
The Cross and Stable

Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership

Annual Report for 2013 presented 23rd March 2014



Agenda

Annual General Meeting 23rd March 2014

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the last AGM held on 24 March 2013
3. Matters arising from those minutes
4. Annual Reports as at 1 March 2014 attached
5. Acceptance of the Financial Statement (2013)
6. Acceptance of the Membership List
7. Appointment of Church Officers
 - a) Wardens: Currently Bob Cross
 - b) Secretary Currently Gwen Green
 - c) Treasurer Currently Gill Grant
 - d) Minutes Secretary Currently Gwen Green
 - e) Team Leaders:
 - e1) Senior Steward Currently Ken Brine
 - e2) Worship Currently Bob Cross
 - e3) Junior Church none
 - e4) Pastoral Group Amy Head
 - e5) Furnishings & Flowers Vacancy
 - e6) Christian Aid Rep Currently Gill Grant
 - e7) Social Events Vacancy
 - e8) 2 Reps without portfolio Amy Head; Alice Maynard (resigned)
8. Representatives - to be elected or nominated as appropriate
 - a) SEP Currently Bob Cross, Gill Grant
 - b) Mission Partnership Currently Gwen Green
 - c) Management Committee
 - c1) Two representatives of Mission Partnership Andy Jowitt, plus one
 - c2) Four nominated representatives of the Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership Bob Cross, Gill Grant, Andy Jowitt, Ken Brine
9. For information only:
 - a) **Management Committee** (Charity No 1017685) Two User Group Representatives vacancies
Two Residents Representatives Beverley Labbett
One rep. of the Milton Keynes Council Rick Brackenbury
One rep. of the Linford Parish Council Vacancy
 - b) **Cross and Stable Church & Community Centre Trustees.** Charity No 1017685 The Centre Trustees
Vacancy nominated by MK Council John Wheaver
nominated by MK Council The Parish Trustee Joan Wilson
nominated by Linford Parish Council The Church Trustees
The Pastoral President - Vacancy The Vicar by virtue of office Amy Head nominated by the Vicar
 - c) **Directors of Cross & Stable Charity.** (Charity No 800370) Vicar, Ken Brine, John Wheaver, Paul Brookman, Peter Green
10. Any Other Business:
11. Date of next AGM - possibly 22nd March 2015

Note: Easter 2015 - April 6th

Minutes

Annual General Meeting held on Sunday, 24th March, 2013

Present: Rev Andy Jowitt (chair) plus seven members

1. Apologies for absence: Amy Head, John Wheaver, Joy Finch.
2. Previous Minutes of the AGM held on 11 March 2012 were agreed and signed after a couple of amendments: After an 8 year break Cross and Stable may soon have a team of ringers.
It was assumed that the reports from Andy Jowitt, Bob Cross, SEP, Mission Partnership, and Treasurer had been read. Bell Ringers report to be added for the SEP AGM.
4. Andy wished to underline - that Cross and Stable will host a Baptism/Confirmation Service for the Partnership on November 17th at 6pm. The other churches usually meeting at Cross and Stable will be warned in good time. Rev Canon John Robertson, Director of Ecumenical Mission will deliver three Advent Lectures: 27 November at St Andrew's, 4 December at St Lawrence's, and 11 December at St James'. An early service will be held on June 16 (Fathers Day) 9.30-10 am for young folk with Music from the Vineyard Church. Andy highlighted the Christmas/Easter Cracked programme; and that the production of Network is in cold storage after three sessions due to lack of personnel.
5. The Financial Statement for 2012 was agreed and accepted with grateful thanks to Gill.
6. The Membership List is up to date - with the recent death of new member Lou Wilson on 7 March.
7. The Appointment of Church Officers continues as at 20.1.12, with the additional name of Bob Cross as Deanery Synod Rep. for Cross and Stable and with Amy Head as the URC/Methodist Area Rep.
The Management Committee includes Chris Pooley as the Rep covering Downhead Park.
10. AOB. Gill announced a Christian Aid Afternoon Tea Friday 17 May from 2-5.30pm at Cross and Stable. Come and bring a friend. Coffee monies will go to the organ fund. In July Bridgebuilder Trust will be pleased if Cross and Stable pay for the books given to the youngsters from our local schools who are moving up to senior schools. This was agreed. It is hoped that we could have some membership cards made. Joan Wilson wished to say that although we are small in number and have no pastoral committee - much caring goes on - not least a grateful thanks to the person who visits Charles Davis every week!

