

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

THE ANNUAL MEETINGS

Draft Minutes of the Meetings held in the Church on Wednesday, 27 April 2011 at 8 pm

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Present: The Rector, churchwardens and 52 members of the parish.

The meeting was opened with prayer.

A EASTER VESTRY

For the purpose of electing two churchwardens to serve for the coming year.

The Team Rector, Revd Richard Sewell, in the chair, announced that nominations for churchwardens had been received as follows:

Rosie Findlater, proposed by Richard du Parcq and seconded by Vic Nolan

Peter Boyling, proposed by Geoffrey Barnett and seconded by David Heyhoe.

There being no other nominations, these two people were elected churchwardens for the coming year. The chairman thanked them warmly on behalf of the parish for their work as wardens over the last year.

B THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

The Team Rector chaired this meeting.

1. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 26 April 2010

The minutes had been displayed on the porch notice board for the past year and on the church website. They were also reproduced in the papers for the Annual Meetings. The meeting unanimously approved them as a true record on a proposal of Iain Radford, seconded by Claire Boyling.

2. Church Electoral Roll

Peter Boyling, on behalf of the Electoral Roll officer, Cheryl Cole, reported that there were 346 people on the roll, an increase of 1 over the year.

3. Elections

(a) Deanery Synod (for up to six representatives to serve for three years)

The following nominations had been received:

Phil Bladen, proposed by Peter Boyling and seconded by Rosie Findlater

Lorraine Budgen, proposed by Vic Nolan and seconded by Tiziana George

Celia Cleave, proposed by Fiona Barnett and seconded by Patrick Findlater

No other nomination was made and they were elected. The Rector thanked them all, and Michael Murison, who was standing down, for their past term on the synod.

(b) Parochial Church Council (for five representatives to serve for three years and up to two to serve for one year).

The following nominations had been received:

For three years:

Vassos Alexander, proposed by Fiona Barnett and seconded by Phil Bladen

Geoffrey Barnett, proposed by Jo Harries and seconded by Christabel Gairdner

Alison Collins proposed by Lucy Hine and seconded by Patrick Findlater  
Ken George, proposed by Peter Boyling and seconded by Anne Sullivan  
Anne Sullivan, proposed by Phil Bladen and seconded by Patricia Hawkins

For one year

Michael Murison, proposed by Elena Fletcher and seconded by Richard du Parcq.

These persons were elected by the meeting.

The Rector thanked all who had been PCC members over the past year. He considered that the Council had important leadership roles in reflecting the views of the congregation in the planning of the church's work of mission and ministry, and in communicating with the wider congregation. He would be seeking to enhance the position of the PCC in the future. He hugely valued the involvement of all those who took on membership of the PCC and he thanked Elena Fletcher and Lucy Brodie who had now completed their term of office and were standing down.

(c) Election of Sidesmen for 2011-2012

The Rector thanked Tiziana George for her service through the year as chief sidesperson and those who had stepped down after their periods of service, namely Charles Goldsmith, David Greenwood and Ferelith Reay. He welcomed Anthony Figgis and Sarah Kearney to the team and proposed that the following be elected as sidesmen for the coming year: David Barrie, David Blacklock, Claire Boyling, Brian Cleave, Tony Dundas, Sue Dundas, Wiz Dundas, Anthony Figgis, Patrick Findlater, Ken George, Tiziana George, Hamish Henderson, David Heyhoe, Ken Hitchcock, Amanda Iremonger, Jonathan Iremonger, Sarah Kearney, Wendy Kyrle-Pope, Desmond MacDermott, Josephine MacDermott, Neville Otty, Nick Phillips, Peter Siddall, Fiona Smith, Andrew Summers, Joan Wheeler-Bennett and Marjorie Wing.

Election of these persons was approved. The Rector thanked them for their work and emphasised the importance of their role, especially in giving a positive first impression of St Mary's to newcomers and visitors by providing a warm welcome as they crossed the threshold.

4. Report on proceedings of the PCC

The Rector referred to the written report of the PCC for the year, most of which was before he had arrived in the parish. It had been a busy and very important year. Given the problems over finance and thus staffing it was a testimony to the churchwardens, the PCC and others that the church had been kept on a steady course. The team had not only handled the crises but also undertaken useful continuing management work. We were now in a remarkably strong position for the future.

The meeting received the report.

5. Report on the annual accounts

Patrick Findlater, PCC Hon Treasurer, referred to his written report. He paid credit to his predecessor Richard du Parcq for the computerisation of the accounting process, to Tiziana George our bookkeeper and to Chris Hine our Gift Aid Secretary. Taking the meeting through the key figures he noted that overall we had a healthy cash position, though he noted that over the last few months income from donations by the congregation had shown some reduction.

The Rector thanked Patrick for taking on what was a very significant job. The meeting received the report.

6. Appointment of an Independent Examiner for 2011 accounts

The meeting approved the appointment of Alastair Cameron to examine the 2011 accounts, on a proposal of Philip Bladen, seconded by Juliet Hogan.

