

## Barnes Team Ministry

The Parish Church of St Mary Barnes

Minutes of the meeting of the Parochial Church Council held on Tuesday 27 January 2015.

Present: The Rector, Peter Boyling, Paul Teverson, Patty Darke, Patrick Findlater, Revd Ann Lynes, Christabel Gairdner, Emma Powell, Matthew Purser, Judy Gowing, Michael Murison, William Heller, Phil Bladen, Chris Hine, Francesca Wisdom, Sue Boyd

In attendance: Sue Adams

1. Apologies for absence were received from Tom Ridley, Alison Collins and Ted Muxworthy
2. The minutes of last meeting were signed as a true record and there were no matters arising.
3. Feedback after Christmas. In a written report, it was reported that the Christmas Fair raised £9,613. In addition the Christmas cards, devised, created and marketed, by Trisha Hawkins raised a further £3143.43. Thanks were recorded to Trisha and the volunteers who kept the church open to sell cards everyday until Christmas Eve, and delivered the cards around Barnes, and to the team who staged the Fair.  
The two Nativity services were very special and well attended. JulieAnn Sewell and her team were warmly thanked. The congregations at the Christmas services had all been given information about St Mary's funding and a Gift Aid envelope, inviting them to support generously. The proceeds from the Carol service were given to the Church Urban Fund. The collection at the other Christmas services benefitted St Mary's. Overall, the congregations were slightly larger than last year, but collections were significantly increased. Thanks were recorded to Chris Hine for all his work reclaiming Gift Aid.
4. Forward planning  
800<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations:  
Sue Adams presented her proposal for the Magna Carta Festival which will run 19-24 May 2015. Sutton Mattocks will be main sponsors. An application for a grant from Magna Carta 2015 was successful in the third and final distribution of funds, and the Festival has been pledged £2,500. Thanks to Andrew Summers for pursuing the application for the Magna Carta Festival and the Music Festival through three rounds of applications. Sue was thanked for the work initiating the Festival. <http://magnacarta800th.com/events/st-marys-barnes/>
5. Jesus Christ Superstar auditions have started. Sir Tim Rice has agreed to come on one of the evening and the Rector will interview him.  
Five Lent lectures have been confirmed.  
The Music Festival tickets are selling well.
6. Finance  
Accounts: The end of year outcome was very close to budget. The overall level of giving (loose plate and all general giving) dropped from £133,483 in 2013 to £125,140, a fall of £8,343.

Excluding the Parish share – which rose from £150,121 to £160,840 – our expenses totalled £71,761, against £67,920 in 2013, and a budgeted £64,330. There is no item which was much higher than budgeted, apart from books,

which were almost entirely covered by a specific donation. The main reason for the shortfall was the absence of the usual annual contribution from Kitson Hall revenue.

The Kitson Hall account ended the year with a deficit of £9,043, largely due to a major hirer withdrawing and to substantial expenditure on the building. It is to be hoped that income from lettings, which at £44,926 was the lowest in the last 5 years, can be revived, and the high level of expenditure in 2014 will not have to be repeated.

Despite spending over £40,000 from the Friends fund on the Church and churchyard, and £28,590 on charitable donations, the surplus in the fund had risen by £9,264 over the year, to hold towards the maintenance of the Church and churchyard, and for major church projects.

The Music fund has reduced somewhat, and could do with modest replenishment; the 2015 fund will have a small surplus which can be used for the special events of this year; the Youth and Children's Worker fund, awaiting appointment of a youth and children's worker, stands at £28,274.

Finance review group.

The practice of handing out Gift Aid envelopes with an explanatory sheet at Christmas had been very productive in increased plate donations and will be repeated on Palm Sunday and Easter Day.

The group wishes to encourage everyone to have a Standing Order and is planning some social events, to speak to groups of people over a meal. It is also planning a variety of smaller fundraising events. The Council members will all be invited to contribute either by hosting or providing food.

#### 7. Architect Interviews

There were 3 candidates and the selection panel were unanimous in their decision to offer the position to Paul Sharrock. On a proposal from Paul Teverson, seconded by Michael Murison, the Council unanimously approved the appointment.

#### 8. Same Sex Marriages

Revd Ann Lynes introduced the subject saying that, although same sex marriages have been legal since March 2014, the Church of England does not permit clergy to conduct such services. There was a discussion about what steps the Council would be happy to recommend, and a commitment to discuss the topic further at a future meeting.

