

Barnes Team Ministry
The Parish Church of St Mary Barnes

A meeting of the Parochial Church Council was held on Tuesday 15 March 2016 in Kitson Hall.

1. Present: The Rector, Patty Darke, Chris Hine, Francesca Wisdom, Christine Butenuth, Peter Boyling, Phil Bladen, Ann Lynes, Paul Teverson, William Heller, Patrick Findlater, Matthew Purser, Paul Phillips and Judy Gowing.
Apologies were received from Tom Ridley, Christabel Gairdner, Sue Boyd, Annie Sullivan and Emma Powell.
2. Designation of other business.
3. The minutes of the last meeting were signed as a true record.
4. Matters arising: Sally Copland will be presented with a card and cheque on Palm Sunday to mark her retirement after 14 years as Head Sacristan. Palm Sunday will also be Colin Yandle's last week in Barnes before moving to Dulverton to be closer to two of his daughters. He has been a stalwart of St Mary's for many years and will be missed.
5. Correspondence: none
6. Appointments: David Blacklock appointment as Head Sidesman was welcomed. Alison Macmillan appointment as the Hospitality Co-ordinator was also welcomed.
7. Finance: The Treasurer presented the draft annual report and accounts. On a proposal by Judy Gowing, seconded by Matthew Purser, the PCC adopted the accounts. Many thanks were recorded to Patrick Findlater, Chris Hine and Tiziana George for all the work they undertake.
8. Reports from committees. The Rector reminded PCC of the importance of providing reports from each committee in good time.

Fabric Committee: Following a number of actual and attempted break-ins, the police have recommended extra security is installed. The committee therefore recommended that the PCC install CCTV. After discussion, and on a proposal by Peter Boyling, seconded by Paul Phillips, the PCC unanimously resolved to apply for a faculty to install CCTV at vulnerable points of entry to the church and its rooms, and to accept the quotation from Moore Broadband Solutions for £3,400. It was suggested a dummy alarm box might also help and Peter undertook to discuss this with the fabric committee at a later stage.

Diocesan approval has been sought for the memorial window and the humidifier for the organ.

Paul Teverson reported that the annual fire review had been undertaken and he is satisfied that there are good procedures and equipment in place to protect the buildings and congregations in case of fire.

Kitson Hall

- William Heller reported on the revised hire charges of the Hall.
- The boiler: further quotes have been obtained and options considered. The estimated cost is of the order of £10,000 but there should be a significant saving in fuel costs estimated at £1,500 pa at current prices. It is hoped it will be replaced in May or June, as soon as central heating is no longer required.
- It is likely that the oven will need to be replaced before too long. This could cost about £10,000. It was commented that a replacement need not be on the same industrial scale as the current one.
- Clifford Studios have increased their use of the hall considerably recently. Their prospects look good and they are enquiring about increasing the use of the hall still further.
- The Ark Nursery has been provided with a new storage shed outside the small hall at a cost of about £500 and improved lighting in the small hall, at a cost of approximately £400. We have also provided a new hoover and sweepers to encourage them to clean the floor properly after complaints from other users. The nursery reported an infestation of mice in the Hall before Christmas. This is being addressed with the involvement of the Environmental Health Officer and by the employment of a pest control company.
- Barnes Community Players will no longer require the hall for about 10 days in June, so it will be available for commercial hire during this period.
- Hall roof: Though structurally sound, it is seriously affected by moss. This is being removed and the roof treated to prevent re-infestation at a cost of £440.

The Learning Group will formally launch the new Book Area after Easter, offering an opportunity for anyone to borrow from a range of books that have assisted others in their Christian faith. The group is planning a pop-up book group to run this summer, prayer and pilgrimage walks for children and adults, and a monthly small-group for those who have just been confirmed.

Pastoral Care Group: Sian Walford has joined the group, making a team of four people. There is a lot of need with a number of people becoming frail and housebound.