7. Report on the fabric of the church and the Kitson Hall

The Rector drew attention to the written reports on the fabric of the church and of the Kitson Hall. He thanked Michael Murison for his work as chair of the fabric committee, Chessy Smith for her year as chair of the Kitson Hall Committee and Lindy Taylor our hall manager. These were big tasks. He congratulated Michael on achievement of a remarkable job in leading so successfully the project to replace the heating system in the church.

The meeting received the reports.

8. Report on the Team Council

The Rector drew attention to the written report on the Team Council and its accounts for 2010. He said that over the coming year he would be considering how the work of the Team should develop. He thanked members of our congregation for their specific roles in the Team Council, Joanna Bennison the Team Treasurer and Nichola Mocatta who led the management of the curate's house that the Team owned. Patrick Findlater wondered whether St Mary's could benefit from the funds being built up within the Team from the current renting out of the curate's house.

The meeting received the report.

9. Rector's report

The Rector thanked the congregation for the warm welcome he had received since he and his family had arrived in the parish six months before. He paid tribute to the wardens, staff, clergy, readers and everyone else who had contributed to a huge team effort at St Mary's. He planned that our course for the future would be set by development of a Mission Action Plan by the PCC. Meanwhile provision for children would be reintroduced in the coming term in the form of Sunday clubs meeting during the Parish Communion service. He noted that the church represented all ages and he hoped that the congregation would support his introduction of the modern language Lords Prayer in the Parish Communion. He said that St Mary's was a vibrant community and that our assets must serve our purpose of mission and ministry. He asked for everyone's contribution.

The full text of his report is attached to these minutes.

In response to issues raised by those present he said:

a) future of the Thursday noon communion service and lunch. He wanted to open up this service so that it became a more significant part of our vibrant church life. By using the Common Worship service some weeks he hoped that new people would be drawn in. He wished to talk to Lucy Hine about how to develop the lunch after the service.

b) what view did the PCC take of the proposal to consecrate women bishops? He reported that the overwhelming view of the PCC supported this decision by the Church of England and discussion had centred on making suitable provision for those who could not accept the consecration of women. He would publish the paragraph reporting the PCC's view which had been sent to the Deanery Synod.

c) administration of communion standing. He envisaged that this would only be used when congregations were particularly large

d) work with teenagers. This was a vital issue and he would turn his attention seriously to this as soon as the new arrangements for children were introduced. The coming confirmation classes might be a starting point. He was a trained youth worker and knew that it would be asking too much to try to set up provision for teenagers on a less than professional basis. He envisaged the need to appoint a trained youth leader on at least a part time contract. He had made such an appointment in his previous parish with successful results.

10. Any Other Business  
None.

11. Date of Next Annual Meeting  
25 April 2012

The Rector thanked Rosie Findlater and all those who had brought refreshments for the evening. The meeting concluded with the Grace.

PB 28 April 2011

### **Annex - Rector's Address**

We have just completed our Easter Day celebrations which came as the climax of Holy Week which itself was the end point of the season of Lent. For most clergy it is a more demanding time than Christmas - the period that some people think of as the Church's "busy time"! However, it has not only been busy for the Rector but for many people who rolled up their sleeves and got things done. For me it was a wonderful occasion of spiritual significance and joy. From the comments of many others I know that it has been for them too.

For us of course it has been accentuated by our move back into church after the work was completed to replace the heating system and to restore and clean the organ and the piano and indeed the whole church. The project has been a great success as I am sure you will agree as the church looks beautiful, the heating system very sympathetically installed and in due course I am certain we will feel the benefit of a more efficient and silent system. Particular mention should go to Michael Murison as Chair of the Fabric Committee who managed the whole operation and ensured it kept to schedule and cost. We were very well served by our contractors who have done an excellent job for us. Many thanks also to Colin Haywood and to Peter Boyling who both spent a great deal of time on the process.

It is only six months since I arrived but it seems that a great deal has already happened. Thank you for the way that you have all received me and my family. We are very happily settled here in St. Mary's and in Barnes. I feel very blessed to have two excellent Churchwardens in Rosie and Peter and I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to them for everything they have done to support me before and since arriving here. In these few months we have appointed a new Church Administrator, Cheryl Cole who has done an amazing job since starting just before I officially did. I cannot tell you how much I appreciate Cheryl's work - she gets everything done with minimal hassle, seemingly remembering everything I mention to her and then reminds me of things I have forgotten. She helps to make this church run very smoothly and I am so grateful. The look of the Annual Review is largely thanks to Cheryl and it tells you a great deal about her that it got done in time and that it looks so attractive. In these first few months we have also appointed Dan Turner as our new Director of Music. Dan replaced Chris Bucknall who made such a great impact here. Dan has made a very fine start to his time and I know that he is going to bring and share so many gifts to our life here at St. Mary's.