11. Date of the next AGM : 23rd March 2014 after Morning Worship.

12. The AGM closed with the Grace at 1.00pm.

Signed:

Chairman

Date

Minister's Report

Downs Barn Minister's Report 2013 - 2014

The year just gone has been one of a lot of faithful service by church members in their different roles, some modest growth, one or two experiments, and much that we've continued the same and tried to build on.

I've appreciated the willingness of different ministers, lay and ordained, to help lead worship on a Sunday morning. My aim has continued to be to try and lead roughly every other service and I enjoy the mornings I come to Cross & Stable. The sense of welcome that church members give to everyone who comes is warming and, of course, essential.

Sadly, we have lost one or two faithful attenders at the signed service, including Chris, one of our interpreters who moved up North, but the signing team has a couple of young participants now, and interestingly some new hearing attenders have told me how they really enjoy watching the signers. Jane and I are now half-way through a BSL Level 1 course. I'm finding it quite challenging. I don't make as much time to practise as I should, but I hope it will prove useful in pastoral care for the members of the signing community. Jane excels me and can put me right sometimes!

Back in the early summer, I was approached by our local Sure Start centre about Cross & Stable being a location for an outreach of their 'Family Play'. I was keen that this should be as much as possible a partnership with the church. It took off well, but hadn't been going long when a staff cut at the centre meant they decided they couldn't continue 'Family Play' beyond the end of the summer term. To my joy we were able to expand our number of volunteers from the church and make a team to carry on in a new form with what we now call 'Family Tots'. It's been an exciting venture in all sorts of ways. New people keep coming and numbers have been good. The team, who set up, help with the children and prepare refreshments, has been superb; too many to name here, but thank you to all of them. People have noted the happy atmosphere and it's been a joy to have families from 'Tots' coming along on a Sunday morning and bringing other family members too.

At one time I would tell visiting ministers on a Sunday, 'You may not any children'. Now I tell them it's likely there will be some children and young people. The activities put out at the back of church have been very helpful. In the longer term we need to watch, think and pray about what provision we could make for children on a Sunday morning. One little girl, Ceola

Goldsworthy, was baptised in morning worship in 2013 – a joyful occasion for her family and church family alike.

We have tried some other invitations over the year. The 9.30 am café-style service on 16th June (Father's Day) seemed to work well for those who came, but not many did. Our Cream Tea afternoon did fill the church, with support from our own membership and friends in other churches, and a significant number who responded to leaflets through their doors. At Christmas we again put out invitation leaflets. Thank you to a friend of the church who did all the door-dropping in Downs Barn. Again, there were people who responded and our increased numbers at the Christmas Eve Café Carols and Midnight service were an encouragement. This Easter we will include a late afternoon Good Friday service. It'll be worth us thinking about how we extend an invitation to Good Friday and Easter worship.

I continue to lead a monthly Communion service at Highclere. In the autumn I was approached by Neath Care Home with a request for a monthly service there. This home is for dementia care and so I have tried to develop a service which works in that context. There are a few things in common with our 'Family Tots' worship: songs, visual aids, a simple repeated structure, and 'short and sweet'. Thank you to church members who have come and supported it.

Out in the community I count myself fortunate to be welcomed into all the local (non-sectarian) schools, mainly to do assemblies. I find myself impressed by the work they do, sometimes in quite challenging circumstances, and I'm glad of the contact it gives me with children and staff (and indirectly with parents). Brooksward, Southwood and Downs Barn Schools have visited the church for 'Cracked' presentations and a Harvest service. I continue to assist as part of the steering group of the Conniburrow 'Big Local'. There have been a number of community events and the latest initiative, a community choir, will be led by Bradwell Church members John & Muriel Moffoot. The pressure is now on to construct a plan which has the support of local residents. The plan needs to be about enhancing and building community and is essential for accessing the main body of funding. I have also been approached about serving on the steering group for the Great Linford Parish Neighbourhood Plan.

