



St Lawrence Jewry

next Guildhall

Annual Guild Church Meeting

20th April 2015

6.00pm

Reports

Agenda

1. Prayers
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of Meeting of 7th April 2014 (pp 3/4)
4. Electoral Roll Officer's report (p.5)
(a copy of the roll is on display)
5. To note the ex officio members of the GCC

Guild Vicar
Rev'd Canon David Parrott

Appointed by the City of London Corporation for the year 2014
Simon Duckworth
Roger Chadwick
Gregory Jones
6. Election to Deanery Synod
(Martin Woods elected in 2014 for 3 years. 2 further posts available)
Members elected will become ex officio members of the GCC
7. Election of 6 persons to be churchwardens for the coming year
who shall also be ex officio members of the GCC
8. Election of up to 6 members to the PCC
9. Report of Finances and presentation of the Annual Accounts
(see separate document)
10. Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2016
11. Churchwardens' Report on the state of the Fabric (p.6)
12. GCC Secretary's Report (p.7)
13. Music Report (p.8)
14. Deanery Synod report (p.9/10)
15. Guild Vicar's Report (p.11/12)
16. Any Other Business

Minutes of The Annual Church Meeting (item 3)

Monday April 7th 2014

Present: Revd Canon David Parrott (Chairman), Katrina Bradley, Jamie Ingham Clark, Roger Chadwick, Martin Clarke, Giles Murphy, Sue Parrott, Judith Pleasance, Ian Seaton, Arnel Sullano, Martin Woods, Gavin Ralston (Secretary). Ian Lightfoot, Jenny Houghton, Matthew Michael and Ian Rees.

Apologies: Simon Duckworth, Tim Hailes, Robin Sherlock

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on April 22 2013 were approved. There were no matters arising not already on the agenda.

Electoral Roll Officer's Report

The report was noted. Numbers on the roll had fallen from 130 to 124. This number reflected a large number of new members matched by the deletion of several who had had no contact with the church since 2010. The Chairman thanked Katrina Bradley for her work as Electoral Roll Officer.

Ex Officio GCC members

The Corporation had previously appointed Simon Duckworth, Gregory Jones and Roger Chadwick as its representatives for 2014/15.

Election to Deanery Synod

Martin Woods was the only nomination for the three available slots. He was duly elected for a three year term.

Election of Churchwardens

Nominations had been received for Martin Clarke, Jeffrey Evans, Tim Hailes, Ian Seaton, Gavin Ralston and Martin Woods. All six were duly elected.

Election of members of the GCC

Nominations had been received for Judith Pleasance, Jamie Ingham Clark, Giles Murphy and Robin Sherlock. All four were duly elected.

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Presentation of annual accounts

The Treasurer presented the accounts for 2013. There had been a turnround of about £12,000 in net income compared to 2012, driven mainly by a significant increase in trading income, reflecting in turn a further increase in activity in the Church. Nonetheless there was still further to go to restore unrestricted reserves to the target level of six months' spending. The Treasurer also noted that an agreement with the Corporation for the funding of repairs to the Church was imminent.

The meeting recieved the accounts.

Appointment of Auditors

Roger Chadwick proposed the reappointment of Reeves & Co LLP, Jamie Ingham Clark seconding. The meeting approved their appointment.

Fabric Report

The Fabric Report was noted and received.

GCC Secretary's Report

The Secretary's Report was noted.

Music Report

The Vicar commented on the Music report in the absence of Catherine Ennis. The meeting thanked Catherine for the high quality of the music throughout the year.

Deanery Synod report

The meeting noted the report from Martin Woods.

Vicar's Report

The Guild Vicar's report was noted. The Vicar in particular drew attention to the significant increase in the numbers of people involved in running the Church since 2009.

Any Other Business

The Chairman thanked the Church's many supporters for their efforts during the year.

The meeting closed at 6.23pm.

Electoral Roll Officer's Report (item 4)

In March 2014 there were One Hundred and twenty four (124) names on the Electoral Roll. As of March 2015 there are One hundred and fifty seven names (157) on the roll. Ten (10) names were removed from the roll and forty three (43) names have been added, representing an increase of thirty three (33)

The Roll has been reformulated and is now stored electronically.

