

# The Cross and Stable, Downs Barn

## Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership

Annual Report for 2015 presented 20th March 2016

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Referendum

## Agenda

### Annual General Meeting 20th March 2016

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the last AGM held on 29 March 2015
3. Matters arising from those minutes
4. Annual Reports as at March 2016 attached
5. Acceptance of the Financial Statement (2015)
6. Acceptance of the Membership List
7. Appointment of Church Officers
  - a) Wardens: Currently Bob Cross, Chris Pooley
  - b) Minutes Secretary: Currently Gwen Green
  - c) Treasurer: Currently Gill Grant
  - d) Team Leaders:
    - d1) Senior Steward Currently Ken Brine
    - d2) Worship Currently Bob Cross
    - d3) Sunday School
    - d4) Pastoral Group
    - d5) Furnishings & Flowers
    - d6) Christian Aid Rep Currently Gill Grant
    - d7) Social Events
    - d8) 2 Reps without portfolio Currently Amy Head, Shirley Pooley
    - d9) Bellringers Alan Marchbank
    - d10) Family Tots
8. Representatives - to be elected or nominated as appropriate
  - a) SEP Currently Bob Cross, Gill Grant
  - b) PCC only (legal necessity) Currently Ken Brine
  - c) Mission Partnership Currently G Green, B Zialor
  - d) Deanery Synod : Bob Cross
  - e) United Area Rep (URC/Methodist): vacancy
  - f) Management Committee
    - f1) Two representatives of Mission Partnership: Andy Jowitt, vacancy
    - f2) Four nominated representatives of the Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership: Bob Cross, Gill Grant, Peter Green, Ken Brine
9. For information only:
  - a) **Management Committee** (Charity No 1017685)  
Two User Group Representatives: Suzanne Miles, vacancy.  
Two Residents Reps: Chris Pooley, vacancy  
One rep. of the Milton Keynes Council: Ric Brackenbury  
One rep. of the Linford Parish Council: Janet Maclean  
Four nominated representatives of the Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership as f2 above
  - b) **Cross and Stable Church & Community Centre Trustees.** Charity No 1017685. Two Centre Trustees nominated by MK Council Ric Brackenbury, Peter McDonald. One Parish Trustee nominated by Linford Parish Council Janet Maclean. Three Church Trustees: The Pastoral President's nominee Mike Morris (Mr), The Vicar by virtue of office, The Vicar's nominee vacant
  - c) **Directors of Cross & Stable Charity.** (Charity No 800370) Vicar, Ken Brine, Paul Brookman, Peter Green, Alice Maynard.
10. Any Other Business:
11. Date of next AGM - possibly 2nd April or 26th March 2017

## Minutes

### Annual General Meeting 29th March, 2015

Present: Rev Andy Jowitt, Bob Cross (chair) plus 13 members & friends

1. Apologies for absence: Alice Maynard and Ken Brine
2. Previous Minutes of the AGM held on 23 March 2014 were taken as read and accepted. There were no matters arising.
4. The Annual Reports are attached. It was noted that in the Bellringers reports Amanda, Chloe and Katie were welcomed (omit Sophie). Peter Green was thanked for the presentation of the report.
5. The Financial Statement for 2014 noted 2 errors: viz: payment of Quota in 2013 was £10,000 and that £470.50 was granted in the setting up of Family Tots. Thanks were expressed to Gill our Treasurer. It was agreed we accept the Report subject to these minor corrections: proposed by Amy Head and seconded by Chris Pooley.
6. The current Membership List was accepted: proposed by Gill Grant and seconded by Alan Budds. Friends may become members in the next current year and hopefully new friends be added to the list.
7. The Appointment of Church Officers continues as at 29.3.15. Bob Cross will continue as warden; he proposed and Gill seconded that Chris Pooley become Deputy Church Warden. It was also proposed by Bob and seconded by Dina Woolmer that Shirley Pooley become a Rep without portfolio as well as Amy Head. The officers in place were proposed by Jim Ford and seconded by Alan Budds.
8. Representatives - 8e. Vacancy for United Area Rep to be addressed at the first Officers' meeting on April 20 at 10am at Gill Grants: 43 Pannier Place, Downs Barn.
9. 9abc for information only..
10. AOB. Andy wished to remind us that on 16 May 10-12 Christian Aid coffee Morning and Bring and buy Sale; 29 August 3-5pm End of Summer Tea Party at Cross and Stable; 23rd August 6pm Tree Cathedral Service.  
Also a reminder: at St Lawrence's CAP budgeting course on Sept 28 and October 5th and 12th. Also a Listening Course in the Autumn.  
Bob is thankful that more folk have come on to the duty rota.  
A further signatory is needed for the Church Bank Account. Gill proposed Chris Pooley, seconded by Bob Cross.
11. Date of the next AGM : Provisionally 6 March 2016 after Morning Worship. Note date of Easter - March 27 2016.
12. The AGM closed with the Grace at 12.20pm.

