

Barnes Team Ministry The Parish Church of St Mary Barnes

A meeting of the Parochial Church Council was held on Tuesday 25 October 2016 in the church.

Geoffrey Barnett opened the meeting with a reflection on oxymorons, those figures of speech that produce their effect by juxtaposing contradictory terms. One such is heard each Sunday: *May the peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God.* It is a powerful insight into the nature of faith. In his new book *A Splash of Words* Mark Oakley has written that faith intensifies rather than satisfies our longing for God.

1. Present: Revd Richard Sewell, Revd Ann Lynes, Patty Darke, Paul Teverson, Patrick Findlater, Anne White, Geoffrey Barnett, Tom Ridley, Christine Butenuth, Annie Sullivan, Paul Phillips, Judy Gowing, Peter Boyling.
Martin Calderbank was in attendance. He is an ordinand and has joined us (with his family) for the three years of his training for ministry, prior to this he has been a long standing member of St Margaret's Putney.
Apologies were received from William Heller, Phil Bladen, Emma Powell and Rachel Skilbeck.
2. Designation of other business – none.
3. Approval of the draft minutes of PCC meeting on 24 May. With two small corrections, the minutes were approved. They will be retyped and signed later.
4. Matters arising: the pewsheet design is still under review.
5. Correspondence. A letter has been received from the Diocese thanking us for our pledge to the Parish Support Fund.
6. Finance
 - o Q3 accounts
The Treasurer reported on the third quarter accounts. He noted that, while general giving was lower than budgeted, donations in the Cash Plate and by standing order had increased. It was suggested that the reason for lower general giving could be that people had moved to donating by standing order. Kitson Hall is having a very successful year. It was suggested that any end of year surplus might be moved into the Youth Worker fund. Annual once-only gifts are down by approximately £3,000, largely due to one significant donor moving away.

Anne White commented that the Gift Aid envelopes in the pews need to be checked regularly as many of them are spoilt, which is a disincentive to donating. It was noted that this is a role for the Daily Friends. A friendly note will be sent to them reminding them of the need to remove damaged ones and replenish them where they are missing.
 - o Investments. The Treasurer proposed that St Mary's invests £50,000 in CCLA (Churches, Charities and Local Authorities) CBF Investment Fund which would earn around £1,900 p.a. He emphasised that, as with all investments, there is a risk, but the spread of holdings within the fund is very wide. The signatories for this account should be Richard Sewell, Paul Teverson, Patty Darke, Peter Boyling,

Judy Gowing, Philip Bladen and Patrick Findlater, as with our present bank accounts.

Geoffrey Barnett has been familiar with CCLA for about 20 years, through his work with the Barnes Workhouse Fund, and wholeheartedly endorsed the proposal. Tom Ridley seconded the proposal and all were in favour. Patrick was thanked for his work, researching and advising the PCC on this matter.

- Financial Strategy Group was set up to work alongside the Treasurer to reflect in a deeper way on our financial life and advise on projects such as Stewardship campaigns. It is largely made up of some members of the PCC with two newer members of the congregation with experience in the City. Mike Kalmar is relocating and was thanked for his contributions. The Rector was pleased to announce that Iain Cowell had stepped forward to join the group, which will meet again towards the end of November.

7. Staff salaries. The Standing Committee proposed that Cheryl Cole and Dan Turner's salaries should be increased by 1% from January 2017 to reflect the increase in CPI. PCC were in agreement.

8. Review of Away Day and Mission Action Plan review process.

We are in a dynamic process with the plans still evolving. Each group needs to meet again to work out how their area should move forward to take our blessings to our community and wider. At the Away Day many of the groups mentioned the importance of involving children of all ages. The Rector commended the circulated paper to the groups to use it as an introduction to those who were not at the Away Day. He asked that all groups report back to him as soon as they have met and definitely before the next PCC on 22 November. The Hospitality Ministry Group has already progressed by planning a series of lunches. It was suggested that the Mission Action Plan process should start at the beginning of Advent, be concluded by Candlemas and that we use Lent to reflect.

9. Forthcoming events

A series of Hospitality Ministry Group lunches have been planned.

Richard Harries book launch - 27 October. 300 tickets have been sold. It is an excellent model of engagement with our community and Richard encouraged members to engage with previously unknown people in the audience.

All Soul's service - 30 October;

The Rector's visit to Israel - 3-12 November;

Friends' event on Capability Brown's gardens with an exhibition in church - 15 November;

Christmas Fair - 12 November (with drinks on 3 November to gather bottles for the tombola.)

Remembrance Sunday - 13 November. The Barnes Concert Band will not be playing this year.

Confirmations at Southwark Cathedral - 19 November;

Carol Service - 11 December (*revised date*)

10. Reports from committees

- Fabric committee. The humidifier to the organ was installed in August. Faculty approval has been received for the Memorial window. It is anticipated that installation will be in Spring 2017. Quinquennial works including attention to the damp in a corner of the tower will take place. We are still awaiting Faculty approval for the new lighting project. It is hoped that the work can be done in January. Faculty approval for the CCTV is also pending. Work is

beginning on items highlighted in the Disability Access audit. Peter Boyling was thanked for all the work he does on the Fabric Committee. Five yew trees in the churchyard will be pruned on 26 October.

11. Deanery Synod on 12 October. The Synod started with a shared supper, which was a good way to get to know members from other churches. The Synod was addressed by Bishop Richard Cheetham, Bishop of Kingston, on a theme of Building Bridges across Divides. Earlier in the day, our deanery clergy (Richmond and Barnes) had joined with the deanery of Hampton across the river for a joint chapter meeting. Bishop Richard said there were three key elements of church life:

- Worship and prayer
- Teaching, preaching and sharing of faith
- Living it out: caring for others in the community and the environment; youth/children work; elderly care; partnership with key organisations (YMCA, Welcare, other charities) with an awareness of what they are doing; civic engagement; relationships with schools.

There are lots of resources in the diocese to help parishes to work effectively in these areas. Demographics are changing all the time and we need to be aware of the changes and adapt as we can. The diocese has a good environment policy but there are few actual examples of good practice. We need to embed our care of the earth into our parish life. The Kingston Episcopal area is bigger than some dioceses, with around 1.25m people.

The Bishop concluded the meeting urging us to emphasise the positive elements of what we can do, rather than being discouraged about what we cannot do, and to be constantly on the look-out for opportunities to build bridges.

12. Safeguarding policy – deferred till next meeting.

13. Any other business. Tom Ridley brought two styles of visitor books for possible use in the church. PCC members were asked to take a look and express a preference before one of them is introduced. Daily Friends would be asked to invite people to sign when they visit.

14. Dates of future meetings: please note in your diary
22 November
24 Jan
14 March
APCM: 27 April

Meeting closed at 21.27 with the Grace.