

Barnes Team Ministry
The Parish Church of St Mary Barnes

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council held on Tuesday 25 January 2011 at 7.50pm in the Ellerton Room

Present: Revd Richard Sewell in the Chair and the following members of the Council: Geoffrey Barnett, Phil Bladen, Peter Boyling, Raymond Chapman, Celia Cleave, Patrick Findlater, Rosie Findlater, Elena Fletcher, Christabel Gairdner, Judy Gowing, Eddie Hartley, Juliet Hogan, Michael Murison, Paul Teverson, Pippa Woodroffe.

Apologies: Lucy Brodie, Loraine Budgen, Vassos Georgiadis, Sarah Moore, David Thomas.

Geoffrey Barnett led Evening Prayer.

2. DESIGNATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

Two items of correspondence.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Council approved the draft minutes of the meeting on 22 November 2010.

4. MATTERS ARISING

None.

5. STAFFING ISSUES

Director of Music. Richard reported that of a good number of applicants four candidates were interviewed, and their organ playing and choir training approach tested. An excellent candidate had been selected and he had accepted the post. An announcement of his name and his start date would be made at the coming weekend. He was very grateful to those who had helped with the interview process. He hoped that Chris would stay on a little to help fill the gap. Richard would arrange for the Treasurer to have details of pay in due course.

Family Service Assistant Pastor. Richard said that Emma Powell had done a fantastic job in this role, but the funds for it were coming to an end and she would be paid until the end of February. She was content with that and would remain involved with the Family Service thereafter. He had written on behalf of the PCC to thank her formally.

Team youth work. Richard reported that Jean Boulton-Reynolds was no longer undertaking youth work for the Team and had asked that her pay from Team funds be stopped. This had been arranged. The Team youth work was currently in abeyance and he would be reviewing the issue for the future.

6. RICHARD'S INTERVIEW PRESENTATION

Richard repeated for the PCC the presentation he had given to the Interview Board which had appointed him as Rector. He had focussed on three areas:

- a) **Listening and Supporting:** *founded on the conviction that people function at their best when they feel respected and listened to.*

Richard appreciated that there were uncertainties and sensitivities following the departure of his predecessor. He felt that it was important for the congregation to be able to speak openly of their views and feel that their concerns were respected, so that we could clear the way to allow a move forward. He therefore wanted to listen and support the congregation. He also needed to ensure that all the processes of the Team worked well;

- b) **Strengthening St. Mary's as a "House of Prayer" and a people of prayer:** *founded on the conviction that people function at their best when they are rooted in a profound relationship with God*

He wished to give priority to strengthening St Mary's as a "House of Prayer" and a people of prayer. We must focus on our first obligation – prayer and worship. The concept of the House

of Prayer was an initiative to mould churches into a deeper life of prayer by helping people to explore, nurture and challenge their relationship with God. Prayer takes us out in thinking and action to engage with the outside world;

b) Producing an Action Plan for St Mary's within the Team:

Founded on the conviction that people function best when there is a clear overview and people know what they are being asked to do.

He proposed to lead the creation of a Mission Action Plan. This was a specific programme to look at the life of the church, its history and its resources, to identify where we wanted to go and how we get there. He wanted to launch the process soon and make good progress this year. It would include creating a profile of the parish through a community audit, and establishment of a vision. Though we no longer needed a financial rescue plan we did still need a continuing stewardship programme to maximise our financial potential and then a process of adjusting our expenditure to our resources.

In response to a question he said that the views offered by PCC members at the last meeting would feed into this process. He would circulate the list of points made at that meeting.

7. FEEDBACK AFTER CHRISTMAS

It was agreed that the Christmas services had been very successful, with remarkable sizes of congregations on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, and an increase in the congregations for the following saints' days. This was an indicator of a mission opportunity.

In discussion of the nativity services Richard said that they were the most adventurous he had ever experienced. It was noted that the number of rehearsals had been a problem for some people; and it was recalled that in past years rehearsals had been done in Junior Church sessions. It was agreed that the form of the nativity presentation could continue to evolve, and that one option was to reduce the level of sophistication further. We must continue to take account of the availability of the children, which itself evolved year by year. We needed to plan ahead for Christmas 2011.

Richard wondered whether we could do more in the way of decorations in the church at Christmas (and Easter); Rosie added that Sue Adams welcomed this thought.

8. FINANCE

Patrick spoke to the preliminary financial outturn figures for 2010 which he had circulated. Overall our funds were up by £110,000 over the previous year. He reported his intention to define the music and heating funds as restricted, and the flower fund and unrestricted legacies fund as unrestricted. He believed that the Kitson Hall reserve should be increased over the coming years to £40,000. The income and expenditure account showed that these figures had come in at levels very similar to those projected in October.

Richard undertook to identify how the diocese planned to respond to our bid to the Larger Churches fund.

9. FABRIC COMMITTEE

- Nave Heating project.