Signed:

Chairman

Date

# Minister's Report

## Downs Barn Minister's Report 2015 - 2016

The ministry of the church continues to reach people from a wide range of ages and situations in our pastoral area.

At the younger end 'Family Tots' continues to be a thriving group and a place of welcome to parents and carers from many different nationalities. The children play happily and join eagerly in our Bible story and song time. We sadly said goodbye to Tracy, who had helped us get the group off the ground, when she took on a new job, but others have stepped up to the plate and we are well-served by an efficient team (Dina, Chris & Shirley, Jerry, and Jane as Dina's stand-in). We miss Joy's gentle presence, wishing her well in her new home, and would welcome someone to step into her place and come alongside Shirley in serving the excellent refreshments that the children enjoy, sitting neatly round the table.

Partly from the relationships built through Family Tots comes the vision to re-start our Sunday School. Tracy Goldsworthy, Sue Baines and Gill Grant have undertaken to be part of the leadership team and we are building a team of helpers to work alongside them.

Moving up the age range, to schools, we continue to welcome schools groups into our church on occasions. A highlight is the Christmas and Easter Cracked presentations for top junior classes. Brooksward School come into the church, while for Southwood School, we take the presentation to them. I have quite a busy round of assemblies as I am able to take assemblies at Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 levels into all our local schools.

Two Cross & Stable members have attended the Acorn Christian Healing Trust listening courses laid on at Bradwell Church. As a fellowship we try to care for people in their different needs and being good listeners is a big part of this.

We continue to offer regular services at Highclere House nursing home and Neath House (which specialises in dementia care). Thank you to those who come and lend a hand when they can, and to Andrea Gray who provides the music for the hymns we sing (a vital ingredient in the worship). We are delighted that Andrea has offered to join our team of musicians for Sunday worship.

I am conscious that we have been entrusted in caring for some people as part of our church family (whether at church or in care homes) for just the last part of their lives. There is a sadness involved in this, but a privilege and responsibility too. Barbara Moroney and Jim Ford had each become a part of our church family and we miss them.

Our signed service enriches our monthly pattern of worship and we are served by a wonderful team of signers. Thank you to Sue and Jen and George. They've been supplemented at times by others, not least at the signed Carol Service which had

a good crowd and a real buzz this year. Please pray that we are able to raise awareness of and interest in our monthly service in the deaf community. Jane and I continue to attend BSL classes. Jane has achieved her Level 2 and I am 'working towards it'!

Our load of 'occasional offices' has been light this year. Sadly the weddings booked for 2015 didn't happen and both the 2016 bookings have also been cancelled, so I'm still awaiting the opportunity to conduct a wedding in our building. I conducted funerals for 5 people in 2015 from within our pastoral areas, these services being mainly at Crownhill Crematorium.

Christmas saw some slightly increased attendances. Thank you to Peter for being willing to conduct our 'Midnight' Communion again. Our busiest service was once again our Christmas Eve Family Carols – an interactive service conducted informally around tables with refreshments and colouring activities. It's a format which seems to work well and our building provides a good venue for it.

