

The Cross and Stable, Downs Barn Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership

Annual Report for 2016 presented 19th March 2017



2nd October 2016

Agenda

Annual General Meeting 19th March 2017

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the last AGM held on 20 March 2016
3. Matters arising from those minutes
4. Annual Reports as at March 2017 attached
5. Acceptance of the Financial Statement (2017)
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 P Green, B Cross
 - 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 8f2 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 18th March 2018

Minutes

Annual General Meeting 20th March, 2016

- Present: Rev Andy Jowitt (chair) plus 13 members & friends: Ken, Amy, Gill, Gwen, Peter, Richard, Bob, Alan, Tracy, Dan, Shirley, Chris, Amanda.
1. Apologies for absence: Alice, Dina, Jeremy, Suresh
 2. Previous Minutes of the AGM held on 29 March 2015 were accepted, noting (7d8) inclusion of Amy Head as first rep without portfolio.
 3. There were no matters arising.
 4. The Annual Reports were accepted with a few additions to the Finance Report and Membership List. Peter Green was thanked for the presentation of the report.
 5. The Financial Statement for 2015 was accepted by all. Thanks were expressed to Gill our Treasurer.
 6. The current Membership List was accepted by all. Dan Cavanagh, Tracy Goldsworthy, Jeremy Redford have become members. Joy Finch has moved away.; Jim Ford has died.
 7. The Appointment of Church Officers continues as at 20.3.16. Bob Cross and Chris Pooley will continue as wardens; the minutes secretary is Gwen Green, and Treasurer: Gill Grant. Senior Steward Ken Brine; Worship oversight Bob Cross; Sunday School: Gill Grant, Tracy Goldsworthy and Sue Baines; Two reps without portfolio: Amy Head and Shirley Pooley; no senior oversight of Family Tots.
 8. Representatives - 8a: SEP: currently Bob Cross and Gill Grant; PCC (legal necessity): Ken Brine; Mission Partnership: vacancy; Deanery Synod: Bob Cross; 8e. Vacancy for United Area Rep. 8f. Four nominated representatives of the Management Committee for the SEP: Bob Cross, Peter Green, Gill Grant, Ken Brine.
 9. 9abc for information only..
 10. AOB. To be considered at the next Officers' meeting: May 12th 10am at Gwen's: 34 North 12th Street CMK: Possible C&S venue for Citizens MK Forum; Possibility of mentoring by new members for future roles as Church Officers, Representatives; A Vision Statement for our Church, using St Lawrence's as a draft model.
 11. Date of the next AGM : Provisionally 26 March 2017 or 2 April 2017 after Morning Worship. Note date of Easter - April 16 2017.
 12. The AGM closed with the Grace at 12.35pm.

Signed: _____ Chairman

Date

Minister's Report

Since the last AGM we have tried some new ventures. Not all have worked, but we have been willing to step out and take risks, and we continue to explore opportunities for growth and mission. The Sunday School plan made an encouraging start but faltered really because the children who came (and enjoyed coming) were not as regular as we'd hoped. With the demands and distractions of life for families today, it is tougher making something like this work. I'd like to pay tribute and express gratitude to Tracy, Sue and Gill who were willing to share in the task of leading. Thank you. The plan is officially on the back-burner for now, and one we could bring to the fore again if need and opportunity arise.

In the meantime 'Family Tots' continues as a vibrant and happy group with good numbers attending and a lovely faithful team. I hope there will be a further report penned by someone else. Families come from a wide range of backgrounds reflecting the diversity of families in our area and I believe we are successful in making them feel welcome.

My assembly work continues in all the local authority schools in our pastoral area and I'm thankful that I have this opportunity and pray that seeds are sown of faith and friendship and bear fruit in some way. It is interesting how often the Bible stories I use engage helpfully with the values the schools are trying to build on.

There are occasional opportunities for school groups to visit the church. Children from Downs Barn School (Key Stage 1) have visited and we'll soon expect to host a visit from Brooksward School Key Stage 1. Brooksward Year 6 children enjoy coming to Christmas and Easter Cracked, at which we value church members helping as part of the team. We take the same presentations to Southwood School, but sadly, due to their hall being closed, it looks like it will not be possible to offer them Easter Cracked this year.

