

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

14 March, 2016

As Father David said in his sermon on Sunday morning, "Nothing is more boring than church administration... or more interesting." After worship and a short time of coffee fellowship and visiting, most of the congregation regrouped to hold the All Saints' with Aix-en-Provence Annual General Meeting. Robert, Gaston, Anne, and Amanda, all frequent attenders in Aix, were there as well as the Marseille based congregation members such as Patrick, Elizabeth, Robin and Olivier. And even some newcomers like Jukes.

One of two Wardens, Amanda, was the chairperson for the meeting and it went along smoothly and at a good clip. Some of the ease of the meeting came from the compiled series of reports that had been distributed for the few Sundays before. These reports, peppered with photos of the congregation in action over the past year, held the written formal reports of our Chaplain, our Wardens, our Honorary Assistant clergy, Readers, the financial statements of income and expenses from 2015 from our Treasurer, and our PCC endorsed proposed Budget for 2016.



Amanda chairs the Annual General Meeting, Sunday 13 March 2016.

With the written reports previously read and in hand, this allowed for much of the meeting to deal with the finances. Finances are usually a grim subject with much hand wringing, but our Treasurer Michael had nothing but good news: We had received the overdue 2014 grant late and so it was included in the 2015 figures and mostly covered off the extra expenses required of obtaining and settling in our new priest, and our full 2015 Missions to Seafarers (MtS) grant had been received and has been promised again for 2016. This essential money allows our chaplaincy to thrive and for our Missions to Seafarers volunteers to have a church home from which to work and offer their services through the good avenue of the *Association Marseillaise d'Accueil des Marins* (AMAM) and their Sailors' Club. Michael reported that we have two sources of income, our MtS annual grant and, of course, the generosity of our congregation. He noted that our congregation provides donations in two ways, through the weekly offering plate at worship and also through some who give via annual pledges. Most of our expenses are associated with our part-time priest. Though Fr David is on 1/3 time salary, his housing and health care expenses are fully covered. There were also the costs of his travel to Marseille and setting up the residence that were exceptional to 2015. We did spend 4,000 euros more than we received in 2015 and so although we started 2015 with over 13,000 euros in the bank we ended the year with only a little more than 9,000. But as Michael said several times... "Our boat will still float" meaning that we are financially secure for the next while.

The AGM did approve a deficit budget for 2016 which, on the surface, indicates that we will again experience a 4,000 shortage between historical income donations and intended expenditures, but Michael gave us some assurances that things were not so glum. The landlord for the rented rectory has already given us a three-month credit towards our 2016 rent due to the improvements we have made to the apartment's kitchen.

Michael did caution us though that our 2016 budget is a bare bones budget. There are no euros allocated for any capital construction or large maintenance of the church building. So any roof leaks, basement floods, or wall or window cracks would require a special fundraising effort to finance any repairs or maintenance. All of our funds are focused on ministry – sacramental ministry of our clergy and volunteer ministry by all of us.



Michael, as Treasurer, briefs the congregation.

Questions from the floor centred on the lack of energy towards the restoration of our organ; something that the Chairperson said is clearly second place for our church right now. Fr David also listed several upcoming events that are planned for 2016 including those around the June 90th birthday of Queen Elizabeth and our September retreat Away Day (10 September) and our Archdeacon's visit (18 September). Our Treasurer stressed the need for us to identify funding support, outside of our already generous congregation – through parish events that bring in outside revenue or additional grant/patronage solicitation. In a sign of leadership confidence and support, our PCC members, Wardens and Treasurer were all re-elected into their positions for the coming year. Michael did tend notice of his intention to step down from the financial position in 12 months. Our meeting concluded with a vote of recognition for Roxana in being selected by the Church's national recommendation committee for her to continue in the ordination stream of vocational discernment.