I continue as a 'partner' for the Conniburrow 'Big Local' project and one opportunity this has given me is to organise some outdoor carol singing with a local silver band at Germander Park.

We look forward soon to a new experiment: a partnership with Great Linford Parish Council to open our building to the local community for a weekly Tea & Coffee Afternoon. We hope it will be a meeting place for a range of people, from older retired folk through to younger parents and their youngsters too.

Our hope that the well-attended Lent course last year might convert to being an ongoing group didn't work out, but I am grateful to Gwen for leading a course for this current Lent, which by all accounts has also been well-attended and thought-provoking.

Finally, a big thank you for your support towards my sabbatical in 2015, and for the faithful ongoing work of church members while I was away. The largest part of my time was spent volunteering in a new community conservation project in Southall, a very multicultural part of west London. I was doing this through A Rocha, a charity set up by Christians in conservation, with the purpose of 'caring for God's earth'. A Rocha team members Kailean & Kim Khongsai have been able to visit us at Cross & Stable and I'd be delighted if any from Cross & Stable were able to join in the trip the other way to Southall on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2016.

The Reverend Andy Jowitt, March 2016

# Churchwarden's Report

Another year goes by and, again, the Cross and Stable continues and shows signs of flourishing and continuation. As this is written the days are getting longer and a brighter time beckons for us all.



Highlight of the year for one warden was the arrival of a new Warden to share the task so that Chris joined me and, hopefully both of us are refreshed by the change.

Our worries centre on the age profile of the Officers as none of us get younger and I joke that I felt a pulse this morning so I got out of bed. Can we ask that, in this coming year, each of us seeks and prays for a successor in whatever we do in the Church apart from worshipping. That way, we are looking to the future and getting people involved as I am sure that the people will come to a living concern, anxious to maintain all that is holy to each of us and to all of us.

It was good to welcome Andy and Jane home from the Sabbatical and to hear of their adventures in the wilds of Africa and Heathrow

We rejoice in our successes as the Mums and Tots maintain their steady process and we thank those who make that possible and hope that that will be repeated as we restart our Sunday School just before Easter.

We are grateful to all who contribute to our Worship through participation on the Rotas and those on the music Rota who lead and accompany our singing. Also for the visiting Preachers who enable Andy to fill the difficult task of being in two places at once. If you wish to participate or change your current participation, now is the time to do that and mention the matter to any of the Officers

Sincere thanks especially to our Secretary and our Treasurer who has steered us to meet our Parish obligation although this has been reduced in our circumstances

Our congregations, slowly, increase week by week – that is the most satisfying fact to report – please ask yourself – can I bring one more member to the Cross and Stable. Our thanks to you all.

Bob Cross, Chris Pooley 8 March 2016

## Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership Representatives' Report

In 2015 the Partnership had several changes in the Ministerial Team:

Rev Mindy Bell left the Methodist Circuit in Milton Keynes in July to take up her new appointment in Slough. She has been replaced by Nicola Martyn-Beck who is a Methodist Minister in training.

Rev David Lewis joined the Team in November with responsibility for Christ Church and St Andrews Church.

Rev Peter Ballantine retired in April. He will not be replaced, but we can appoint an "Associate Minister" to live in the vicarage, in return giving some time to the Parish. This vacancy has now been advertised.

Rev Andy Jowitt is now the Ministerial Team leader, and Rev Paul Smith the Parish Rector.

The Partnership ended 2015 with a small surplus, because it only had to pay two months wages to our Baptist minister, (David Lewis). Again Cross and Stable Church was only just able to pay the £10,000 demanded of us for our Parish share, whereas before we have been able to make a larger contribution.

In February SEP held a successful "Marriage Celebration Dinner at the C & S with 16 couples attending.

Bradwell Church is hosting a "Listening Course". The first two sessions on Effective and Applied Listening were held in the autumn. There will be two more sessions in March. Two people from C&S attended.

New Bradwell Church has received half the proceeds from the sale of the Methodist Chapel and has been able to refurbish the former vestry, installing toilets and new storage space. The Annual Service for bereaved families was held at St Lawrence Church.