At the other end of the age range, monthly services continue at Highclere House nursing home and Neath House dementia care home. Warm thanks to Andrea for the music, which is an essential ingredient, and to Bob, Gill and Dina for your invaluable help.

The Parish Council-sponsored T'n'C (Tea & Coffee afternoon) started in the summer, and continues weekly, mainly enjoyed by retired folk. The Community Mobiliser is exploring injecting some new ideas into this time.

There is a real sense of team work about our Sunday worship, with many different people playing a part, whether with reading, intercessions, refreshments, stewarding, technology and more. The quality of our welcome is vital; we want people to feel welcome and at home, but without pressure. Gwen's noticesheets, faithfully crafted each week, have impressed us with their attractive graphics and layout. Thanks too to Ken for organising our duty rota.

We are grateful for what Chris and Shirley have done in different ways, and sad that Shirley's current health is not

making it possible for them to be actively involved now, but they are often in our thoughts and prayers through this time.

I am deeply grateful for the servant heart of many members, who unstintingly play key roles, both in practical needs and in the pastoral care of members of our family facing illness or infirmity of age. I pray that they'll be encouraged by people coming alongside to help carry the load.

Our Sunday worship depends not just on the home team – myself, Peter (usually once a month) and occasional lay-led services – but also on lay preachers and ministers from the Partnership and wider church. We've enjoyed the variety that affords. Likewise we're grateful to Helen, Beryl and Adrian who've helped on occasions by playing the organ, supplementing Andrea and Bob, our home team.

There was a real encouragement when our Tree Cathedral service at Newlands was well supported by people from other churches in the Partnership and beyond. I counted 35 in all. We were just able to pack up before the rain set in! Another instance of partnership in action was when we hosted an immersion baptism at a morning service, with members of Bradwell Church enjoying the opportunity to join us in worship.

The monthly signed Communion has its own special quality and usually sees a higher attendance. We really have an excellent and dedicated team of signers. Jen has now retired for health reasons from regularly signing, but with Mandy Brownsill and Sue Whalley joining Sue Baines and George Chapman we are well served. We look forward to Bryan and Sue Whalley preaching through BSL at our next signed service in April. The signing team is now trying to meet together monthly to prepare and practise. It's interesting how signing makes you really think about the meaning of the words. The members of our BSL community featured in the most recent (March) edition of 'The Door'.

Once again there was a real buzz and a good crowd at our signed Carol Service in December. Our publicity for that service in recent years has worked well. We long to see more people from the BSL community join us in regular worship – could we make this a prayer priority.

Earlier on the same day as our signed Carol Service we'd held our busy Family Tots Nativity: worship in a very different way but still worship! This year for the first time we hosted Woodlands Nursery, who used our building for their own Nativity. I was highly impressed by the way the children performed and pleased at the welcome given to me to help on that occasion.

Christmas was a good time for us. The flyers I think went out more effectively this year and brought in an encouraging number of visitors to our informal, café-style Family Carols on Christmas Eve. Thank you to Peter once again for leading our Midnight Communion and to Gwen for planning and leading the Advent course which by all accounts was a stimulating time and much appreciated.

Going back a bit further to October, we all cherish the memory of Dina & Peter's wedding, which we combined with our monthly signed service. Dina & Peter wanted the whole

church family to know they were invited, and it worked, with signers and BSL users and families from Family Tots mixing with other members of the congregation and Dina & Peter's friends and family. The church was full of people and full of love and joy. While most people were outside in the sunshine for photos after the service, inside a team beavered away to effect a swift change from worship space to reception venue and we enjoyed a delicious meal together.

Into the New Year we enjoyed food and fun together again for the 30th birthday party of the building. Thank you so much to Peter for making that happen.

And thank you too to Mike & Pru for their lovely hospitality hosting our Home Bible study, which started just this year. This has now met four times (more or less fortnightly) and has been an interesting and fruitful time. As we think about what will help us to be a sustainable and growing church, this time of welcome, prayer and study of God's word has to my mind a vital part to play in helping us grow in faith and fellowship.

Andy Jowitt, March 2017

Churchwarden's Report

Another year goes by and, again, the Cross and Stable continues to present Christianity to the area together with the facilities of a Community Centre.

