

**Barnes Team Ministry**  
**The Parish Church of St Mary Barnes**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council held on Tuesday 19 October 2010 at 7.50pm in the Ellerton Room

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Present: Peter Boyling in the Chair and the following members of the Council: Geoffrey Barnett, Nick Bryant, Celia Cleave, Patrick Findlater, Rosie Findlater, Elena Fletcher, Christabel Gairdner, Judy Gowing, Eddie Hartley, Anne Sullivan, Paul Teverson, David Thomas, Pippa Woodroffe.

Apologies: Raymond Chapman, Phil Bladen, Lucy Brodie, Loraine Budgen, Vassos Georgiadis, Juliet Hogan, Sarah Moore, Rose Robertson.

Geoffrey Barnett led Evening Prayer.

1. WELCOME

The chair welcomed members to the final meeting before Richard Sewell's induction as our new Rector.

2. DESIGNATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

Advance payment for Christmas Fair.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

On a proposal of Nick Bryant, seconded by Judy Gowing, the Council approved the minutes of the meeting on 14 September 2010.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Peter read a letter thanking the PCC for its donation to the diocesan Matabeleland link. The letter said that the cost of living had risen dramatically in recent weeks, and that the donation to help fund essential supplies and clergy stipends for the churches in Matabeleland could not have come at a better time.

5. APPOINTMENT OF NEW TEAM RECTOR

It was noted that plans were in place for the Induction service, thanks to the help of several members of the PCC. It was suggested that some members of the congregation might not appreciate that they were invited, and Peter undertook to put an invitation in the pewsheets.

Peter reported that Richard Sewell had greatly welcomed the second work party on the Rectory, and the contribution by the PCC towards the cost of its redecoration. He had asked whether the PCC would feel able also to fund a new carpet for his study; and the PCC agreed to provide £500.

6. FINANCE

a) Heating appeal. Nick reported that we needed one last push to raise funds for the heating project, and that a Buy a Pipe scheme had been launched. We would learn the costs of the project next month when tender bids were received; and the PCC would be asked to approve a tender at their November meeting. That would clarify the financial implications of the work. The heating appeal team were warmly thanked for their success in fundraising.

b) 2010 financial prospects. Patrick spoke to his written report, saying that we expected a substantial surplus for the year, thanks to tight budgeting and the arrival of the refund from the diocese, which reduced our fairer share payment for the year from £206,670 to £137,939. This would help increase our very depleted reserves. We should discuss at a future meeting what would be an appropriate level for those reserves. It was agreed that we should continue to avoid statements that could encourage the congregation to think that we were now rich, as this was not the case.

c) 2011 budget. Patrick took the meeting through his draft budget figures, noting that he had made cautious assumptions about income. No proposals were made for increased spending on eg children, as this was an issue on which Richard Sewell would wish to reach a view before making proposals to the PCC during next year. The PCC would be asked to approve a budget for 2011 at Richard's first PCC next month.

d) Larger Churches fund. Patrick explained that we had benefitted from an annual grant of £8000 from the diocese for the three years 2008-10, aimed at larger parishes who were finding difficulty in funding the additional pastoral support they needed. The diocese was now offering a grant of up to £4000 a year for three years for the same purpose, and we had been encouraged by the Archdeacon to apply for it. An application would be drawn up with Richard Sewell.

e) the Council approved the addition of Richard Sewell to the signature panel for St Mary's bank account. It was also agreed that Patrick should be a signatory in respect of the CCLA, with which St Mary's held some of our reserves.

f) the Council agreed that we should encourage the congregation to consider leaving legacies to St Mary's, by issuing to all those attending church on a coming Sunday a copy of the leaflet written by Andrew Summers a few years ago, with the addition of a page giving extra help as to exactly how to go about the process. It was noted that other aspects of promoting Christian Stewardship would be the subject of a substantial programme which would probably begin after Easter 2011.

## 7. EVENTS

We looked forward to the Debate between Bishop Richard Harries and Philip Pullman, and the Tim Rice concert, both happening within the next week, and then to the Christmas Fair on 13 November. All these events involved a lot of work by a number of people. The ladies' coffee morning had produced a number of offers of help. The Fashion Show would not now happen this autumn, but was a prospect for next year.

## 8. PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Cheryl Cole would start on 25 October, and a phased induction process was being prepared. The PCC was very grateful to those who had taken on administrator duties over the last twelve months.

## 9. RESIGNATION OF DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Peter reported the decision of Chris Bucknall to resign from the post of Director of Music, as he felt that because of other commitments he could no longer fully honour his commitments to St Mary's. He would leave after the Christmas services. He thanked us generously for the support the church had given him. The PCC thoroughly endorsed his comment that he had made a considerable difference to the musical standards of the choirs and the choral scholars.

Chris had suggested that additional hours should be added to the job description if we wanted his successor to be able to commit sufficient time to developing the music among children. The Council agreed that we should be able to increase the hours if this seemed appropriate. Chris had suggested that the extra cost be found by charging children for the training they received, but we awaited an opportunity to discuss this thought with him more fully. The PCC had an initial discussion of fees, with comments both for and against. A fee structure might ensure that children attended regularly, but might reduce the feeling among children that by being part of church music they were making a personal committed contribution to the worship of the church.

## 10. DIOCESAN SURVEY "SIGNS OF GROWTH"

Peter explained that all churches in the Kingston Area were required to undertake this survey. All those attending services in the week beginning on 7 November should fill in the form in church. The results of the forms, which would be processed by the University of Warwick,

would give our new Rector a snapshot of his new congregation which would be very useful to him in developing a strategy for growth. The PCC agreed how the survey should be handled at St Mary's and that it should be presented as important material to help Richard on his arrival.

#### 11. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

a) Children. Anne explained that a simple form of nativity service was envisaged, and that she and Peter were seeking a group of parents to share the work without overburdening any one person. We would consult the Rector on our proposals when he arrived.

Peter announced that Emma Powell had created as her MA project a book for children in which they could make rubbings of carvings, which produced pictures of Bible stories. The carvings sat on 12 wooden posts. For December and January these posts would be located around the nave, so children could find them and complete their books. They would not interfere with the furniture and were not planned to be permanent. Christabel said that she had seen them and thought it was an excellent project.

b) Fabric. No objection had been raised by the congregation to removal of the heating vents and associated wooden panels in the church when the hot air blower system was removed; and the Council resolved to seek a faculty to remove them.

c) Kitson Hall. Peter reported that he and Phil had met the chair of the hall committee Chessy Smith. It was intended to invite a professional to confirm our understanding that the building was in sound structural condition. A programme of maintenance was being prepared. Proposals for large expenditure would be put to the PCC for approval. The floor would be sanded in the next year or so, and several years after that would need to be replaced. An amplification system was now highly desirable, and Phil was drafting a specification and seeking outline costings.

d) Mission Group. Sadly for St Mary's Nick and his family were leaving Barnes soon, and a new chair would be needed. Richard Sewell would be invited to reconsider the terms of reference of the group and seek a new chair. The PCC thanked Nick for his very active involvement in the church.

#### 12. OTHER BUSINESS

The Council noted the intention to make an advance payment for printing the new St Mary's Cookbook, produced by Elena, which would be sold at the Christmas Fair. It was to be printed in the Czech Republic at a cost of £2300 (500 copies). The printer had been recommended by Trisha Hawkins who used it for her professional purposes.

#### NEXT MEETING

Monday 22 November. Meetings for 2011 to be determined at that meeting.

The meeting concluded with the Grace.

The Council then celebrated the forthcoming end of the interregnum.

Pmb 20/10/10