There was a parish visit to Westminster Abbey for Evensong, a tour of the Abbey and tea.

In November the Partnership held an Away Day in Holy Trinity Church, Deanshanger. This was led by Canon John Robertson, with a good attendance. We considered the Mission of the individual churches and discussed a Joint Mission Statement for the Partnership, and how the churches can support each other.

Gill Grant and Bob Cross

## Mission Partnership

Mission Partnership has been concerned with its work of building capacity for Mission in Milton Keynes that it be 'A City Alive To God'.

This has included focus on Prayer, Adult Learning, Leadership, Mission and Community Engagement (Sharing Faith)

'Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.' [Jeremiah 29:7]

Gwen Green

## Bell Ringers' Report

A successful year in the tower with good progress being made by all.

We have had 3 ropes repaired in the year, 2 required replacement tail ends and one failed just above the sally (the fluffy bit) so a replacement sally and tail end was fitted. The repairs, undertaken by Mendip Ropes, cost close to £300 which was paid from the Great Linford Ringing Fund as there is little income to Downs Barn.

The ropes are now over 20 years old and the original sallies are getting thin so we need to plan for the replacement of the original 7 ropes.

We really enjoy the dry environment created by the repairs and external redecorations undertaken last year.

We rang for the Christian Festivals including Christmas Eve but did not manage to get enough to ring in the New Year. Ringing for Remembrance Day was half muffled.

We welcomed 4 visiting teams from various parts of the country and 2 peal bands. 1 peal was scored and one came to grief just about half way. We post notices to the neighbours advising of peal attempts and the reason for the ringing.

We continue to practice on Friday evenings and have started to attempt a quarter peal on the last Friday of each month as a way of consolidating the skills associated with longer pieces of rhythmic ringing.

We will be pleased to welcome some new learners so that we increase our numbers.

Thank you for your continued support.

Alan Marchbank, Tower Captain

## Cross and Stable Trustees & Management Committee

The Cross and Stable Trustees are an independent charity and use a Management Committee to run the building. The Committee rents the building to various users including the church and operates at a small profit, keeping sufficient reserves for future repairs.

Current users paid for by the church are The Ecumenical Congregation, The Bellringers, The Family Tots and from 23rd March Wednesday afternoon Tea and Chat.

Four independent Christian congregations also rent the premises: Winning Souls, World of Grace, Forward in Faith and Prophetic Resurrection Ministry.

U3A run two Sequence Dance Groups and a Choir. Centre Stage hold a class on Monday and Cairo Cats on Tuesday, a

children's Film Club operates on a Friday. Weightwatchers meet on a Wednesday evening.

Saturdays are reserved for children's parties in the afternoon and evening parties can run until 11.30pm.

Small local companies are employed for cleaning and gardening.

During 2015 the floor was refurbished and powerful booster heating fans were installed. Research is being undertaken to establish the cost of a major upgrade to toilets and kitchen to be undertaken in 2016/7. Reserves are unlikely to be sufficient to achieve this and grants are being sought from the charities.

A full report and accounts are presented at the AGM of the Management Committee which is scheduled for the 22nd June.

Peter Green (Treasurer), 8th March 2016

## Cross and Stable Charities

The Cross and Stable Charities is an independent charity that runs the 6 workshops in the Stable Yard. Any profit is available primarily for the work of Cross and Stable.

The profit to March 2015 amounted to £6108 and to March 2016 is estimated to be around £10,000.

Recent grants include £2,337 to St Lawrence for redecoration work and £3,500 to Christ Church for toilet refurbishment and £1,000 to Venture X.

The balance available for grants at 1st Jan 2016 was £15,481.

Full details of the charities grant making policy is available from the Directors.

The annual meeting of the charity will receive a full report and accounts and is to be held on 6th June.

Andy Jowitt, Ken Brine, Paul Brookman, Peter Green, Alice Maynard: Directors, 8th March 2016

## Photocopier

We have been given a new photocopier during the year. It is available to anyone by appointment at a fraction of the cost of commercial copiers. 2p for black & white - 6p for colour!