**Katrina Bradley
Electoral Roll Officer
St Lawrence Jewry**

Churchwardens' Fabric Report (item 11)

Although no progress was made during the year in addressing the issues raised in the most recent Quinquennial Report, the future basis of financing one-off upgrades to the fabric was finally laid down in the agreement of the Memorandum of Understanding between the GCC, the Diocese and the Corporation. This was signed in November 2014. The GCC currently hopes that work on a number of areas will start in late 2015.

The refurbishment of the Tower Chapel was completed in time for its rededication at the Annual Service in July. It is now known as the Royal Marines' Chapel.

Work on the new altar frontal progressed during the year.

The major fabric issue in the GCC's meeting was the proposed replacement of the pews in the Commonwealth Chapel with chairs. The GCC made the decision to proceed with the purchase of chairs, but advice from the DAC and the Church Buildings Commission was that the pews should be retained. At its November meeting the GCC proposed a different design for new chairs that it felt was more in keeping with the style of the church. A further DAC visit has taken place and we will then apply for a faculty, taking account of their advice when it arrives.

The office was refurbished in January 2015 to deal with safety issues arising from old electrical installations.

Gavin Ralston
Churchwarden

GCC Secretary's Report (item 12)

The GCC met five times in the course of the last twelve months. In addition to the four scheduled meetings there was an additional meeting in January to collect ideas from GCC members for the new Mission Action Plan.

Two issues dominated discussions during the year. The first was the agreement of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Diocese and the Corporation of London under which the Corporation undertakes to finance repairs to the fabric. There was detailed consideration of the draft document on several occasions, leading to the signature of the final version in November 2014. The GCC regards this as a significant step to ensuring the financial viability of the Church as well as addressing long overdue repairs, and hopes that work can begin in late 2015.

The second issue was the potential replacement of the pews in the Commonwealth Chapel with chairs. This was proposed by the GCC to enhance the flexibility of the space; as things stand the pews are difficult to move. The DAC and the Church Buildings Commission both advised against the initial design of chairs; the GCC reconsidered, have suggested a design more in keeping with the rest of the Church, and intend to apply for a faculty for these chairs. The intention is to dispose of all or most of the pews.

Meetings also reviewed the financial position regularly, taking advantage of the much better management information on the finances now available. The Guild Vicar updated the GCC on his activities throughout the year, and the GCC noted the continuing increase in the level of activity.

Finally, there were discussions on the establishment of church links. This led to the proposal to pursue a link with St Columb's Cathedral in Londonderry, which the Vicar is working on.

Gavin Ralston
GCC Secretary

Music Report (item 13)

This year again has seen a hive of musical activity at St. Lawrence Jewry. Weddings, memorials, Carol services, Livery services and concerts have been numerous and well-attended, with a few special services more than in previous years, for which the choir has been grateful. As usual, our events to mark the Mayoral year have been splendid and dignified occasions, enhanced by music of the finest quality sung by our renowned group of professional singers.

We are continuing our gradual updating of the choir library, with purchases of some new sheet music, and some donated by organisers of special services.

Our regular lunchtime recitals continue their established pattern, piano on Mondays and organ on Tuesdays. All credit is due to the consortium led by Ruth Common which organises the piano series on Mondays. Audiences have increased to the extent that they compete numerically with the organ recitals on Tuesdays! This is a wonderful turn-around from the poor attendances of a few years ago. The Tuesday lunchtime series continued its emphasis on encouraging young organists this year, with our three separate young artist offerings, the Sixth Form series (March), the John Hill international young artists series (May), and the Eric Thompson Trust recipients (October). This year we welcomed Yeomen of the Worshipful Company of Musicians to both piano and organ series, and acknowledge with gratitude the Company's support for these artists. We were fortunate to receive financial support for our Sixth Form series from Rob Miller, enabling students to have travel expenses reimbursed. The John Hill memorial series is now supported by microfunding from a group of individual benefactors, and our new media partner for the series is Rhinegold Publishing who now publishes our programme, and offers us a sleeker and much broader publicity platform than we can access on our own. The August Festival of Music repaid the enormous investment of time and energy invested by organisers Sarah Walker and Graham Allum with impressive attendances throughout the month.

