

Barnes Team Ministry

The Parish Church of St Mary Barnes

A meeting of the Parochial Church Council was held on Tuesday 17 March 2015 in the Ellerton Room starting with Evening Prayer at 7.50 pm.

Present: Revd Richard Sewell, Revd Ann Lynes, Paul Teverson, Patty Darke, Peter Boyling, Patrick Findlater, Phil Bladen, William Heller, Chris Hine, Christabel Gairdner, Michael Murison, Emma Powell, Alison Collins, Tom Ridley, Sue Boyd and Judy Gowing

In attendance: Rachel Skilbeck

1. **Apologies** were received from Francesca Wisdom, Annie Sullivan, Matthew Purser and Ted Muxworthy
2. **Designation of other business.**
3. The **minutes of last meeting** were signed by the Rector, as a true copy.
4. **Matters arising.** There were no items which would not be covered by the agenda.
5. **Safeguarding:** Rachel Skilbeck and Lucy Hine are St Mary's Parish Safeguarding Officers (PSO). Rachel gave a presentation based on the Safe Church policy from the Diocese. The document introduction states: "*A Christian approach to safeguarding children, adults who may be vulnerable and those in abusive relationships asks both individuals and communities to create a safe environment for them, to act promptly on any complaints made, to care for those who have been abused in the past, and to minister appropriately to those who have abused.*" A hard copy of the accompanying document can be found in the church office or online: <http://www.southwark.anglican.org/what/diocesan-policies-procedures>. Rachel emphasised the importance and value of the training provided by the Diocese. It is everyone's responsibility to be alert and be aware of the issues and not to assume that someone else is dealing with an issue. Richard asked that PCC members offer support to anyone who is apparently dealing with a disruptive person. Rachel will seek further clarification as to whether trustees (PCC members) should have DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks. The next safeguarding audit at St Mary's is due at the end of the year.
6. **Finance:**
Approval of accounts. Patrick Findlater proposed the adoption of the draft annual report and accounts and Phil Bladen seconded the motion. All members voted in favour.
Plans for suppers and lunches: The Financial Review Group has launched an initiative to invite a wide cross-section from the congregation to come to a lunch or supper – to share with them the strategy for the future of St Mary's and its resource needs, and to encourage them to contribute regularly. The events are on 21 April (supper); 26 April (lunch); 25 March (supper); 3 May (lunch) The group is looking for a host for one of the lunches.
Parish Support Fund will replace Fairer Shares Scheme at the end of this year. A timetable for action will be developed.
7. **Proposal for St Mary's to join Inclusive Church.** The Council discussed joining the Inclusive Church organisation whose statement of belief says:
"We believe in inclusive Church - church which does not discriminate, on any level, on grounds of economic power, gender, mental health, physical ability, race or sexuality. We believe in Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus."
Alison Collins proposed that the PCC agrees to sign up as a member of Inclusive Church, and William Heller seconded the motion. The PCC approved the proposal.

8. **APCM plans.** The Rector thanked all members of the Council for their service during the year, especially those who had completed their three year term of office. Emma Powell is organising drinks for 7.30pm on 30 April to precede the meeting at 8pm.
9. **Memorial window.** Michael Murison and William Heller have pursued this project. At a previous meeting, the Council had decided that an estimate for the cost of the window was too high. Following advice from the diocese, another artist, Caroline Benyon, had produced a revised mock-up. Richard suggested that opportunities like this should be grasped. Beautiful buildings like St Mary's evolve over time. Churches should tell the story not only of the gospel but of its community. This window would tie St Mary's into the history of the country and would enhance visitors' experience. In discussion many members expressed the view that the new design is much improved and they would be happy to support the venture. Richard also expressed the view that, although some people had comments of detail about the design, we should work with this design, with the additional leaves as stated by the artist. It is not wise to design by committee. Patrick expressed reservations about adding embellishments to the simplicity of the Langton Chapel.

It was decided that Richard should include his commendation of the window in his address to the APCM and work it into a later sermon. An enlarged mock-up would be on display at the back of church.

William Heller proposed the motion: "The PCC commends the creation of this memorial window to commemorate the 800th anniversary and would like to hear views from the wider congregation." The motion was seconded by Sue Boyd. All were in favour.

William has done some research on the inscription plate to be installed below the window and the cost would be £300 plus VAT ie £360, plus transport (£75 inc VAT) if required.

10. **Environmental audit:** Taking Care of God's Creation <http://www.southwark.anglican.org/downloads/resources/Environmental-policy.pdf>
This document emphasises the responsibility of churches to show the steps they are taking to protect their environment. The PCC approved a proposal from Paul Teverson to conduct an environmental audit and set up a small group to report to Deanery Synod annually. Tom Ridley agreed to be involved.

11. **Reports from committees**

Fabric Committee:

Peter reported that there had been a further break-in on 24 February. Only a small amount of money had been taken but considerable damage had been done in attempts to gain access. The cost of repair will be met from insurance, subject to a £250 excess. The practicalities of installing CCTV are being investigated.

The fabric committee recommended that the path between the church and Kitson Hall be widened to the full width back to the boundary with the Homestead, that the path be resurfaced in concrete slabs, that 5 relatively small trees on the boundary with the Homestead be taken down, that a new chain-link fence be erected, and a new double gate installed at the hall end to replace the existing single gate. The works will cost in the region of £10,600. The PCC agreed that the Fabric Committee should proceed with this project accepting the lower of two competitive quotes.

The PCC also noted that a new chain for securing bikes had been placed in the east courtyard, that a section of the wood step in the sanctuary had been re-secured and pointing replaced; and that two trees in the churchyard would be pruned.

Kitson Hall:

The PCC welcomed William Heller as the new Chair of the committee. They noted that the state of the roof would be checked professionally, that spotlights to light up the stage would be installed, and that the foyer would be redecorated. Certain fees for hiring the hall would be increased, especially for regular activities whose fees have not been increased recently. There has been a clear out of accumulated items in the kitchen, making it easier to clean and use. The storage of crockery has been transferred from cardboard to plastic boxes (with thanks to Trisha Hawkins).

Team Ministry: Revd Adam Rylett is to be licensed as associate vicar to Holy Trinity on 29 April. The Foodbank is still fairly quiet. Both Holy Trinity and St Michael's are planning the replacement of their church halls.

12. **Any other business.** Now that Vic Nolan is retiring as Parish Clerk Richard du Parcq has taken over his responsibilities for money, and Hilary Cooper and Sian Walford will be working together on verging for marriages and funerals. Vic would be thanked properly at the APCM for his remarkable service to St Mary's.

Sue Boyd requested a list of PCC members' addresses and phone numbers in case she needs drivers to help members of the congregations to church on Sundays.

13. **Date of next meetings:**

- APCM 30 April
- 12 May

Meeting closed with the Grace at 10.06.

JG
28.3.15