The copier operates at no cost to Cross & Stable other than the actual copies we use for ourselves.

The copier is little used and at the moment it is mainly used by Paul Smith for Willen and St James, the Circuit for the Plan, Mission Partnership, SEP, and of course by ourselves.

If you want a large copy of a favourite photo our 6p prints are incredible value. Or an A3 poster for 12p.

Peter Green, 8th March 2016

# Treasurer's Report

The financial records for 2015 were kept as receipt and payment accounts. The figures were prepared monthly and presented to the Officers at bi-monthly Church Meetings.

A sum of £2552.50 was received as tax returned on gift-aided donations. We can now claim a gift-aided tax rebate on all cash donations of £20 and less. The final account at the end of December shows that the shortage of receipts against payments was only £756.34.

In 2015 a sum of £10,000 was paid to SEP as our share of the Mission Partnership Quota. It should be noted that this is less than a half share of a minister's salary, without other costs.

£63.75 was collected at the December signed Carol Service and forwarded to the Hearing Dogs for the Deaf People. Our other

appeals raised £386.69 for TLC, Transforming Lives of Children; £350 for the Vicar for his sabbatical.; £140 for Bridgebuilder booklets for our local schools.

The amount collected for Christian Aid Week was £349.30 which was paid directly into Christian Aid's account.

Thank you for your generous giving during 2015.

Please continue to support the work and worship at Cross and Stable in 2016.

A new restricted fund has been set up to pay for the new photocopier. All the income is from a restricted donation and all copier maintenance costs are met from this fund.

Gill Grant, 12th January 2016

## STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

at 31st December 2015	2015	2014
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Investments</b>		
Deposit Fund CBF	2,092.25	2,081.82
	<b>2,092.25</b>	<b>2,081.82</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
HSBC Account	0.00	0.00
CAF Bank Account	1,767.47	2,791.16
Debtors	0.00	0.00
Unpresented banking	350.00	263.11
Unpresented cheques	-103.75	-273.78
Cash in hand	0.00	0.00
Accounts Total	<b>2,013.72</b>	<b>2,780.49</b>
Assets Total	<b>4,105.97</b>	<b>4,862.31</b>
<b>FUNDS</b>		
Unrestricted Funds	1,862.64	3,105.17
Restricted: Church Bell Fund	1,413.37	1,351.87
Designated Fund (for organ repair)	193.77	170.02
Designated Funds (Family Tots)	249.50	29.50
Designated Funds (Christmas Collection)	386.69	205.75
Restricted Copier Fund	0.00	0.00
<b>Funds Total</b>	<b>4,105.97</b>	<b>4,862.31</b>
Funds January 1st 2015	4,862.31	5,142.99
Excess of receipts against payments	-756.34	280.68
Total funds December 31st 2015	<b>4,105.97</b>	<b>4,862.31</b>

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS FOR 2015****GENERAL FUND**