Back at the Cross & Stable building, the new Pre-School 'Giggles' has begun to build numbers after a slow start. I have been approached about doing a teaching or story time with the children in due course. I hope to make more contact with other users of the building, including other church groups, but haven't made much progress on this score yet, due to pressure of time. HOPE 2014 is an 'umbrella' designed to help churches join together in prayer and mission and I have been commissioned to contact churches in our area about this.

I have yet to conduct a funeral or a wedding at Cross & Stable, but the building provided a good venue yet again for a lovely Marriage Celebration dinner for couples married in the last year or so in Partnership churches. I did conduct 8 services in 2013 at the Crematorium for people from our pastoral area.

The monthly times of prayer and fellowship (jointly with Bradwell Church members) are taking a break for the present as Jill, the main convener, has had a demanding time health- and family-wise. Alice Maynard has agreed to lead and host a 4-week Lent course for us, and I believe one or two Bradwell members may be joining this group – an example of the partnership of giving and receiving. The Alpha course is another example, I hope, of a bit of ‘partnership in the gospel’. A couple of ‘Cross & Stable friends’ are planning to attend the next course, beginning after Easter.

I much appreciate the partnership I feel exists in many aspects of our life: in the pastoral care of congregation members, for instance, and in the care of the building, where members of the Management Committee put in much hard work and to which the Cross & Stable Charities have contributed some significant help recently. I pray that we will continue to partner with each other and with the Holy Spirit, our helper and guide, to serve God with faithfulness and hope and love and vision in the year ahead.

The Reverend Andy Jowitt, March 2014

Churchwarden's Report

The year under review has seen our small congregation grow in numbers and in faith and the re-organisation of the Ministerial Team, which gave us Andy Jowitt seems to have been successful, certainly so far as we are concerned at the Cross and Stable.

We are a small congregation but, together, strong in our ways and this is showing in the small growth in our numbers which, I pray will continue. We give thanks for this growth and pray for it to continue.

Our strongest element must be the signed service that takes place on the first Sunday of each month with our dedicated team of signers for whom we are all very grateful. I think we all gain from the way a signed service is presented and hope that we may continue with this for a long time.

We appear to have established a tradition with our signed Carol Service each year and long may this continue. In the meantime life goes on. A gallant band of worshippers contributes each Sunday to the preparation of the Church, and in dismantling it for the use of others, and also contributes to the worship. There have been some very welcome volunteers lately to help share these tasks and if there is anything you would like to do, please talk to the Vicar, or Ken Brine or myself and you would be very welcome. Those who have helped through the past year, I would like to offer my hearty thanks on behalf of everyone. There is still a vacancy for a

Warden and if you feel you would be interested, please approach the Vicar or myself.

R&C 28-Feb-14

Worship Report

The Worship Team meet about six weekly to review past services and to plan for the future. Many other issues are also discussed including types of service, preachers and hymns.

The normal pattern of services is an Anglian Eucharist on the first Sunday of each month [signed], a Methodist style Eucharist on the second, Sunday, a Baptist style on the third Sunday and a non-Eucharistic service on the fourth Sunday.

When there is a fifth Sunday, the form of service is varied according to ministerial availability.

We are very grateful to a variety of Ministers who have led our worship, Sunday by Sunday and the variety itself leads to an enrichment of the experience.

We are further blessed in our Worship by the volunteers who prepare the church [and dismantle it] Sunday by Sunday; those who prepare the Table, administer to each service and generally provide help and support. Not least, our gratitude to the signers who make our monthly signed service possible.

If you notice anything in which you would like to share, please talk about it to any member of the Worship Team who would be delighted to hear from you.

Equally, if you have any concerns or thoughts about our worship, you are welcome at any of the meetings.

