

Barnes Team Ministry

The Parish Church of St Mary Barnes

A meeting of the Parochial Church Council was held on Tuesday 20 October 2015.

1. Present: The Rector, Paul Teverson, Christine Butenuth, Chris Hine, Patrick Findlater, Ann Lynes, Emma Powell, Phil Bladen, William Heller, Sue Boyd, Peter Boyling, Annie Sullivan and Judy Gowing.

Charlie Auton, the new Youth Worker, was in attendance.

2. Apologies were received from Christabel Gairdner, Tom Ridley, Francesca Wisdom, Matthew Purser, Alison Collins, Paul Phillips and Patty Darke.

Alison Collins also sent a message to say she would like to resign due to her health issues. With regret, her resignation was accepted.

3. The minutes of last meeting at the Away Day were signed as a true record.

4. Matters arising. Christine Butenuth has withdrawn the offer to arrange a lecture series.

5. Finances: The Treasurer reported that there were early signs of an improvement in our finances. The total income in the General Fund rose by nearly 14% compared with 2014, and was within a few pounds of the fairly ambitious budget agreed last year. Half this improvement arose from our ability to take a modest subsidy from the Kitson Hall Revenue fund, and from the small residual surplus in the 2015 fund; the rest was an increase in giving. General giving was up 10% on 2014, and the associated Gift Aid has increased by 13%, as a result of more use of pew envelopes. Expenses appear to be £7,000 below budget, due to the Friends' Fund having assumed responsibility for the utilities. The net result is that the deficit at this stage is £29,972, compared with £35,834 budgeted, and a massive £52,278 in 2014. If the rest of the year goes as budgeted, the end result will be break-even.

Following the Stewardship appeal, 31 people had so far responded by way of increased or new donations.

The Friends' Fund has grown slightly, despite the extra expenditure in the church and churchyard it now covers, and having paid approximately £13,000 for the upgrade of the passage from the church to the hall. The 2015 Fund is now closed. It is worth drawing attention to the reduction in the balance in the Music Fund, and to the future level of the Youth and Children's Worker Fund. This contains enough money for Charlie Auton's

salary over two years, but we will clearly have to do a drive in 2016 to ensure we can afford him for a further year or more.

Finally, it was noted that the Kitson Hall has produced a reasonable revenue surplus. While income in the first nine months is only a little up on last year, expenditure has reverted to more normal levels, so a modest subsidy to the General Fund is affordable.

The Treasurer also reported that St Mary's had received £2,000 from the Barnes Charity Players, following the very successful production of Jesus Christ Superstar.

The Rector was encouraged with the initial response to the Stewardship campaign but said that it is important to keep up the momentum.

6. Follow up from Away Day: As a result, on 4 Mondays in Advent, there will be prayer workshops describing different prayer techniques, called Waiting on God. Learning group is meeting again soon to work on the Away day results.
7. Staffing issues: As is usual at this time of year, the salaries of employees (Cheryl and Dan) have been reviewed and the Standing Committee proposed a small increase should be offered from 1 January. PCC were in agreement.

8. 800th anniversary issues:

Memorial window. The consultation with the congregation will run from 15 November for 3 weeks. There will be a mock-up of the window and a copy of Richard's introduction at the APCM 2014. A comments box will placed at the back of church.

William Heller proposed the wording, seconded by Ann Lynes:

"To commemorate the tradition that Archbishop Stephen Langton reconsecrated this church on his return from Runnymede." The council were all in favour.

9. Upcoming events

Songs from the Musicals – 7 November

Barnes Charity Bazaar – 14 November

Cameron Burns' concert - 28 November

Advent Carol Service, St Michael's - 29 November

Christingle Service - 13 December

Carol Service - 20 December

Nativity services – 24 December

10. Reports from the committees:

Fabric Committee:

The PCC agreed that the vestry flooring should be replaced. They noted that space for name inscriptions in the Garden of Remembrance was running out. They approved the proposal of the Fabric Committee that two diagonal paths be created in the east courtyard radiating out from the 'circle' to the corners of the church.

Faith in Action:

The PCC approved a recommendation that the £6000 raised from the 2014 Christmas Fair and Christmas cards should be shared between Welcare (who had asked for £1820) and then equally between FiSH, Barnes Green Centre/Age UK Richmond, Castelnau Centre Project and Kingston-Zimbabwe Link (£1045 each).

Deanery Synod had been addressed by Steve Hughes of A Rochas, the only Christian conservation organisation. Tom Ridley has been asked to look at St Mary's environmental footprint.

Parish Support Fund: The 15 churches in the Richmond & Barnes Deanery have pledged £1.23m which is very close to the diocese target. Currently across the whole diocese 87% of the budget had been pledged. How can the diocese support net-receiving parishes to become more self-sustaining?

Elections for General Synod and Diocesan Synod had taken place.

Robert Titley had left Richmond Team Ministry to become Canon Treasurer of Salisbury Cathedral.

11. Any other business: Matthew Purser had submitted a note suggesting the Council consider www.giveasyoulive.com. The Council was asked to look at the website in preparation for a discussion at the next meeting.

The meeting was closed at 21.35 by sharing the Grace.