

Barnes Team Ministry
The Parish Church of St. Mary Barnes

Minutes of the meeting of the Parochial Church Council held
on Tuesday, 22 November in the Ellerton Room, at St Mary's Barnes.

Present: Richard Sewell (chair), Peter Boyling, Annie Sullivan, Michael Murison, Judy Gowing (secretary), Phil Bladen, Celia Cleave, Patrick Findlater, Rosie Findlater, Geoffrey Barnett, Pippa Woodroffe, Juliet Hogan, Alison Collins, David Thomas, Vassos Georgiadis

1. Apologies were received from: Sarah Moore, Paul Teverson, Raymond Chapman, Ken George.
2. Minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record; proposed by Annie Sullivan and seconded by Geoffrey Barnett.
3. Matters arising:
 - Anglican Covenant will be discussed at the Deanery Synod meeting on Wednesday, 23 November 2011.
 - The new arrangements at Holy Trinity Barnes. The Special Board of Patronage will meet on 14 December to consider the appointment of Rev David Cooke as Team Vicar, leading a church plant. There will be an interregnum of 6-9 months. David Thomas is taking a major role at Holy Trinity during the interregnum.
4. Finances: Fees for occasional offices.

The PCC considered proposed rates of fees for 2012. The Church of England had clarified that the rates it sets for certain items may not be exceeded by parishes. On a proposal of Phil Bladen, seconded by Peter Boyling, the Council agreed:

 - Weddings: To replace the current "excess" PCC fee of £230 (winter) and £330 (summer) by an extra PCC element stated explicitly as a voluntary contribution to the mission and ministry of St Mary's. This element would be £330, all year round. A further £50 would be added as a compulsory element for heat and light for weddings October to March;
 - Blessings: To retain this as a £400 rate. There is no Church of England rate.
 - Funerals: To charge the standard Church of England fee of £102.
 - Memorial services. The current rate £180 (less than currently charged for a funeral in church). There is no specific Church of England rate. As a consequence of the reduction of the funeral rate to £102, it was proposed to charge the same rate for a memorial service.
 - Interments of ashes: To charge the standard Church of England fee of £116.
 - Parish Clerk: To retain this compulsory charge of £50 for blessings. For weddings and funerals, it would become a voluntary payment (incorporated for weddings into the main voluntary payment). The parish clerk would still receive his payment whether or not this voluntary payment was made, if necessary from the PCC amount.
 - To restart the approach of specifically inviting baptism families to make a £100 donation to the church.
5. Budget: The Treasurer introduced proposals for 2012. He said that in previous years, there had not been budgets for either Kitson Hall or for The Friends of St Mary's, which he had remedied.

The income from Kitson Hall is weaker, as some hirers have cancelled their contracts and there are not so many to replace them. It still provides around £20,000 to the St Mary's General Fund.

General Fund: The budget is now scheduled into quarters, reflecting some annual variations. The Treasurer reported that there was no discernable net increase in the income following the stewardship campaign. It was hoped that the donations from the baptisms will compensate for some of the reductions in fees for other occasional offices.

The PCC had agreed that St Mary's would aim to make outward giving equivalent to 10% of St Mary's income and that the new Faith in Action group will be responsible for ensuring that we raise sufficient funds for this purpose . 50% of proceeds from Christmas Charity Fair will be donated to our designated charities. There was a discussion about whether it would nevertheless be wise to make a provision from general PCC funds for outward giving. The Rector noted that to provide funds from the general budget would detract from the aim of incentivising the congregation to play an active part in addressing our outward giving objectives.

The three budgets were agreed. Proposed by Phil Bladen and seconded Michael Murison. The Honorary Treasurer was thanked for the clear understandable presentation of the accounts.

6. St Mary's Today and Tomorrow: the consultation process has begun with the questionnaire being handed out on Sunday, 20 November at all services except the Family Service as there were a number of baptisms. Richard will present it at the Family Service on 27 November. The Rector had introduced the process at the Parish Communion with a good sermon
7. Report from committees:
Faith in Action Group has three new committee members – Tom Symonds (to be the new chair), Sandra Sherratt, Amanda Iremonger. The Group had a stall at the Fair to give out information about their activities. Many thanks to Celia Cleave for being acting chair.
8. Garden proposals: Rosie reported her intention that a wild flower garden should be planted under the church boundary wall. Drawings will be on display next weekend to allow the congregation to comment.
9. Phone mast:
The PCC received an update on the process of the planning application. The company had held a drop-in session the previous week as part of the consultation process. The application would be heard by the planning committee in the near future. The PCC were told of the key points made by objectors, which centred on scepticism about the advice of WHO and the Government –about the health implications of phone masts.
At the drop-in session, a specific request had been received that a referendum of the community be conducted and that St Mary's agree to be bound by the majority vote. After discussion the PCC concluded that to know the informed views of all the community would be very helpful, but that as regards the practicalities, it seemed potentially very difficult to reach agreement on a statement of the issues and the conduct of a referendum; and that the church did not have the resources needed to get a high response rate.

AOB:

The Rector reported that some members of the congregation had complained about the new version of the Lord's Prayer being used at the 10.00 service. One person had written to the Bishop, who replied sympathetically but had affirmed that it was the Rector's prerogative to make changes to the liturgy. Richard had been asked to propose the idea that the modern form be used only at the 11.30 Family Service but that 8 o'clock and 10 o'clock services retain the traditional form. PCC members hold a variety of opinions about the relative merits of the traditional and modern forms of the Lord's Prayer but unanimously concluded that they respected the Rector's decision and saw no reason to ask him to reconsider the change that he had effected .

The Rector reported that he had been to St Paul's Cathedral recently and had the opportunity to meet with Giles Fraser, who was in good spirits.

The Rector has received Eddie Hartley's resignation from PCC, but had not yet had an opportunity to discuss this with him.

Marie Ellis has written thanking St Mary's for the donation to Castlenau Community Project from the Fashion Show.

Dates: Future PCC meetings and Annual church meeting:
17 January, 27 March, 15 May and 17 July. APCM 25 April

The meeting closed with the Grace at 21.55

JG

01/12/11