R&C 28-Feb-14

Ruminate Report

This men's social gathering continues to meet at various locations in Milton Keynes as a group for men to socialise and enjoy fellowship with each other.

There is variation in the Meetings in that at some we eat and chat, at some we listen to a visiting speaker, at some we take part in a quiz and sometimes we walk between a meeting place and a pub.

No membership of any church is required; a meeting of men for the sake of fellowship – all are welcome.

Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership Representatives' Report

The SEP has had no Minute Secretary since John Figg stood down at the AGM in April. Volunteer needed.

In May, nine delegates from SEP attended a three day conference on the topic of "Leading your Church into Growth". As a result of their enthusiasm, 20 people attended a single day course in October.

In 2013 the Partnership continued its membership of "Citizens MK". It might not be able to continue the financial support in 2014.

There has been little progress on the sharing agreement between the denominations for New Bradwell Church. As soon as one hurdle is overcome the solicitors appear to find another reason for the delay!

The MK Director for Mission, Canon John Robertson gave a series of three Advent talks in the Parish.

Most of the Churches hosted Easter and/or Christmas Cracked Projects for Year 6 children from their local primary schools in partnership with the Bridgebuilder Trust.

The SEP still runs the Tuesday night Soup Run in the city centre and some people also help on other nights. This winter there have been more recipients than before for the soup and sandwiches.

In 2013 the Partnership paid a quota of £129,282 to Mission Partnership, which was £19,000 less than requested. At the end of the year the SEP had used £21,000 of its reserves. They will not be able to do this again in 2014.

The Rev Chris Howden will retire in June. (Her thanksgiving service will be held on June 7th) The SEP hope to appoint another Baptist Minister to replace Chris. The ministers have been discussing how they will provide pastoral care for Christchurch and the Stantonbury area with a smaller clergy team. They have been working on the assumption that Chris' replacement will, on Peter Ballantine's retirement, need to take on the pastoral care of St Andrew's, though ideas are being explored to see if there are any ways of helping the situation.

Sill Grant and Bob Cross

Mission Partnership

~~Rev Canon John Robertson was welcomed as Director of Ecumenical Mission on 28 April 2012 at the Church of Christ the Cornerstone. A reflection and planning day was held on 9 June at Stony Stratford.~~

~~Latest priorities for the Partnership include interviewing for an East Flank Pioneer Post; discussion ongoing to enable a Nigerian Church integration with Holy Cross and the Watling Valley Ecumenical Partnership. A job description is being drawn up for an Interserve Fieldworker for the Conniburrow area.~~

~~The project groups are also busy: the MK Environment Group have a meeting on 7 March entitled 'Affordable Warmth' at the Well at Willen; the MK Theology Forum meet on Monday March 11, 7.30pm at The Quaker Centre to discuss 'Love at the Limits: Euthanasia and Assisted Dying'. The Mission Partnership Assembly will meet on 13 March 7.30pm at Whaddon Way Church Centre to hear Rev Dr Roger Paul the Church of England National Ecumenical Officer on new approaches to ecumenical work.~~

~~Nearer to home on the 9 March 9.30-12.30 (breakfast at 9am) at Christ Church, Stantonbury, Canon John Robertson will facilitate a conversation on 'What's Going On'.~~

~~The next Mission Partnership AGM will be on Tuesday 18 June 7.30pm; venue to be arranged.~~

Swen Green

Bell Ringers' Report

It's has been another very positive and progressive year for the Bell Ringers at Cross and Stable.

We have generally been able to ring all 8 bells for most Sunday services, often with a few ringers to spare! We rang for Easter Day and Christmas Day and by fitting the muffles, created the somber sounds for ringing on Remembrance Day.

We received 4 teams of visitors, and had 2 peals rung on the bells, the one in September celebrating the Royal Birth, and coinciding with 20 years of the bells being dedicated.

We have maintained the number of members at 5 throughout the year and are supplemented by ringers from Great Linford, Loughton, Shenley and Old Wolverton. All the ringers are making steady progress in the art of change-ringing.