- Vocation fairs may be of interest to members of the congregation as a useful guide to show people how they can get more involved in pastoral work. There will be some fliers at the back of church.
- There is a steady flow of people and of food from St Mary's to the Food Bank, which is open on Friday mornings. The service is managed as discreetly as possible.
- Fiona Barnett is no longer hosting regular bereavement meetings because they didn't work as envisaged. The Rector will inform Mia Gibbons of CTiB about this change. Each time there is a funeral and someone bereaved is left in Barnes, the person presiding over the service will tell Fiona so the bereaved person can be contacted at least once after the funeral.
- The number of baptisms has dropped significantly. Katie Ouveroff has taken over writing to baptism families but has been disheartened because she hears nothing back. About 18 months ago, the Rector wrote a personal letter to invite families back for a special event with about 10% response. It has not been repeated as yet. Despite the lack of response, the Pastoral group feels it is important to maintain welcoming and friendly communication, so that if and when the time is right, families will feel comfortable in coming back to St Mary's.
- Marriage preparation is steady. About half the couples don't live in Barnes and are rarely seen again at St Mary's. We don't currently aim to have ongoing contact. As a church, though, we should at least try, if they live in Barnes.

Six contact moments have been identified: First contact; first time they meet the priest; when they come to church to hear the banns; the wedding itself; when they return from honeymoon; their first anniversary.

The Rector and Curate are working on a coherent plan that would give a better chance of supporting and relating to a couple.

- The Rector feels St Mary's has become a more welcoming church. However, we're not an easy church to take the next step with – ie to get a bit involved with.
- The Retreat is still working well.
- As part of the Stewardship campaign, a series of lunches/suppers for around 20 people was held. It was intended to continue this project with at least three events a year. Such lunches can contribute to drawing people in to being more involved in the church community.
- Sue Boyd is organising the lifts to church.

9. Lighting project: Phil Bladen presented the proposal for improved lighting in the church. The pendants would remain but would be upgraded to throw improved lighting levels with LED bulbs, which need replacing less often. The uplighters would also be upgraded and lighting in the Sanctuary improved. PCC were supportive of the project and approved further work. Thanks were expressed to Phil for leading the project. Patrick Findlater offered to produce a cost-overview of planned expenditure to enable better planning of future expenditure.
10. Safeguarding audit will be undertaken in the Autumn. Rachel Skilbeck will be asked to produce a report on our Safeguarding practices.
11. Any other business:
 - Charlie Auton, our Youth Worker, gave his report about activities of the Sunday Clubs, BYG and Cafe Church. There is a good volunteer helper team, but not many leaders so Charlie is planning to run some training sessions after Easter. There has been very positive feedback from children and parents. He is also planning a social event for 20-30s age group, and a Parent and Toddler group in Kitson Hall in an attempt to stay in touch with baptism families. Charlie was thanked for everything he is doing.
 - The new website is almost finalised.
 - The Rector has planned a Parish Pilgrimage to St Paul's Cathedral to take place on 16 July, followed by a tour and evensong.
 - Chris Hine, Francesca Wisdom, Emma Powell and Matthew Purser were thanked for their service to the PCC over the past three years. They have all been encouraged to stand for another term, but Francesca and Chris had decided to step down. Matthew and Emma have not decided.
 - Give_as_you_live: Matthew Purser has been pursuing this project and has almost finalised the setup. It is a scheme whereby any online purchases at hundreds of different organisations can produce a significant income for St Mary's. www.giveasyoulive.com. It will need to be well marketed in the pewsheets and in leaflets.
 - The Rector encouraged members to take part in Palm Sunday and Holy Week services.
 - A question about replacing pew donation envelopes was referred to the Financial Review Group.
 - Members were encouraged to note the change of dates of two of the future meetings (see below) and to keep 24 September, the date of the Away Day, free in their diary.

Meeting closed at 21.56.

Dates of future meetings

ACPM Thursday 28 April

PCC: Tuesday 24 May * replacing 7 June

PCC: Monday, 11 July * replacing 12 July

PCC: Saturday 24 September (PCC AWAY DAY)

PCC: Tuesday 25 October

PCC: Tuesday, 15 November