

Barnes Team Ministry
The Parish Church of St Mary Barnes

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council held on Tuesday 20 July 2010 at 7.50pm in the Ellerton Room

Present: Peter Boyling in the Chair and the following members of the Council: Geoffrey Barnett, Phil Bladen, Nick Bryant, Loraine Budgen, Raymond Chapman, Celia Cleave, Patrick Findlater, Rosie Findlater, Judy Gowing, Eddie Hartley, Sarah Moore, Michael Murison, David Thomas, Pippa Woodroffe.

Apologies: Lucy Brodie, Christabel Gairdner, Juliet Hogan, Rose Robertson, Paul Teverson.

David Thomas led Evening Prayer.

1. WELCOME

The Chair welcomed Pippa and Judy to their first meeting.

2. DESIGNATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

Year of the Bible, use of church rooms, homeless visitor.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

On a proposal of Nick Bryant, seconded by Michael Murison, the Council approved the minutes of the meeting on 18 May 2010, deleting the name of Raymond Chapman from those present at the meeting.

4. MATTERS ARISING

None.

5. APPOINTMENT OF NEW TEAM RECTOR

The Council warmly welcomed the appointment of Revd Richard Sewell as Team Rector of Barnes and Team Vicar of St Mary's. He and his wife JulieAnn were very much looking forward to this new stage of their lives, and the service of Institution and Induction would take place on 16 November.

Peter thanked those members of the Council who had been involved in the process of the appointment, especially Rosie and Phil for their role on the Board of Patronage, and those who had helped with the day when the shortlisted candidates had visited Barnes.

Peter said that Rosie and he had had an initial meeting with our new Rector, who will be happy to offer comments on key issues which need to be progressed in anticipation of his arrival. Peter had also joined his inspection of the Rectory with the diocesan property department. The diocese would pay for certain refurbishment works and for external redecoration. Work on the garden, internal decoration and carpets was for the incumbent, who would receive a grant from the diocese towards part of the cost. The Council noted that St Mary's had traditionally put £1000 a year into the PCC budget towards the costs of decoration of the Rectory, and it was agreed that it would be appropriate to bring forward provision from future years, to provide £3000 so that necessary works could be done before Richard and JulieAnn moved in. Peter undertook to learn what the cost estimate for the internal works proved to be, and report back to the PCC.

Richard had enquired whether the parish would be able to provide work parties to help with gardening and some of the painting; and Peter had agreed that we should do this. This work is likely to be needed in September and/or October.

6. APPOINTMENT OF KITSON HALL BOOKINGS AND PREMISES MANAGER

Peter reported that we had appointed Lindy Taylor to this post. She had now taken up the job, and had a new contact number for bookings.

7. FINANCE

a) Fairer Shares. Peter reported that the review of our Fairer Shares payment to the diocese had now been undertaken. He was grateful to Phil and Richard du Parcq for their work on the review. The results were that our regular congregation was now 201, compared with 261 in 2007, and the income category 1- -(previously 1++). This would mean that our annual payment for the next three years would be substantially reduced, probably by £60,000 per year. In addition the Archdeacon is recommending that the payment for 2010 should also be recalculated on the same basis. This improves our financial position substantially.

The Archdeacon had added that he was most grateful to the parish for continuing to make our payments despite having to make painful sacrifices on our own expenditure. Peter added that we thanked the congregation for filling in their income survey forms. After a fair amount of reminding the response rate had reached 85%: below 80% the diocese would not have accepted our figures as a dependable basis for the big cuts we achieved.

b) Peter noted that we would be able to discuss a budget for 2011 in October, with a decision taken on it at our November meeting under the chairmanship of the new Rector. However we are clearly able to afford a new parish administrator and Richard had endorsed the suggestion of advertising in September and appointing in October. The Council approved this approach.

c) Peter also noted that the new financial position would also enable us to begin to rebuild our reserves. But he warned that it did not mean that we were now rich, and we should not allow the congregation and Barnes to think that we were.

d) Patrick gave an update on expenditure in 2010. He noted that at the end of June the general reserve was very low, though giving had held up well against the budget estimate. He welcomed the reduction in Fairer Share payment, which would allow reserves to be rebuilt. The Council noted his report.

8. HEATING PROJECT

The Council was told that Richard Sewell was content for preparations to continue towards undertaking the work in spring 2011. Michael said that the diocese had now issued a faculty for the work; and he was preparing papers to go out to tender. In estimating that the work could be undertaken between 6 February and Holy Week he had built several weeks into the timetable for contingencies.

Eddie Hartley expressed reservations about the type of system to be installed, describing the changes to the hot air blower system which had been made in the past. Peter and Michael undertook to discuss the issues with Eddie and report back to the Council.

Michael added that the PCC should decide whether to remove the heating vents either side of the altar; and it was agreed that this should be considered at the September meeting, with an estimate of costs, when the visual impact could be assessed.

Nick reported that the funds available for the heating appeal now stood at £101,000, mostly coming from the Friends of St Mary's. He was optimistic that the further fundraising work planned for the autumn (approach to trusts, Buy a Pipe and donation of Winter Fuel Allowance) would raise the remaining monies needed. The Council congratulated the appeal team on their work so far.

9. EVENTS

The Council congratulated the team who had run the St Mary's events at the Barnes team. The Treasurer estimated the net income at about £4,500. Rosie noted that with more helpers the result could have been better still.

10. FUTURE EVENTS

The Council noted some of the numerous events which were planned for the autumn:

Patronal Festival – there would be no separate Family Service.

Harvest – it was hoped that entertainment could be provided after a bring and share supper

Debate – after which a number of people could adjourn for a meal at Sonny's who were making special arrangements

Fashion show – being planned in conjunction with the BCA and Retail Champion

Christmas Fair

Induction – there would be drinks afterwards. We would also arrange a lunch the following Sunday.

11. REPORTS FROM GROUPS

a) Stewardship. Peter introduced Juliet's paper setting out the approach to a Christian Stewardship campaign. He said that our new Rector envisaged planning beginning in the new year, for active promotion to begin after Easter. The paper was noted as a very useful basis for this work;

b) Children: it was noted that the children's choir would be relaunched this autumn. A number of families were interested.

c) Deanery Synod: the last meeting had discussed appointments to the General Synod;

d) fabric committee: Michael reported that the committee would be considering the quinquennial report on the fabric, recently received, which recommended replacement of the flat roof, the need to remove the sycamore in the SE corner of the churchyard and repair the wall, and re-carpeting of the Melvill and Ellerton Rooms. It was noted that there were arguments for and against doing the re-carpeting soon. It was suggested that the fabric committee should consider the need to redecorate the Melvill Room.

e) mission group: Nick reported that grants had been made by the Friends, from Ball proceeds, to the Castelnau Centre, Welcare, West London Homeless, FiSH and Home-Start. He felt that there was scope for promoting joint action, eg for the Castelnau Centre and Home-Start to run an event for families in North Barnes, and he hoped this might happen next year.

12. OTHER BUSINESS

a) Raymond reported that 2011 had been identified as Year of the Bible, and he recommended that St Mary's decide with our new Rector how we should be involved;

b) Judy was concerned that regular users of the church rooms should be clear when the church needed to have precedence. This was agreed, and it was noted that our past level of efficiency in giving users adequate notice of such occasions might have slipped owing to the lack of a regular parish administrator;

c) homeless visitor in the churchyard. The Council noted that action was in hand about this case.

NEXT MEETINGS: 14 September, 19 October, Monday 22 November (revised date).

The meeting concluded with the Grace.

pb 22/7/10