Michael reported that, further to the PCC decision at the last meeting that a contract could be signed with Star Walls unless a lower bid of acceptable quality was forthcoming from another contractor, the Standing Committee had approved a contract with GM Developments, whose bid was lower than that of Star Walls and quality seemed better. They would use two subcontractors. The contract would begin on 7 February with lifting of floor stones by another contractor, Ross Allan, and the GM contract set a deadline of 31 March to dig trenches and insert the new heating system. They had received an initial £26,500 to buy the heating units, and would get four stage payments. There would be a retention of £3000. After 31 March Ross Allan would replace the stones, the nave would be cleaned, and the organ and furniture replaced in the church in time for Palm Sunday.

It was agreed to record the total cost of the heating works in these minutes. Excluding fees paid a year ago to heating consultants and to the church architect the costs are:

- GM Developments:		£96,500
- Health and safety adviser		£1,200
- Ross Allan, stone mason:		£7,300
- cleaning:	(provision)	£2,000
- fee to church architect:	(about)	£1,000
- total:		£108,000.

Patrick reported that to meet these costs we had in hand £60,000 from the Friends and about £18,000 of other donations from the congregation towards the heating costs. We had been promised a grant from the Barnes Workhouse Fund which would be up to £30,000. To the extent that the Workhouse Fund grant falls below £30,000, and should there be cost overruns for unexpected reasons, the Ball Committee is prepared to make a contribution from the proceeds of the 2011 Ball which should be sufficient to make up the deficit.

- Heating for office, vestry and Kitson Room

Phil reported that the boiler for these rooms had broken down. It was 25 years old and a repair might not extend its life much. He had had a quotation of £4500 for a replacement boiler and related plumbing works to place it in the clergy loo (the current one is inconveniently in a basement). He would get further quotes. Given the urgency of a decision on whether to replace or repair it he sought PCC agreement to expenditure of up to £5000 on a replacement, and authority for the Fabric Committee to accept the best quote and get the work done quickly. The PCC approved, but Eddie said that he disagreed with the principle that the heating for these rooms should be generated separately from the heating for the nave, though he would not pursue this point further. Eddie's concern was noted, with the comment that the Fabric Committee had considered this issue at an earlier point and been advised by the heating consultants to have a separate system.

- Other issues with the fabric committee

Michael reported that minor plumbing works recommended by the quinquennial report on the fabric were in hand; and that the Fabric Committee would be considering replacement of a section of the churchyard wall in the south east corner, the need for repairs to certain monuments in the churchyard, replacement of carpets and remedial work to the Kitson Room floor.

9a. MOVE INTO THE KITSON HALL

Richard noted that Sunday morning services would be held in the Kitson Hall for the duration of the heating works in the nave. He thought that everyone now knew about this, but there would be signs to redirect people. A lot of work had been done to prepare for the move and he was grateful to Phil for taking on the responsibility for overseeing the process to ensure that all was ready. If anyone had questions they should consult Phil. He agreed with Raymond that a meeting with him could be useful. He invited PCC members to offer help before and after services.

10. CHANGES TO SERVICES

Richard explained that he wanted the Thursday communion service to be better supported as an important part of St Mary's weekly life. He felt that this would be easier to achieve if the service used Common Worship liturgy, though BCP should still be used by Raymond whenever he presided. He had consulted key attenders at the service who appreciated his decision. He would make an announcement at the service this week. Raymond agreed wholeheartedly about increasing support for the service, noting the loss already of celebrations of saints' days.

Richard also referred to his decision to use the title "president" rather than "celebrant" in the pewsheet. The former was the correct form, and was used in the Common Worship liturgy, since all present at a communion service celebrated the Eucharist together, and the priest

presided at the service. He invited members of the PCC to explain this thinking should they be aware of concern among members of the congregation.

11 and 12: BACK OF THE CHURCH AND MELVILL ROOM SERVERY

Richard thanked Juliet for presenting these clear papers. He felt however that at this stage they should be referred to the Fabric Committee, so that fully considered recommendations could be put to the PCC in due course, taking account of competing priorities. This was agreed.

13. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

- Friends of St Mary's: Richard noted that a busy and interesting programme of events was in preparation
- Think Tank: Juliet reminded members of the PCC of the forthcoming Quiz Night
- Hall: Phil noted that a meeting was needed of the Hall Committee to consider inter alia priorities for expenditure
- Mission: Celia reported that there would be a meeting of the Group under her chairmanship on 31 January. It would be putting forward proposals for the future under Richard's leadership.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Richard reported that he had received a letter of thanks from Richmond Home-Start thanking us for use of the church for their carol service. They had raised £10,000. Eddie said that the bellringers might be available to ring at services of this sort if they had advance notice, and Richard took note of this for the future.

Richard also reported that there would be tickets available for parishes to the welcome Eucharist for Bishop Christopher Chessun as our diocesan bishop on 6 March at 6.30pm. He thought that St Mary's could get a party together to go.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Council decided to change the date of the next meeting to 8 March.

The meeting concluded with the Grace.

PMB

26/1/11