

Barnes Team Ministry
The Parish Church of St. Mary Barnes

Minutes of the meeting of the Parochial Church Council held
on Tuesday 19 July 2011 in the Ellerton Room

Present: Rector, Peter Boyling, Judy Gowing, Patrick Findlater, Rosie Findlater, Geoffrey Barnett, Alison Collins, Michael Murison, Paul Teverson, Celia Cleave, Phil Bladen, Ken George, Vassos Alexander, Annie Sullivan, Christabel Gairdner, David Thomas, Sarah Reay

In attendance: Graham Brown, New Edge Telecommunications Ltd (NET)

Apologies: Loraine Budgen, Raymond Chapman, Eddie Hartley

The meeting was preceded by Evening Prayer led by Geoffrey Barnett

Agenda item	
3.	Minutes of last meeting were signed as a true record.
4.	<u>Matters arising</u> . It was questioned whether the Barnes Charity Players (BCP) donation was specifically for a sound system or whether it was a suggested use for it. Patrick Findlater (who is also Treasurer of the BCP) affirmed that it was intended purely for the sound system. The Rector and Phil Bladen thought that as a principle donations should not have stipulations attached; but that if they did, there should be a written statement.
5.	<p><u>Mobile phone mast</u>: Graham Brown is the project manager for NET, the company which has approached St Mary's with the proposal to install a mobile phone mast in the flag pole on the tower. It is rare for NET to be invited to PCC meetings and Mr Brown said he was grateful for the opportunity. NET has been installing communications systems for 12 years and rarely subcontracts work. When the work was complete, there would be very little visual difference to the status quo and the flag would still fly from the flag pole. St Mary's had been chosen due to congestion on the Vodafone network in the area, with customers experiencing drop out. This installation would improve reception to Vodafone users. Vodafone's installation advisers have nominated St Mary's as the most suitable site in the area.</p> <p>Health & Safety: There have been approx 30 reports on the safety concerns in recent years. All found that there is no evidence of health risk from mobile phones or base stations. NET started working with churches two years ago. London Diocese has commissioned its own research on health and safety, with the same findings. Of churches chosen, 96% agree to the installation. The remaining 4% cited aesthetic reasons for declining. NET say no applications have been refused on health grounds. Patrick Findlater noted that planning permission for a tower on Lonsdale Road had been refused. NET is working on an installation for GOSH (Gt Ormond St Hospital), who would not be proceeding if there were any worries about effects on health. There will be an extensive consultation process.</p> <p>This would be an installation for a single phone provider. Further installations can be added at a later stage which would need to go through full PCC approval. NET is currently trialling a dual installation flagpole but the equipment currently available could not accommodate two installations. Cornerstone (Vodafone & O2) had negotiated with the dioceses of London and Southwark a tariff of fees to be paid according to number of antennae and number of users involved. It is a set fee for an area. The fee currently offered is £8250 pa (paid quarterly in advance; reviewed every 5 years). Some churches in London Diocese had argued for higher valuations and were negotiating with Cornerstone. If rates are raised, all churches in Diocese of Southwark would benefit. The same fee is paid to all churches in an area. Contract will be for 20 years; with the right to withdraw after 10 years. Clauses of contract/licence can be negotiated but there</p>

is no scope for St Mary's to negotiate the fee. Income payable would increase if there were multiple installations. Consultation with community: GVA one of country's largest planning advice companies would require a list of stakeholders, whom they would consult. A public meeting could be arranged, if necessary. Installation process would take 2-4 weeks. Mr Brown will provide a list of other possible sites for the mast, which have been discounted.

After Mr Brown left, and following a short discussion, the following resolution was approved unanimously by the Council, on a proposal of Paul Teverson, seconded by Michael Murison:

Background:

1. The PCC has been asked by New Edge Telecommunications Limited ("NET") to agree in principle to the installation of a mobile phone mast together with associated equipment on the church tower at St Mary's Church in return for an annual licence fee.
2. The PCC has discussed the practical and pastoral issues raised at its meetings held on 17 May 2011 and 19 July 2011.
3. The PCC has in particular considered the concern that may be felt by members of the congregation and the local community about the possible health implications of allowing a mast to be installed; and is reassured that the community will be fully consulted.

And the PCC being of the understanding that the current policy of the Church of England is that there is no fundamental objection to a church allowing a mobile phone mast and associated equipment being installed under Faculty and subject to planning permission being granted;

The PCC now resolves

1. to proceed with subject to contract negotiations with NET without commitment on the part of the PCC at this stage to agree to the installation of a mast or any associated equipment
2. that it should be a term of any lease or licence granted to NET that in the event of the PCC having reasonable grounds for concern over the risk to public health associated with the mast or other equipment installed as a result of future published studies or research the PCC shall have the right on reasonable notice to revoke any lease or licence granted to NET
3. subject to NET paying the costs, to instruct a solicitor with experience and expertise in dealing with proposals of this nature and in particular in relation to ecclesiastical property subject to the Faculty Jurisdiction to act on behalf of the PCC in relation to the granting of any lease or licence
4. subject to NET paying the costs to instruct a person with relevant expertise and experience to provide professional valuation advice and to assist the PCC in negotiating the terms of any lease or licence
5. subject to NET agreeing to pay the costs to take any such further professional advice as may be required (such as from a structural engineer or bells specialist)
6. to allow NET supervised access to the Church solely for the purposes of an inspection in connection with the proposals on reasonable notice and at such time as the Rector may decide

The Rector asked for special thanks to be recorded to Andrew Howard-Smith and the bellringers for their co-operation in this matter, and also to Peter Boyling for comprehensively preparing the ground work.