I often wonder at the variety of our worship. Not only in our services and activities week by week but in the fact that at least six Christian Groups meet in our Building each week

It was sad that, through the year Chris found himself closely involved in other duties and chose to go where he was most needed. I am sure we all join in prayer for the Pooley family in their time of need.

Our fundamental concerns still centre on the membership of the Church and the emphasis on the age profile of most of our members. In the coming year, could we all pray for guidance and try to bring someone to church from a generation younger than our own.

In the coming months this will be a demanding task for your officers so any ideas are welcome; just see that your idea is shared with one of our Officers so that it can be shared..

We rejoice in the continuing success of the Mums and Tots as they maintain their steady process and we thank those who make that possible. It would be nice if it were practical to revive our Sunday School but that depends on the young children coming to Church

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, very 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 10 March 2017

Family Tots

After a brief falling off in attendance when we lost all our older children to school or nursery last summer, numbers have grown a lot recently and we have a wonderful new crop of babies to cuddle and many new children that attend regularly. The parents/carers that come are a friendly bunch and there is a lovely atmosphere in which we all share our lives together.

Gill has taken over from Shirley and prepares the snacks and Peter has replaced Chris in setting out and putting away the equipment and helping with the children. We do miss Chris and Shirley.

The team consists of Andy, Jane, Gill, Jerry, Peter and Dina and we are all honoured to be involved with these families. Please remember us in your prayers and come and visit us on a Friday afternoon to see what we do. You would be very welcome !

Dina Davis

Room'n'ate

This men's social gathering continues to meet at various locations in Milton Keynes as a group for men who socialise and enjoy fellowship with each other. The Cross and Stable is always well represented at the bi-monthly Meetings

There is variation in the Meetings in that at some we eat and chat, at some we listen to a visiting speaker. Quizzes are used when speakers either cry off or cannot be obtained.

Highlight for this last year was the visit to the Milton Keynes Museum conducted by one of our own Members. Anyone who has not visited in the last few years should go and see this representative of Milton Keynes as it was before the current City.

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

Bob Cross

Safeguarding

The Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership has a Safeguarding Policy which applies to all the Churches in the Partnership. It is based on the Methodist Church Policy, with changes, where appropriate, to our ecumenical form.

There is a copy of the Policy in the church and it should be read by all the Church Officers.

All Ministers and everybody in regular contact with children and/or vulnerable adults* is required to have a DBS check.

The current Cross & Stable Safeguarding Officer is Gill Grant. Any queries or concerns should be reported to her, the minister or a warden.

*definitions of children and vulnerable adults are included in the policy.

Gill Grant

Bell Ringers' Report

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

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 hosted the annual striking competition between the North Bucks Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild and the Towcester Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild. This was extremely well attended and the fine weather allowed the full enjoyment of the garden areas. The Gt Linford Scouts assisted with catering, cooking and serving a super bar-b-que tea. Sadly the local ringers were skills were insufficient, and the Towcester team took the prizes for the best ringing.

We continue to practice on Friday evenings and regularly have enough competent 8 bell ringers to attempt to ring and practice the more complex and demanding methods.

We are always pleased to welcome new learners so that we increase our numbers and thank you all for your continued support.

Alan Marchbank, Tower Captain

Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership Representatives' Report

The new Minister to join the Clergy Team is Rev. Chukwuemeka Iwuagwu (Chuks for short) who will have responsibility for St Andrews Church in Great Linford. His is a "House for Duty" appointment, which means that Chuks will work three days a week for SEP. He will receive free accommodation in the vicarage and his expenses, but no stipend. Chuks welcoming service was held on 27th February 2017.

Helen Rouse, a member of New Bradwell Church and a visiting organist at C & S, has been accepted to train as a Licensed Lay Minister.

Following the Parish Away Day in November 2015, both the SEP Trustees and the separate Churches have been looking at

their Mission and Vision Statements, and how the churches can work together. There was a good attendance at the August Service at the Tree Cathedral. This success depends on support from other church members in the Partnership. It was good to host a SEP Trustees Meeting at the C & S in February, but to do this we have to cancel another user's regular booking.

A Pilgrimage around the Stantonbury Parish has been arranged for 20th May 2017. This will be an opportunity to visit the other 5 Churches and to get to meet new people, as well as welcoming them to the Cross and Stable.

