

Barnes Team Ministry
The Parish Church of St Mary Barnes

The minutes of the meeting of the Parochial Church Council held on
Tuesday 20 May 2014.

Present: Revd Richard Sewell (chair), Peter Boyling (vice chair), Sue Boyd, Tom Ridley, William Heller, Francesca Wisdom, Alison Collins, Christabel Gairdner, Revd Ann Lynes, Annie Sullivan, Patrick Findlater (treasurer), Chris Hines, Phil Bladen, Judy Gowing (secretary), Matthew Purser, Michael Murison.

Apologies for absence were received from Ted Muxworthy, Emma Powell, Paul Teverson, Patty Darke.

1. Welcome to new PCC members

The churchwardens were being sworn in so were unable to attend the meeting. The Rector welcomed the new members, Sue Boyd, William Heller and Tom Ridley. He distributed a paper on the governance system of the Church of England to the new members, and a paper on the purpose of the PCC to all members.

2. Minutes of last meeting were signed as a correct record.

Matters arising: There was a discussion about the replacement for the Fairer Shares scheme. Richard and Patrick will be attending one of a series of diocesan 'conversations' in Surbiton on Monday 9 June about the new Informed Generosity scheme. Others are welcome to attend also. Peter Boyling commented that the report says that the new format will require a total culture change, but he wondered how that was going to be brought about speedily. Richard noted that in future the deaneries are expected have more influence. There will be some guidance on how much contribution to the diocese is expected from each parish. It is a very delicate moment for the diocese, as there is currently a 5% deficit in parish contributions. The diocese has already reduced the number of clergy.

3. Appointments

The council agreed the list of St Mary's appointments. Vassos Alexander is our representative on the Barnes In Common editorial team, but not the editor. Katie Ouvaroff has joined the Pastoral Care group.

4. Finance

Patrick reported that the Friends' fund continues to grow, with another successful Charity Ball, and the 2015 fund, which has so far spent money only on the Fine Cell Work project, is now in surplus. This will cover the whole of the cost of the Fine Cell Work project before the end of May.

The need for capital expenditure on the fabric of Kitson Hall has meant that there is a deficit for the first three months of almost £6,000 in Hall funds. As a result, we have not been able to make the normal quarterly transfer of £5,000 to our General fund, and this in turn has meant that the General fund is over £10,000 in deficit, rather than a budgeted £5,812. Whilst not expecting expenditure on the Hall to continue at the same level, it can be anticipated that we will not be able to transfer any surplus from Hall funds in 2014, and this may perhaps continue into 2015, so there is likely to be a deficit of at least £20,000 on General funds in 2014.

Apart from the loss of the transfer from Kitson Hall funds, the General fund has remained pretty close to budget, and to the result for last year.

All St. Mary's PCC bank accounts require two signatures. At present the authorised signatories are the Rector, Peter Boyling, Philip Bladen, Paul Teverson and the Treasurer. Patrick proposed that Patty Darke, as our new Churchwarden, and Judy Gowing as PCC Secretary be added to the list of signatories. The proposal was seconded by Francesca Wisdom and all were in favour.

5. Ministry with and for older people in the congregation

A questionnaire had been circulated by the diocese re ministry for older people. There was a discussion about the Good Companions and the Golden Girls and agreed that the Rector and Annie Sullivan should talk to the leaders of each group. It was suggested that another intergenerational project would be a good idea.

It is important that members of our congregation whose health declines, are still able to come to church. It was suggested that a list of willing drivers should be drawn up and a co-ordinator appointed.

It is important that we should all engage with all members of the congregation over coffee after church, especially older members whom we might not know so well. It was suggested that the back row of chairs should be reversed to allow people to sit over coffee should they wish.

6. Ministry to 30-44 age group in Barnes

This age group, while the most populous in the community (according to the latest census), is not proportionately represented in our congregation. It was suggested that there should be a 'Welcome to Barnes' pack distributed to the Estate Agents. Richard emphasised that face to face meeting is the best form of publicity. If everyone who came to church was welcomed and came back, they would spread the word. He stressed the importance of all the PCC engaging with people we have not met before, after services.

7. New Hymn Book

Peter Boyling proposed that the congregation be consulted on replacing our stock of hymn books with a new book, the New Ancient and Modern. This would contain the hymns in both the books currently used in our services and would add new hymns. Dan Turner had recommended the new book and would introduce it to the congregation. The proposal was seconded by Ann Lynes and agreed.

8. Reflection on recent events

It was a very successful Easter, but sadly Richard has again had some feedback about the unfriendliness of St Mary's. PCC members agreed to increase efforts to meet new faces after services.

9. Committee reports

• 800th anniversary committee

The proposed new engraved window. The discussion at the APCM provoked a number of comments. Josephine Harris has been re-consulted re the design and Michael Murison presented a revised design.

It was proposed that we consult the congregation on the second design and then make a decision in the light of that consultation and any comments from the DAC who are visiting in the near future.

- Fabric committee
The PCC recorded confirmation of its approval, given by email, to acquiring a replacement noticeboard from Greenbarnes at £2700; this was now on order. The other main noticeboard has been repainted and re-lettered.
- Kitson Hall committee
The bowed wall between the Hall and no 2 Kitson Road had been successfully rebuilt. A trellis will be added on top. The two new sheds are up and are being fully used. The committee does not plan at present to replace the current gas boiler, because the payback period is long. A number of more minor items of maintenance on the building are being done, following a quinquennial survey by a professional surveyor last autumn.
- Faith in Action group
The Bishop's Lent Appeal raised about £760 including Gift Aid. Christian Aid week has just finished. We have raised funds through the recent Quiz, the street collection in Barnes, and the Circle the City Walk.

There will be a meeting at St Mary's on 17 June to promote action to support persecuted members of the Christian and minority faiths world-wide. Depending on the response to the meeting this may lead to a continuing involvement by St Mary's with the charity Christian Solidarity Worldwide.

- Learning
Christabel Gairdner is now leading this group.
Rough Guide to Christianity begins again on Wednesday 11 June.
First Communion Classes began on 11 May and will continue through to 15 June.
Two regular home groups are running, on a Wednesday morning with Fiona Barnett and the other on Tuesday evenings with Lucy Hine and Christabel. Both groups are running very successfully but are always open to new members.
Leadership generally continues to be an important area for development. The Learning Group will be discussing how best to encourage more home groups and possible leadership training for people willing to lead in a number of areas. The Group will also discuss other teaching/learning opportunities such as Bible Reading material, Lectures, Diocesan courses such as The Diocesan Certificate in Theology and other courses which may be available in the Deanery/Diocese.
- Hospitality
The Maundy Supper and Homeless Lunch have been well run and supported. The major focus for the summer is Ann's ordination service on Sunday, 6 July when we shall have a BBQ lunch in the churchyard.

10. Any other business

Ann's ordination will be at St Matthew's Church, Wimbledon at 11.00 am on 5 July. All welcome. Please let Ann know if you would like to go and she will arrange a ticket.

Dates of future meetings:

8 July, 27 Sept (PCC awayday), 21 October, 18 Nov

Meeting closed with the Grace at 22.05.