

Barnes Team Ministry

The Parish Church of St Mary Barnes

Minutes of the meeting on 18 March 2014 at 8pm

Present: The Revd Richard Sewell (rector), The Revd Ann Lynes (curate), Phil Bladen, Rosie Findlater (churchwarden), Patrick Findlater (honorary treasurer), Peter Boyling (vice chairman), Annie Sullivan, Patty Darke, Michael Murison, Paul Teverson (churchwarden), Judy Gowing (secretary)

Apologies were received from Ted Muxworthy, Francesca Wisdom, Geoffrey Barnett, Christabel Gairdner, Vassos Georgiadis, Alison Collins, Chris Hine, Matthew Purser.

1. Designation of other business: Memorial window (Michael Murison)
2. The minutes of the PCC meeting on 28 January 2014 were signed as a true record after one small re-wording to clarify that a new system would help coordinate pastoral visits.
3. Matters arising: Ann has produced an introduction to Deanery Synod and will include the details in the pewsheet in coming weeks.
4. Finance:
 - approval of Annual Report and Accounts. There has been a large increase in restricted funds, mainly Friends' funds to be directed to fabric projects and church maintenance. It was agreed to adjust the text of the annual report on the renewed Electoral Roll to say: "A new church electoral roll was created in 2013; 210 people joined it." Michael Murison proposed adoption of the Annual Report and Accounts and it was seconded by Phil Bladen. All were in favour. A vote of thanks was given to the Honorary Treasurer and to Tiziana George, as Honorary Book-keeper.

- Diocesan finances and Fairer Shares. Copies of Money Matters 2014 from the Diocese were circulated.

The Rector introduced the recent diocesan Root & Branch Report proposing change to the means of collecting parish finance for funding the clergy. A study guide to the report had been circulated before the meeting. He explained that the management of the Church of England was based on dioceses. Southwark Diocese has used a system called Fairer Shares for many years for assessing each parish's ability to contribute to the costs of clergy in the diocese.

Recently the number of parishes failing to contribute to the Diocese's finances has increased. - Despite cuts, the Diocesan finances are consistently running a negative budget. The report concludes that the current system will not survive more than a few years. Currently, one third parishes are net donors and two thirds are net receivers. It costs approximately £62,000 to have a priest in a post.

The recommendation is that the Fairer Shares system is dropped after 2015. In the proposed new system, there would be more emphasis on each parish *wanting* to contribute through 'informed generosity'. There are three key principles to the structure:

- Proportionality;
- Informed generosity;

- Aspiration and encouragement towards self-financing by the churches which so far contributed less than their own clergy costs.

The new system would make each church's finances more open to other churches through more transparency and mutual accountability.

In discussion it was noted that each church would self assess its contribution through an annual questionnaire, the results of which could be challenged by the diocese. The report noted that there would need to be a complete culture change in PCCs to one of generosity in assessing ability to contribute.

It was concluded that the Council should discuss the topic further at the next PCC meeting.

5. Ministry with and for older church members

Each year the Diocese asks parishes about various elements of parish life. This year, they had asked about our ministry to older church members. Our ministry to them should consider their needs, talents, and potential, in the same way as all age groups. FiSH, set up by the local churches, very effectively covers many of the things that the churches would otherwise have to be doing individually.

6. Ministry with and for 30 - 44 age group

The diocese had also asked us what we were doing for the largest age group in the parish, which for us is the 30-44 age group. There are a number of areas which cover this age group, mostly rites of passage through life: marriage preparation, marriage enrichment, baptism. We need to address the needs of those who do not come to church, as well as those in the congregation.

The Pastoral Care group, led by Annie Sullivan, was asked to address both these issues. Annie suggested that other people might like to join the group specifically on these two questions.

7. Safeguarding audit

We were required to update a self audit on our Safeguarding system. The diocesan Safe Church manual gives advice and instruction on what to do when safeguarding issues arise. One copy is kept in the Church Office and another at the Rectory. It can also be found online:

<http://www.southwark.anglican.org/what/diocesan-policies-procedures>.

Kate Boundy has resigned as Safeguarding Officer. Many thanks were recorded to Kate for all the work she has done. The Rector proposed the appointment of Rachel Skilbeck as Safeguarding Officer (alongside Lucy Hine); Patty Darke seconded. All voted in favour. Photos of Rachel and Lucy will be displayed in the church and on the website.

As Church Officers, all the Council members have a duty to report any concerns to the Rector and the Safeguarding Officer. The Rector distributed a copy of the Complaints and Grievances Procedure. (*This was also circulated after the meeting by email to all PCC members for comments.*)

8. Church database

Trisha Hawkins has been working on updating the church database and it is hoped that it will shortly be ready for use.

9. Reports from the committees: (written reports had been submitted in advance)

Kitson Hall: The dividing wall between Kitson Hall and No 2 Kitson Road is unsafe. Peter Boyling asked for approval to accept one of two quotes for its repair, depending on which company was able to complete the work during the Easter holidays while the nursery school is not operating. One is for £6180 including VAT (for replacing 11 metres) and the other is for £6880 (for 15 metres). This proposal was accepted by the Council.

Fabric: The repairs to the monuments have been completed. The committee has accepted a quote for new locks. Michael Murison, who is retiring as chair of Fabric Committee, was given a large vote of thanks for all the work he had done.

Worship: It is hoped to expand the Readers' and Intercessors' list.

Faith in Action: A Quiz night is planned for 10 May, in aid of Christian Aid. There will be a Team Barn Dance, on 7 June at the Castelnau Centre.

10. Any other business

Vic Nolan had a fall at the week-end but was already back continuing his duties. Richard will review with him if there is any need to adapt his responsibilities.

Michael asked PCC to approve application for a faculty to install an engraved window in the Langton Chapel as part of the 800th anniversary celebrations. Geoffrey had asked for his opposition to this proposal to be recorded. It is his view that it would spoil the simplicity of the windows in the Langton Chapel. Peter suggested that we approach the DAC for their recommendation on the project and consult the congregation with a display, with a view to deciding on the proposal in the light of the consultation.

Meeting closed with the Grace at 10.20pm with apologies from Richard at the unusually late finish.