thrumpton.

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. Chris Pilnick	

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
Kingston (max 6):	Diana Beeby, Graham Grocock, Bridget Plimmer, Caroline Williams, David Woodhouse
Ratcliffe (max 6):	John Greensmith, Margaret Greensmith, Margaret Pridmore, Ray State
Thrumpton (max 6):	David Greenwood, Peter Hawcock, Mary Stephens

There being no other nominations, all were appointed.

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

9. Fabric Report

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

Barton had an unexpected legacy from an American woman with family ties to the church and despite the difficulties in actually getting the money transferred they have been able to replace the lights in the church with LEDs which should last 25 years and reduce electrical costs. Awaiting a Faculty for the work.

Gotham have had the porch replastered and painted - thanks to David Power, John Edmonds, and Craig Cowdroy for their efforts in getting that done; and additional heating has been installed.

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.

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 by folk around the world.

We had carol singing in all 3 of Gotham's pubs - our thanks to John Edmonds for organising that.

Anne Farnsworth and Angie Howard have been leading services, and Sonya Hawkins has been preaching at Kingston's All Age service.

Ben Huxtable from Release International came and spoke at Gotham's Remembrance Day service.

Bible study groups continued to grow and we have now had a group in each village.

Bishop Dino, his wife Elizabeth, and Dane visited from Natal diocese and visited all 5 villages.

We had a wonderful Safari Supper raising money for the Container, which is now being used.

Also had a great weekend celebrating our 10 year link with the parish of Richmond, iNdaleni and Byrne in Natal; and we were also able to bring Sizakele and Tabitha over from Natal to see how we do things over here.

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's work continues and whilst the numbers are clearly disappointing Richard reminded us that it is faithfulness that counts in God's eyes.

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.

Open the Book was completing the sixth year, which meant that every school year from Reception to leavers had shared the mission. The Youth Worker based at East Leake will also be going into Gotham School.

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.

13. Open Forum

Peter Inskip was chairing the new Faith and Outreach committee, which were working on 8 initiatives to present to the PCC, and that asked for their report to be included in the AGM booklet next year.

John Collins thanked Sylvia Cutts and David Smith for taking their services.

14. Rector's Remarks

Richard then handed the meeting over to Val Hopkins who gave a brief update on the container in Natal, and conveyed love and thanks to us from all in iNdalení.

The container is now up and running, with windows, and a door, and electricity; they are currently costing out the price of a corrugated roof extension for shade. They have planted grass seed for an "English" lawn. When the work is completed, Bishop Dino will bless it. She thanked everyone for their contributions.

Following the recommendation from the 453 Reorganisation Working Group, Richard stated that the following proposal would be put to each PCC for it to vote on in May:

The PCC of *N* requests that the Diocese begin the process to join the parish into a single united parish of Barton, Gotham, Kingston, Ratcliffe and Thrumpton.

There were three possibilities for the new name, one of which will be put forward to the Diocese:

- The 453 Churches of the South Notts Benefice
- The 453 Churches of the Gotham Benefice
- The 453 Churches of the Borderlands Benefice

If there was no consensus, Richard will have to choose in order to get the ball rolling with the Diocese.

Richard then gave a brief presentation on the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) coming into force in May and what that means for us as a church. Val Hopkins thanked Richard for his work on this complicated matter.

15. Close

The meeting closed at 5:55pm with the Grace, and was followed by a short Communion service.