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	
<b>Receipts</b>			
Congregational			
Covenants & Gift Aid	4,812.57	3,960.00	
Standing Orders	3,310.00	3,921.00	
Tax Recovered	2,552.50	2,361.54	
Uncovenanted Planned Giving	1,159.71	1,058.35	
Collections	834.44	763.83	
Other Services -	0.00	205.75	
Bell ringers AGM	0.00	125.50	
	12,669.22	12,395.97	
<b>Other Income</b>			
Social events - coffee morning	103.65	143.65	
Donations and CAF Vouchers	510.00	1,499.00	
Bank Interest (current account)	0.00	.75	
CBF Interest (deposit account)	10.43	11.76	
Baptisms Weddings Funerals fees	213.00	281.00	
Bell Fund Restricted	76.50	63.87	
Designated Funds Organ	23.75	44.27	
Designated Funds Family Tots (2014 Gideons)	200.00	77.00	
Designated funds for TLS (2014 Bridgebuilder)	386.69	110.00	
Designated Funds Hearing Dogs	63.75	140.80	
Donation for Carpet & Bibles	0.00	424.00	
	1,587.77	2,796.10	
Restricted Donation for Copier (2014 Bibles & Carpets)	1896.00	0.00	
	1,896.00	0.00	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>16,152.99</b>	<b>15,192.07</b>	
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	
<b>Payments</b>			
<b>Ministry</b>			
Quota	10,000.00	10,000.00	
	10,000.00	10,000.00	
<b>Other Costs</b>			
Church rent to management committee	3,850.00	4,200.00	
Envelopes for Collection / Pal Crosses	240.75	41.42	
Christmas Publicity	109.00	124.00	
Photocopies	54.08	89.86	
Sundry (2014 Carpet)	0.00	354.00	
	4,253.83	4,809.28	
<b>Grants:</b>			
MK Hope (Jan) (2014 MK Soup Run)	205.75	267.33	
Vicars Sabbatical (2014 Gideons)	350.00	77.00	
Bridgebuilder (July) (2014 Bridgebuilder)	140.00	110.00	
Hearing Dogs (Dec) (2014 Hearing Dogs)	63.75	140.80	
Gift bibles (2014 Gift Bibles)	0.00	68.34	
	759.50	663.47	
<b>Restricted Fund</b>			
Copier	1,896.00		
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>16,909.33</b>	<b>15,472.75</b>	
<b>Excess of Receipts against Payments</b>	<b>-756.34</b>	<b>-280.68</b>	

# Membership Roll and Friends

## WORSHIPPERS MEMBERS' ROLL

Archer	Joan
Baines	Susan
Brine	Ken
Budds	Alan
Cavanagh	Dan (Ecumenically Confirmed)
Crawshay	Richard
Cross	Bob
Goldsworthy	Tracy
Grant	Gill
Green	Gwen
Head	Amy
Joseph	Damayanthi
Joseph	Suresh
Kidrowicz	Amanda (Ecumenically Confirmed)
Maynard	Alice
Payne	Elizabeth
Pooley	Chris
Pooley	Shirley
Redford	Jeremy
Zialor	Beverley

## FRIENDS

	Kay
Baines	Matthew
Buchan	Ann
Chapman	George
Conway	Rick
Freestone	Eileen
Goldsworthy	Chris
Gray	Andrea
Gray	Neville
Green	Peter
Harvey	Jenny
Hughes	Pershing
Lloyd	Betty
Lubbock	Lyndsey
Monk	Doreen
Moroney	Donal
Parkinson	Dorothy
Payne	Leslie
Payne	Chris
Payne	Joanne
Percival	Sophie (Ecumenically Confirmed)
Percival	Chloe (Ecumenically Confirmed)
Percival	Katie (Ecumenically Confirmed)
Stokes	Jessica
Wells	Billy
West	Phyllis
Williams-Deans	Bridget
Williams-Deans	Graham
Wood	Billy
Woolmer	Dina

## MINISTER AND ORGANISTS

Andy	Jowitt
Cross	Bob
Gray	Andrea
Prisk	Adrian
Rouse	Helen
Spikings	Beryl
Stammers	Diana

## BELLRINGERS

Bartholamew	Graham
Marchbank	Alan
Marchbank	Tina
Reading	Hilary
Reading	Gary
Reading	Claire
Reading	Alice
Reading	Sophie
Thompson	Steve

## REMOVED FROM LISTS

Burrows	Stephen
Elam	Fiona
Finch	Joy
Foster	Will & Stephanie
Mathew	Joseph & Shipla
Paul	Kira
Wheaver	John

## DEATHS in 2015 /2016

Ford	Jim
Lloyd	Raymond
Moroney	Barbara

## OCCASIONAL MINISTERS in 2015/2016

Barnes	Steve
Blackett	Jim
Boxwell	Jenny
Coles	Rob
Cotes	Mary
Cross	Jim
Green	Peter
Howden	Chris
Morris	Mike
Prisk	Maggie
Ruston	Rod

## DENOMINATIONS ON ROLL

Anglican	11
Baptist	5
Methodist	1
United Reformed	-
Ecumenically Confirmed	2
Other	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20</b>