

Barnes Team Ministry
The Parish Church of St. Mary Barnes

Minutes of the meeting of the Parochial Church Council held
on Tuesday, 18 October in the Ellerton Room, at St Mary's Barnes.

Present: Richard Sewell (chair), Peter Boyling, Annie Sullivan, Raymond Chapman, Michael Murison, Paul Teverson, Judy Gowing (secretary), Phil Bladen, Celia Cleave, Ken George, Patrick Findlater, Rosie Findlater, Geoffrey Barnett, Pippa Woodroffe, Juliet Hogan
In attendance: Peter Siddall (for the work on Mission Action Planning)

1. Apologies were received from: Eddie Hartley, Loraine Budgen, Christabel Gairdner, Alison Collins, Sarah Moore, Vassos Alexander, David Thomas
2. AOB: none
3. Minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record; proposed by Peter Boyling and seconded by Annie Sullivan

4. Matters arising: Phone mast

The Council noted recent publicity about the planning application for the mobile phone mast and the objections which had been made. Fears of health implications of transmissions were a main factor. After discussion the Council concluded that:

- our agreement with the company was to allow this proposal to go to public consultation via a planning application, and this was the process that was in train;
- we should be prepared to explain why we did not have objections to the proposal, and that provision of good mobile phone reception was a benefit to users of mobiles in Barnes;
- there was a case for offering members of the public an opportunity to ask about the implications of the proposal, by means of a drop in meeting.

5. Healthy church strategy: St Mary's Today and Tomorrow

Peter Siddall introduced the concept and recommendations for taking forward the work begun at the All Day PCC. A working party comprising Peter Siddall, Ken George, Annie Sullivan, Paul Teverson, Judy Gowing and Caroline Georgiadis had been formed.

Ken introduced the expanded questionnaire. This contains the same form of words as the original document used at the All Day PCC, but with all the sub-clauses of the original questions becoming independent questions. The following programme was recommended:
20 November: Launch the questionnaire at 'Healthy Church Sunday'. Richard would preach on the subject, particularly highlighting the areas which people might find challenging. All members of the PCC were encouraged to attend services to recommend the process to the congregations.

21 November: Email the questionnaire to everyone on the St Mary's database.

11 December: Deadline for returning the questionnaires.

17 January: The findings would be presented to the PCC to discuss.

26 & 28 January: (Thursday evening and Saturday morning to allow the widest possible attendance) Proposed dates for congregation meetings to discuss the findings and glean their further comments on future directions.

May /June: The PCC would meet in a special meeting to discuss the outcomes and choose mission and vision and future priorities.

October/November 2012: Launch the programme.

The Rector said that he felt very strongly that the PCC is the leadership of the church with a burden of responsibility on each member to play a full part. Each person has a pivotal role in selling this process to the congregation. They were encouraged to commend it to any groups with which they were involved.

6. Anglican Covenant.

Owing to the time that had been spent discussing the issue of the mobile phone mast, there was less time available for discussion than it really merited. The Rector summarised the situation. In December 2009 the Secretary General of the Anglican Communion sent the text of the Anglican Communion Covenant to all member churches of the Communion, asking that they consider it for adoption according to all their internal procedures. General Synod of the Church of England has now sent this report out to dioceses, deaneries and parishes for discussion. St Mary's opinion was sought as to whether or not we would agree for our Diocese and the Church of England to sign up to this covenant. All PCC members have been sent a wide array of papers about the Covenant to help them to understand it and the potential implications of its adoption.

The Covenant arises out of the context of the arguments relating to the consecration of openly gay bishops, the blessing of same sex couples and the ordination of women as bishops. It seeks to lay out the central platform of Anglicanism on which Anglicans can unite and to find a way of dealing with issues which are supported by some dioceses and provinces and fiercely opposed by others without dividing the communion.

The Covenant has been somewhat undermined by the fact that a number of those dioceses most opposed to the above issues have withdrawn their support of the whole concept of the covenant. Other dioceses are wondering if there is any value in establishing a covenant if those who it was hoped would be kept within the communion by it, have already rejected it. There is a fear that churches would not be able to proceed with issues such as the ordination of women bishops if we approved the covenant, because other dioceses in the Communion could object and block its progress. Therefore there is a high degree of scepticism about its value to us.

The view of all PCCs will be recorded and sent to the next Deanery Synod meeting on 30 November at which there will be a full debate about the issues and implications. This is an open meeting to which all members of the churches of our deanery are welcome: 7.30 pm in Petersham Village Hall. This would be a good opportunity to hear further discussions. Geoffrey Barnett expressed the utmost confidence and trust in the abilities of Archbishop Rowan and suggested that we prayerfully leave it in his very capable hands. PCCs are being asked to simply vote for or against the Covenant. It was agreed that at the Deanery Synod meeting our representatives should be given discretion to vote as they felt appropriate in the light of the PCC discussion, members should be delegated to attend Deanery Synod and vote on behalf of the PCC.

7. Finance: The Treasurer had attended a useful meeting of treasurers of other SW London Churches on 27 September 2011. Each of them is suffering in the present climate, but other congregations are in the main more generous than St Mary's.

General fund results are below budget. Giving is down. Expenses slightly up.

It was agreed that the costs of the new heating system for the west wing, as a significant unbudgeted capital expense, should be taken from the Quinquennial account. On that basis the forecast for year-end is now for a rather smaller surplus than that budgeted.

Draft budgets for 2012 will be presented at the November meeting for the General Fund, and for the first time also for the Friends and for Kitson Hall.

8. Team ministry. Holy Trinity Richmond will 'plant' a church at Holy Trinity Barnes. Holy Trinity Barnes will remain in the Barnes Team Ministry under Richard Sewell's leadership. A much admired priest from Holy Trinity Richmond will move to Holy Trinity Barnes as team vicar. A special board of patronage will meet to determine this appointment. On a proposal of Judy Gowing, seconded by Michael Murison, Peter Boyling was appointed the St Mary's lay representative on the Board of Patronage.

9. Barnes Youth Group (BYG) held their inaugural meeting on Sunday, 16 October. It went extremely well, with 18 youngsters, (9 boys, 9 girls) enjoying an evening of fun. There was great feedback from the participants. The Rector was grateful for the support of David Summers and Jo Fraser.

The Rector presented a proposal to appoint a Ministry Assistant as a first step towards appointing a Youth Worker, when our youth work had developed sufficiently to justify the

appointment. The ministry assistant would most likely be someone considering ordination, or who has been selected for ordination, but who needs more parish experience. He/she would work closely with the Rector in a number of ministry roles but would play a significant role in supporting the youth work at St Mary's. 30 hours/week for approx £500 per month was suggested. Accommodation would need to be provided. It was suggested that a member of the congregation might have a spare room available for such a person.

10. There was no time to consider reports from the committees.

11. There were no items under Any Other Business

Dates: Future PCC meetings and Annual church meeting:

22 November, 17th January, 27th March, 15th May and 17th July. APCM 25th April

The meeting closed with the Grace at 10.15pm.

JG

24/10/11