#### 9. Reports from committees

**Faith in Action:** West London Churches Homeless Concern had been promoted in December, and the Carol Service collection went to the Church Urban Fund. January's charity was the diocese's link with Matabeleland diocese in Zimbabwe and February's will be Age UK Richmond and its Barnes Green Centre.

#### **Pastoral Care** (written report from last PCC)

Pastoral visiting continues. Although there seem to be sufficient members in the group to meet current need, Sian Walford will be invited to join the group to ensure this continues through the winter months.

**Bereavement:** Fiona Barnett has been hosting a Bereavement Group on the first Wednesday of each month and will continue to do so. So far, there has tended to be one person at each session. It is difficult to know whether there is an

unmet need in this area, but the Group has been trying to ensure that information about the bereavement support is readily available. There are leaflets in the Church, and handed out by local undertakers.

At St Mary's there are 18-20 funerals per year. About 75% are for those who are not members of the congregation, and only about 20% of the funerals leave bereaved people who live locally, so the need for a bereavement service is not as great as the number of funerals would initially suggest. The clergy will continue to ensure that all parties are aware of the available support.

Baptisms: St Mary's has a steady flow of 3-5 baptisms a month. The challenge is still how to connect with the baptism families over the longer term. Another event to invite baptism families back to St Mary's will be arranged in January or February 2015.

Marriage: 10 or 11 couples have been supported in marriage preparation this year, using a questionnaire that Richard introduced, and it is working well. It provides a good framework for discussion, and couples seem to be happy to complete the questionnaires and to have discussions based around it. Ann will be trained in marriage preparation in the New Year.

There are between 8 and 15 weddings per year. A number of the couples do not live in the parish – and they rarely come back to church.

The Marriage Group will discuss whether to have another try at running the Good Marriage course in 2015.

The Retreat for young families during the 10 o'clock service is now working well.

Lifts to church Sue Boyd's notice is prominent on the pew sheet, so hopefully anyone who would like help to get to church is now catered for.

Chairs for coffee after church Although there are chairs they aren't routinely set out. It's a little crowded around the font, but perhaps we should set up a few chairs each week to see if they would be welcomed.

A welcoming church? Happily Richard has had more positive feedback about St Mary's being a welcoming church recently.

*New initiatives:*

Lunches – The group has discussed the possibility of holding occasional lunches after the service in the Melville Room. It worked well after the Fine Cell presentation.

**Kitson Hall:** The controls to prevent noise from Hall events disturbing our neighbours in Kitson Road have been strengthened; and graffiti has been removed from the rear wall of the Hall. The lobby will be repainted. Efforts to promote the Hall further to potential hirers continue. There will shortly be the annual review of hire fees.

**Hospitality.** Thanks were recorded to Emma Powell for her continuing work coordinating event hospitality.

**Worship** – no report.

**Deanery Synod.** There had been addresses by representatives from both Christian Solidarity Worldwide and Welcare. This was the last Synod meeting to be chaired by Revd Tim Marwood. Richard Sewell thanked him warmly.

**The Friends'** – no report

**Fabric:** Major projects in train include replacement of the lighting in the church, improvement of the passage to the Hall, reupholstering nave chairs where the fabric is deteriorating and tackling damp in the north wall of the tower at ground level. Smaller projects include installing a chain to secure bikes in the east courtyard and deciding how to display the old bell used by the church Beadle in the nineteenth century.

10. Filling vacancies:

St Michael's vicar. Father Paul Holland is retiring in July.

Parish Clerk. Vic Nolan has expressed a wish to step down, especially from his duties counting and banking money, but also from the verger duties.

Webmaster/Communications: Sara Chapman (Fitzgerald) will take a watching brief over all communications . She will also take over managing the website (from Claire Boyling) and is currently undergoing web training.  
Coffee Shop co-ordinator: Claire Boyling is taking over Judy Gowing.

11. Fees for 2015: Most fees for Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals (“occasional offices”) are set by the Church of England to ensure that all parishes charge the same. There is an annual review. Part of the fee goes to the diocese and part is kept by the parish to offset costs. No central fee is set for blessings of marriages or memorial services, and the PCC has discretion to set rates. The PCC noted the increases determined by the CofE and agreed to increase the fee for blessings to £250, the fee for memorial services to £100, and the fee for the organist to £140 for the occasional offices.

Dates of future meetings

17 March;

APCM: Thurs 30 April;

12 May;

30 June;

PCC Away Day: 19 September (at Kairos Centre)

20 October;

17 November

The meeting closed with The Grace at 21.56.

JG

11.2.15