The Royal College of Organists began its sell-out Summer Course with a recital in our church, setting a standard for the rest of the week's instruments to be judged against. The London Organ Concerts Guide continues to run its operations from the church, which becomes briefly, twice a year, committee meeting location as well as delivery and distribution hub for twenty thousand leaflets.

David and I held an event for the Friends last May, highlighting SLJ's history in words and music, with a narrative based on our glorious windows. Apart from some erroneous programme notes (mine!) and a disappointing attendance, the evening was well received, and raised some funds for the church- though I would suggest ticket pricing needs rethinking for future Friends events.

Outside organisations continue to book the church for concerts (last year we had an opera, which was a first!) when the diary permits. There was a charity event for the Opera Studio which was a very successful conclusion to a day's masterclass and workshop with top dramatic soprano Susan Bullock (who returns on May 27 for an event in association with the City of London Corporation and the Royal College of Organists). After this event refreshments were served in the Commonwealth Chapel, as they are increasingly now after memorial services, carol services and other gatherings. This puts a large workload on Arnel and Katrina and I would like to thank them for all their hard work to make everyone welcome.

I would like to thank Arnel, Katrina, and Sue also, for all their support in printing programmes, posters, and updating the website to enable the music we offer to be widely known. It is very valuable to both musicians and audiences and I am most grateful. Finally a big thank you to David for his friendly and encouraging support this year once again.

Catherine Ennis MA Oxon FRSA
Director of Music, St. Lawrence Jewry next Guildhall
President, The Royal College of Organists

Deanery Synod Report (item 14)

REPORT ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY DEANERY SYNOD OF 2013

Throughout the year, the Deanery Synod met on three occasions, with business matters being relatively light.

As is customary, the Lord Mayor, Alderman Fiona Woolf and the Sheriffs attended as guests for the first part of the Meeting in January. A verbal presentation was given by Debbie Clinton who manages the “Capital Vision” project and who outlined the process adopted to review the Diocesan strategy to reinvigorate London churches. A number of statistics were quoted, including that the Diocese could currently claim a membership of 70,000, that 53,000 children were educated in Diocesan schools, that financial giving had recently increased by 50% and that six churches had been re-opened. She continued to describe a number of projects which had been initiated to assist the unemployed and fund mission in underdeveloped countries. Based on the themes “Confident, Compassionate and Creative” she continued in describing the vision of equipping and commissioning ambassadors who would reach out to the young, underprivileged, unemployed, transient workers and all those in need. The Lord Mayor responded in that she had been deeply inspired by the extent of Christian witness within the Deanery and reflected on the importance of dialogue between church and the City regarding diversity and responsible capitalism. In conclusion, she thanked the Synod for the gift of a Bible.

Following the Mayoral departure, the Archdeacon, The Venerable David Meara, at his final Deanery Synod Meeting before his retirement, highlighted the colourful diversity celebrated in the City churches and encourage parishes to focus their mission in line with that of “Capital Vision.”

After a decade of loyal service, Stephen Priddle confirmed his earlier intimated wish to step down as the Deanery representative for the London Diocesan Board of schools, and having expressed a concern over a severe shortage of school of Governors, encouraged those with appropriate skills and financial qualifications to offer themselves to serve on schools’ governing bodies.

The second Meeting was primarily concerned with elections to the Deanery Synod Standing Committee, the previous three year term having expired. Results of Elections were as follows:

Lay Vice-Chairman – Rory Anderson

House of Clergy – The Rev’ds Bertrand Olivier, George Bush, Laura Jorgensen, Aneirin Glyn and Chris Fishlock

House of Laity – Martin Woods, Hugh Gittins, Catherine Price, Maurice De Silva and Terrence Smith.

Secretary – Di Robertshaw

Assistant Secretary – The Rev’d Canon David Parrott

Treasurer – Christopher Rogers

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Following the Elections, the Rev'd David Ingall delivered an illustrative presentation on the recent developments and initiative at St Sepulchre's Holborn, and the Rev'd George Bush outlined the City's contribution to the JustShare charity and how this had engaged City workers by reflecting on overseas issues of low finance and poor trade opportunities.