The SEP Safeguarding Team consists of a Leader, a rep. from each church and a member of the Clergy. This team have made an application to the C & S Charities for a grant to purchase a lap-top computer and a fixed safe to store it in. The computer will enable DBS checks to be submitted on-line. The safe will be fixed in Christchurch, Stantonbury.

As a member of CitizensMK, the SEP has registered as a "Living Wage Institution". SEP only has one employee who is the Baptist Minister, David Lewis. The Cross & Stable Management Committee also have one employee, the cleaner supplied by our cleaning contractor. They will make sure the cleaner is also paid at the Living Wage rate.

In November, the SEP appealed to the Churches for extra income to help meet all the 2016 commitments. Expenses have increased as, after a gap of over a year, SEP is once again employing a full-time Baptist Minister. If we did not do this, we would still have to contribute to the Baptist Pension fund, to meet payments for previous Baptist ministers. SEP is in a no-win situation! 2017 will have greater expenses as there is an increased demand from Mission Partnership to pay for the Anglican and Methodist Clergy. Any fund-raising ideas would be appreciated!

Gill Grant and Bob Cross

Cross and Stable Trustees & Management Committee

This Committee is responsible to the Trustees for the physical running of the actual building and the Church is represented on the Committee. Activity in the year has included a refurbishment of the flooring.

The new Gardening Contractors have performed well and improvements are beginning to show

The Committee had approached a well known provider for a grant towards the refurbishment of our toilet facilities.

[After the year end we were notified that the grant had been denied and other plans are afoot]

Bookings remain strong and it is difficult to find space for other activities through the week.

Bob Cross (Chairman), 10th March 2017

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 surplus for year to end of March 2016 amounted to £16,193.

Recent grants include £1,000 for Safeguarding computer and safe keeping, £3,000 to Bradwell Church for pathways and tree work, and up to £20k has been earmarked for toilet refurbishment at Cross and Stable. Full accounts can be seen on the Companies House website, or from a Director.

Andy Jowitt, Ken Brine, Paul Brookman, Peter Green,
Alice Maynard: Directors, 10th March 2017

Photocopier

The new copier, given to us in July 2015, is not used as much as would be possible. Only about 20,000 copies this year. So if you need cheap copying - please ask. Black & white 2p, colour 6p. An 11x16 inch print of your favourite photo for 12 pence. Cross and Stables own copying costs us even less!

Peter Green, 10th March 2017

Treasurer's Report

The financial records for 2016 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 £3,052 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 £211.27.

In 2016 a sum of £10,500 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.

£186.50 was collected at the December signed Carol Service and forwarded to the Hearing Dogs for the Deaf People. Our other appeals raised £423.35 for Open Dorr MK and £100 for Bridgebuilder booklets for our local schools.

The amount collected for Christian Aid Week was £538.20 which was paid directly into Christian Aid's account.

Thank you for your generous giving during 2016.

Please continue to support the work and worship at Cross and Stable in 2017.

Gill Grant, 16th January 2017

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES at 31st December 2016

ASSETS	2016	2015
Investments		
Deposit Fund CBF	2,102.97	2,092.25
	2,102.97	2,092.25
Current Assets		
HSBC Account	0.00	0.00
CAF Bank Account	2040.77	1,767.47
Debtors	0.00	0.00
Unpresented banking	399.90	350.00
Unpresented cheques	-226.50	-103.75
Cash in hand	0.00	0.00
Accounts Total	2,214.17	2,013.72
Assets Total	4,317.14	4,105.97
FUNDS		
Unrestricted Funds	2,211.13	1,862.64
Restricted: Church Bell Fund	1413.37	1,413.37
Designated Fund (for organ repair)	37.82	193.77
Designated Funds (Family Tots)	231.47	249.50
Designated Funds (Christmas Collection)	423.35	386.69
Restricted Copier Fund	0.00	0.00
Funds Total	4,317.14	4,105.97
Funds January 1st 2015	4,105.97	4,862.31
Excess of receipts against payments	211.17	-756.34
Total funds December 31st 2015	4,317.14	4,105.97