The thank yous could go on a very long time so I won't try to do a list of Oscar Award proportions but I must make mention of my clergy colleagues at St. Mary's: Raymond and Bishop Richard. Also thanks to the other clergy in Barnes Team: Fr Paul, Jean and David. Many thanks also to our Readers: Geoffrey, Christabel, Iain and Philip without whom I might have collapsed by now. Emma Powell has done a wonderful job as Family Service Assistant Pastor. The funds for that

have now been spent but I am pleased to say that Emma is continuing in a reduced role. We have properly thanked her to mark the end of her paid post. I am extremely grateful to Patrick Findlater as Treasurer, Sally Copland as Sacristan, and Vic Nolan as Verger cum Cashier. Thank you to everyone who helps to make St. Mary's run the way that it does. It is a huge team effort and everyone's contribution is important.

But what of the future? I have been here all of six months and should have the Master Plan fully worked out by now, shouldn't I? Actually, no. Whilst I have made a few immediate changes, it is important to take time to assess the spiritual temperature of the church and to determine the needs of the time. To this end, I shall be launching a Mission Action Plan in the autumn which will be led by the PCC but will involve the whole church in helping to set our course for the direction we need to take in the coming years. This will build in part on the Signs of Growth questionnaire conducted across the diocese just before I arrived, the results of which will be with us soon. Even before we have done our Mission Action Plan it is clear that there is an urgent need for St. Mary's to re-start a Sunday School. After a process of consultation I have decided to launch it as "St. Mary's Sunday Club" and it will run alongside the 10 o'clock service. It will be aimed at children age 7 and upwards. The Family Service will continue as an important part of our ministry to families with young children but I believe that the older children can be better nurtured in age specific teaching groups. This will create a bit of a change to the culture of the 10 o'clock service but I am sure that with goodwill and flexibility we can ensure that it works well. I do believe that one of the unique strengths of church as a community organisation is that we represent all ages of society rather than being segregated by age. But in being together, compromises need to be made. One obvious difference that people will notice, as they may have done already, is that we will stop using the traditional form of the Lord's Prayer and will exclusively use the modern form at the 10 o'clock service. This version came into standard use in the Church of England in 1980 and has been adopted by many churches across the country and in all our Diocesan and Cathedral services. I am sure that this won't suit everyone but do give it a go. You might surprise yourself and find you like it in time. But do let me know your thoughts on the issue, I welcome your opinions. However, I do not change things in order to be contrary but as a considered judgement about how our church will best proclaim the good news of God in today's society. Contrary to some comments I have heard, I have no plans whatsoever to change the words or format of our 8 o'clock service according to the Book of Common Prayer. It is good exactly as it is.

We have a beautiful church building, a fine church hall and excellent ancillary rooms. We are blessed with many resources including a wonderful organ and a superb piano. These are our assets. More important than all of this, we have a vibrant community of people committed to making this church a sign of God's presence here in Barnes and a place where God's love is proclaimed in word and worship and lived out in service to the community and the wider world. This is our purpose. Our assets must serve our purposes and not the other way round. The church's assets and purposes work together in dynamic creativity through the people who commit themselves to the mission of the church. I consider it my role to help orchestrate that dynamic creativity though of course it is the role of the Holy Spirit really to enable that. I ask each and every one of the community of St. Mary's, to give all that you possibly can in terms of your time, talents and money to help us to live out God's mission so that we commend the Christian life to others. If we do not, this church like many others risks becoming an irrelevance. If we do, then we will continue to be a vehicle for God's transforming love for his creation.

Looking beyond our own parish, the Church nationally and internationally is going through turbulent times – no change there then! The Church of England is currently consulting throughout the dioceses about the implications of last year's General Synod decision to approve the ordination of women as Bishops. Some churches of differing hues disagree profoundly and may even breakaway as a result. Immediately following this, there are extensive discussions taking place through the worldwide Anglican Communion about an Anglican Covenant to seek to establish a common core of beliefs and practices in order to provide some coherence or coercion (depending on your viewpoint) to keep the worldwide Anglicans in a degree of unity. These discussions may not seem to impact very greatly on our church life at local level but they do provide the broader church context in which we operate.

Finally, 2011 is the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of King James Bible. This year has been designated the year of the Bible, though I believe that for the church every year should be the year of the Bible. Raymond is giving a lecture in May on the significance of the King James Bible, so look out for that. In the autumn I will run a teaching course on reading the Old Testament which I hope will interest many. The level of biblical illiteracy or perhaps ignorance in our churches is a grave concern and I would like to help to make our church one in which people grow in confidence in reading and understanding the Bible as a tool for comprehending the meaning of faith in our lives and society today. Also to this end in June I will be running an introduction to the Christian faith called A Rough Guide to Christianity. It's not quite an Alpha Course but it is an opportunity to explore core beliefs in an open and questioning way.

You will gather from this, my first Rector's Address, that my core commitments are the shape and quality of our worship, the active involvement of all people in the life of the church and a teaching and learning approach to faith. I hope it will also become quickly apparent that I consider pastoral care for those in need in our church and wider community is vital. In addition I will promote a perspective that looks outwards into the world more than it look inwards at ourselves. I could not reflect all those commitments in detail in this address but it should become apparent in my ministry in due course.

I am excited by the possibilities that this next year brings and I very much hope that you all are too.