We have been out and about ringing at a few other towers when Cross and Stable have been unavailable, and enjoyed ringing at Dunstable Priory and Leighton Buzzard "just for

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

| | 31st December 2013 | 31st December 2012 |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| Investments | | |
| Deposit Fund CBF | 3,070.06 | 3,052.57 |
| | 3,070.06 | 3,052.57 |
| Current Assets | | |
| HSBC Account | 0.00 | 267.52 |
| CAF Bank Account | 1947.35 | 2,905.51 |
| Debtors | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Unpresented banking | 201.72 | 364.86 |
| Unpresented cheques | -76.14 | -233.00 |
| Cash in hand | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| | 2,072.93 | 3,304.89 |
| Accounts Total | 5,142.99 | 6,357.46 |
| FUNDS | | |
| Unrestricted Funds | 3,699.74 | 5,086.71 |
| Restricted: Church Bell Fund | 1,288 | 1,197.50 |
| Designated Fund (for organ repair) | 125.75 | 73.25 |
| Designated Funds | 29.50 | 0.00 |
| Funds Total | 5,142.99 | 6,357.46 |
| Funds January 1st 2013 | 6357.46 | 8,307.37 |
| Excess of receipts against payments | -1214.47 | -1,949.91 |
| Total funds December 31st 2013 | 5,142.99 | 6,357.46 |
| Other Assets: | | |
| Gift Aid Tax Claim | 1,559.76 | 1,564.70 |

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS FOR 2013

| GENERAL FUND | 2013 | 2012 |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| Receipts | | |
| Congregational | | |
| Covenants & Gift Aid | 3,895.50 | 3,988.40 |
| Standing Orders | 3,150.00 | 4,570.00 |
| Tax Recovered | 2,076.01 | 2,320.37 |
| Uncovenanted Planned Giving | 1,294.37 | 583.00 |
| Collections | 925.93 | 1,773.46 |
| Other Services - Parish Confirmation | 753.41 | 83.25 |
| | 12,095.22 | 13,318.48 |
| Other Income | | |
| Social events - coffee morning | 169.84 | 59.05 |
| Donations and CAF Vouchers | 1,856.76 | 1,150.00 |
| Bank Interest (current account) | 2.32 | 2.85 |
| CBF Interest (deposit account) | 17.49 | 26.70 |
| Baptisms Weddings Funerals fees | 189.00 | 90.00 |
| Bell Fund Restricted | 90.50 | 196.80 |
| Designated Funds Organ (2012 Open door) | 52.50 | 100.00 |
| Designated Funds Family Tots Grant (2012 Soup Run) | 500.00 | 62.47 |
| Designated Funds SEP Hearing Dogs | 50.31 | 33.00 |
| | 2,928.72 | 1,720.87 |
| Total Income | 15,023.94 | 15,039.35 |

| | 2013 | 2012 |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| Payments | | |
| Ministry | | |
| Quota | 10.000 | 12,000.00 |
| | 10,000 | 12,000.00 |
| Other Costs | | |
| Church rent to management committee | 3,850.00 | 4,200.00 |
| Envelopes for Collection | 34.98 | 29.52 |
| Christingle Oranges | 7.14 | -- |
| Photocopies | 76.42 | 132.61 |
| Sundry | 155.40 | 314.00 |
| Christmas Leaflets | | |
| | 4,123.94 | 4,676.13 |
| Grants: | | |
| Embrace Middle East (2012 Open Door | 340.25 | |
| DEC Syria Appeal | 500.00 | 217.66 |
| DEC Philippines Appeal (2012 Soup Run) | 753.41 | 62.47 |
| Hearing Dogs | 50.31 | 33.00 |
| | 1,643.97 | 313.13 |
| Payment to Family tots | 470.50 | |
| | 470.50 | |
| Total Payments | 16,238.41 | 16,989.26 |
| Excess of Receipts against Payments | -1,214.47 | -1,949.91 |
| | | |
| Note (a) Christmas leaflets | 69.00 | 200.00 |
| Bridgebuilder booklets for local schools | 86.40 | 114.00 |

Note (b) The loss in 2012 is misleading as £2000 of the Quota Payment belonged to 2011.