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS FOR 2016

GENERAL FUND	2016	2015		
Receipts				
Congregational				
Covenants & Gift Aid	5,430.00	4,812.57		
Standing Orders	4,005.00	3,310.00		
Tax Recovered	3,052.00	2,552.50		
Uncovenanted Planned Giving	589.08	1,159.71		
Collections	2,005.69	834.44		
Other Services -	0.00	0.00		
			15,081.77	12,669.22
Other Income				
Social events - coffee morning	0.00	103.65		
Donations and CAF Vouchers	100.00	510.00		
Bank Interest (current account)	0.00	0.00		
CBF Interest (deposit account)	10.72	10.43		
Baptisms Weddings Funerals fees	250.00	213.00		
Bell Fund Restricted	0.00	76.50		
Designated Funds Organ	139.05	23.75		
Designated Funds Family Tots	194.50	200.00		
Designated funds for Open Door (2015 TLS)	423.35	386.69		
Designated Funds Hearing Dogs	186.50	63.75		1,587.77
Restricted Fund Copier	804.00	1,896.00	2,108.12	1,896.00
Total Income			17,189.89	16,152.99
Payments				
Ministry				
Quota	10,500.00	10,000.00		
			10,500.00	10,000.00
Other Costs				
Church rent to management committee	4,200.00	3,850.00		
Envelopes for Collection / Pal Crosses	112.00	240.75		
Christmas Publicity	0.00	109.00		
Photocopies	52.00	54.08		
Sundry Organ repair	295.00	0.00		
Copier	924.00	1,896.00		
Bank charges	10.00			
			5,593.00	4,253.83
Grants:				
TLC (2015 MK Hope)	386.69	205.75		
Grants (2015 Vicars Sabbatical)	0.00	350.00		
Bridgebuilder (2015 Bridgebuilder)	100.00	140.00		
Hearing Dogs (2015 Hearing Dogs)	186.50	63.75		
Family Tots	212.53	0.00		
			885.72	663.47
Total Payments			16,978.72	16,909.33
Excess of Receipts against Payments			211.17	-756.34

Membership Roll and Friends

WORSHIPPERS MEMBERS' ROLL

Archer	Joan	A
Baines	Susan	A
Brine	Ken	A
Budds	Alan	A
Cavanagh	Dan (Ecumenically Confirmed)	E
Crawshay	Richard	B
Cross	Bob	A
Goldsworthy	Tracy	A
Grant	Gill	B
Green	Gwen	A
Head	Amy	M
Joseph	Damayanthi	A
Joseph	Suresh	A
Stokes	Amanda (Ecumenically Confirmed)	E
McConnell	Pru	M
McConnell	Mike	M
Maynard	Alice	A
Payne	Elizabeth	RC
Pooley	Chris	B
Pooley	Shirley	B
Radford	Jeremy	?
Zialor	Beverley	A

FRIENDS

Baines	Matthew
Brownsill	Mandy
Buchan	Ann
Chapman	George
Conway	Rick
Davis	Peter
Davis	Dina
Foster	Will & Stephanie
Freestone	Eileen
Goldsworthy	Chris
Gray	Andrea
Gray	Neville
Green	Peter
Harvey	Jenny
Higgs	Sandy
Hughes	Pershing
Lloyd	Betty
Lubbock	Lyndsey
Monk	Doreen
Moroney	Donal
Parkinson	Dorothy
Payne	Leslie
Percival	Chloe (Ecumenically Confirmed)
Percival	Katie (Ecumenically Confirmed)
Stokes	Jessica
Wells	Billy
West	Phyllis
Whalley	Sue and Bryan

FRIENDS

Williams-Deans	Bridget
Williams-Deans	Graham
Wood	Billy

MINISTER AND ORGANISTS

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

BELLRINGERS

Bartholomew	Graham
Marchbank	Alan
Marchbank	Tina
Reading	Hiliary
Reading	Gary
Reading	Claire
Reading	Alice
Reading	Sophie
Thompson	Steve

SIGNERS

Baines	Sue
Brownsill	Mandy
Chapman	George
Harvey	Jenny
Jowitt	Jane
Whalley	Sue

DEATHS in 2016 /2017

none

OCCASIONAL MINISTERS in 2016/2017

Barnes	Steve
Boxwell	Jenny & John
Cotes	Mary
Green	Peter
Morris	Mike
Prisk	Maggie
Robertson	John

DENOMINATIONS ON ROLL

Anglican	12
Baptist	4
Methodist	3
United Reformed	-
Ecumenically Confirmed	2
Other	1
TOTAL	22