The retirement of Sarah Finch, following eighteen years of loyal service as the Deanery's representative on the governing body of the Sir John Cass' Foundation Primary School had left a vacancy. There being only one candidate to fill this position, Edward Keene, a local solicitor, was duly appointed. Mrs Finch was thanked for all her work and presented with a bouquet of flowers.

In a valedictory address, Stephen Priddle outlined the commitments involved as the Deanery Synod Representative on the London Diocesan Board for Schools and encouraged anyone interested in this office to speak with him in order that he may give an expanded explanation. Mr Priddle was thanked for all his work and presented with a gift. The final Meeting marked a milestone in the Deanery as it took place in St Nicholas Cole Abbey which had not been used for Anglican worship for over twenty-five years. The Rev'd Chris Fishlock and a team of laity offered a lively presentation with a focus on their particular style of ministry and interpretation of the scriptures. There being two candidates to succeed Stephen Priddle, following a series of questions, Miss Ann George was duly elected to represent the Deanery on the London Diocesan Board for Schools.

The City Deanery Synod remains generally in good heart.

MARTIN C. WOODS
Deanery Synod Representative
St Lawrence Jewry next Guildhall

Vicars report to AGCM (Item 15) 2015

2014 has been another busy year at St Lawrence Jewry. This report cannot cover every aspect of our church life, and indeed some key areas are covered elsewhere in the Annual Meeting reports, but it seeks to set out some of the key events.

Services

The Wednesday and Friday services have continued to grow with an average of 20 people attending between the two services each week. The Friday service is the main service of the week and members are encouraged to attend as and when they can.

Memorials and weddings continue to be regular opportunities to minister to our constituency. The number of weddings steadily increases year on year and I actively work with the various halls and caterers to try to capture opportunities to build up this ministry.

Chaplaincies

The other main area of ministry for the Vicar is in the whole range of chaplaincies I hold. I thought it may help for the AGCM to have a current list of my chaplaincies.

City of London Corporation including Guildhall, Old Bailey and Mansion House.

Haberdashers	Chartered Architects	Constructors
Girdlers	Actuaries	Insurers
Loriners	Distillers	Tobacco Pipe Makers and Blenders

There are also other Livery Companies who have links with us but to whom I am not formally chaplain.

Wax Chandlers	Tallow Chandlers	Chartered Surveyors
Ward of Cheap	Ward of Bassishaw	

Past Sheriffs Association

Guild of Freemen of the City of London

New Zealand Society of Great Britain

Friends of St Lawrence Jewry

The Friends of St Lawrence Jewry had a successful year with over 150 members and several events during the year. This raised a significant new income source for the church. Our thanks go to Katrina Bradley who acts as Secretary to the Friends.

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People

Our network of people grows year on year. Arnel and Katrina do a wonderful job as administrators and vergers. Martin Woods continues to work hard as our cash clerk, counting the cash every week. Derek comes in each quarter to help with the returns to PRS. Giles now looks after our Gift Aid claims. Karlin is our cleaner and she is a welcome part of our team. Jennifer now does the displays in the Royal Marines Chapel and she is highly creative in her displays which change every couple of months. She and Alison also help out at events and we are grateful to them. Ian comes in regularly to act as a volunteer verger and welcome. He greets people and does a raft of other tasks which releases the administrators from a burden. Catherine is not only at the top of her profession, and this year President of the Royal College of Organists, but she is also a highly valued colleague and friend to us all. Graham organised the August Festival this year and did a marvellous job for us. There is a team overseeing the Piano concerts on Mondays. Last but not least, Sue supports me in so many ways and also designs and produces our posters and publicity. All in all there is a sense of teamwork about the place and I am grateful for that. The number of 'man hours' given is truly impressive and is indicative of how we have moved on together. Thank you one and all.

Conclusion

The life of St Lawrence Jewry continues apace and we hope to go on taking every opportunity to ministry to the life of the civic city.

David Parrott

Guild Vicar
March 2015