6.

Safeguarding

St Mary's is required to review our safeguarding policy annually. The Diocese has amended its policy (circulated in advance of the meeting) and Peter Boyling proposed

	<p>that the Council adopts these amendments. The revised texts of the policy were agreed. The Rector noted that it was important that those dealing with children and vulnerable adults should carefully follow the procedures laid down. He reported outline details of an alleged incident at St Michael's in recent weeks. An update can be found on http://cms.met.police.uk/met/boroughs/richmond_upon_thames/04how_are_we_doing/news/latest_police_update_regarding_alleged_attempted_abduction_of_child</p>
7.	<p><u>Mission Action Planning</u> One of the Rector's stated aims at beginning of his incumbency was to undertake a process of Mission Action Planning at St Mary's. He proposed that this process should form a major part of the All Day PCC meeting in September. The recent General Synod commended MAP to all churches as a means by which they can be more dynamic in the way they operate. Results of the diocesan "Signs of Growth" survey undertaken last November have arrived and show how the congregation of St Mary's compares with other congregations, deaneries and archdeaconries. For example, 92% St Mary's respondents felt strong sense of belonging: 5% more than archdeaconry. Only 5% felt St Mary's made too many demands on their time, and only 8% felt there were too many demands on their money. 64% don't know or think St Mary's will not grow in next 12 months (NB this was commissioned before Richard Sewell became Rector). 27% would consider inviting friends to church. 60% don't know or think the Bible does not help their faith. Very useful information for use in planning and implementing MAP. Peter Siddall has agreed to provide support to the Rector in undertaking the MAP process.</p>
8.	<p><u>Worship</u> The Rector noted the amendments he had made to the Parish Communion liturgy. It would be finalised after the current period of testing. Large print copies are available at the back of church.</p>
9.	<p><u>Stewardship</u>. Results so far of the new Stewardship Campaign were that net income had increased by just over £7,000. Since launching the campaign, there has not been an appropriate 11.30 service so it is hoped that there will be a response from that congregation in the future. Ken George noted the dictum: "Advertising = frequency x reach"!</p>
10	<p><u>Sunday Club</u>. More teachers and helpers than children have so far signed up but it will grow. The Rector hoped that parents of 7 year olds and up would support the initiative and encourage others to support. JulieAnn Sewell was acknowledged as the moving force behind the Club and it is greatly appreciated. The Ellerton Room has had a tidy up and is transformed.</p>
11.	<p><u>Committees</u></p> <p><u>Mission Group</u>. (paper circulated). The Council approved a relaunch of the Mission Group, with new terms of reference. It was noted that it adopted the aspiration of giving a minimum of 10% of our income to the mission projects to be adopted by St Mary's and that this giving would include proceeds of the Charity Ball and 50% of the Christmas Fair. The Group would also encourage the congregation to know more about the mission projects and take a practical interest in support of them. New members of the Mission Group would be welcomed. It was pointed out that it is not a good practice if a charity becomes dependent upon an income stream.</p> <p>The PCC approved recommendations by the Mission Group to allocate the £5000 mission giving provision in the 2011 budget as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richmond Welcare £1,820 • Kingston Area Diocese Zimbabwe link £1,060

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FiSH £1,060 • Barnes Day Centre (Age Concern) £1,060 <p><u>Fabric Committee.</u> (paper circulated)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flat roof. The PCC was asked to authorise application for a faculty to replace the covering on the nave flat roof. It was identified that the quotation by the recommended contractor was for up to £25,000 inc VAT. On a proposal of Michael Murison, seconded by Phil Bladen, the Council resolved unanimously: "that a faculty should be sought for replacement of the nave flat roof; that the quote of up to £25,000 including VAT by Darlings should be accepted, and that a guarantee of 10 years be obtained." • Boundary wall. On a proposal of Patrick Findlater, seconded by Ken George, the Council resolved unanimously: "that a faculty be sought for replacement of 8 metres of the southern boundary wall of the churchyard, and for repointing of a further 16 metres, accepting the quotation of £10,000 including VAT from Ross Allen." • <u>Kitson Hall</u> Redecoration will be undertaken over the summer. Approval had been sought and given by Standing Committee.
12.	<p><u>Finance</u></p> <p>The Hon Treasurer said he would circulate 6 month figures to PCC members. He recommended that St Mary's move the main accounts to CAF (Charities Aid Foundation) Bank, keeping a small account at NatWest for withdrawing cash for weddings, floats etc. CAF would not charge for making internet payments. All standing orders will have to be renewed with the new bank. In other churches, this has produced increased giving as donors reviewed their arrangements at the same time. The change was proposed by Patrick Findlater, seconded by Judy Gowing and carried unanimously.</p>
13	<p>Appointments: Richard Sewell proposed the appointment of Judy Gowing to the Standing Committee, Peter Boyling seconded and it was carried unanimously.</p>

15 Future dates:

All day PCC – 17 September

18 October

22 November

Meeting closed with prayer at 22.05

JG

21.6.11

