

Barnes Team Ministry
The Parish Church of St Mary Barnes

A meeting of the Parochial Church Council was held
on Tuesday 17 November 2015 in St Mary's Church.

MINUTES

In place of Evening Prayer, the meeting started with a period of silence to reflect on the recent events in Paris.

1. Apologies were received from Emma Powell, Phil Bladen, Francesca Wisdom, Sue Boyd, Tom Ridley, Matthew Purser and Paul Phillips
2. The minutes of the last meeting were signed as a true record.
3. Matters arising. The Council thought Matthew Purser's idea of "giveasyoulive" was worth pursuing. Matthew Purser has subsequently agreed to take this forward and register St Mary's as one of the benefitting charities.
4. Correspondence. The Rector has received a circular from security services urging everybody to be vigilant and report anything suspicious. A notice will be put in the pewsheet.

5. Budget

The 2015 figures are expected to come out with an insignificant deficit, representing a £4,000 improvement on the forecast, largely thanks to the Friends covering all the utility costs.

The Treasurer presented a draft budget for 2016. He explained that he had taken an optimistic approach to the General Fund budget, and is forecasting that general giving (which includes everything except the loose plate and legacies) will rise to £135,000. This figure has hovered around £115,000 since 2010, but dropped to £109,000 in 2014. There are no other shifts in either income or expenditure of any great consequence, except that the Parish share has risen from £138,000 in 2010 to £167,000 for 2016.

The Friends' Fund is unpredictable. Expenditure is dominated by capital projects, for which a notional £30,000 has been entered; if the lighting project gets under way, this figure might well be higher. The total of routine church and churchyard expenses being funded is now forecast to rise to £21,000.

Kitson Hall has been enjoying a much better year, with income forecast to rebound to over £50,000, and relatively little expenditure; the surplus generated may well have to be spent in 2016, as it is necessary to replace the Hall boiler. A conservative view of lettings income for 2016 has been taken and a small deficit is envisaged.

The Youth and Children Fund: The forecast of £13,800 expenditure (50% of Charlie Auton's salary and shared expenses) is based on one month only. It will be necessary to look at ways of funding his salary from 2017.

The Council approved the budget.

6. Report on stewardship campaign

Chris Hine reported that donations in the pew envelopes are double the amount donated in 2014.

7. The Treasurer has set up online banking with Natwest Bank which will enable him to transfer money from Natwest to the main account at CAF Bank which

currently requires a cheque payment. He made a commitment not to make payments through this mechanism. PCC approved the arrangement.

8. From April 2017, all employers are required to offer a pension to their employees. The Treasurer intends to have a plan arranged by January 2017. PCC approved the arrangements. Paul Teverson agreed to send a letter to Dan Turner & Cheryl Cole, informing them of their pay rise.

9. Events:

Fashion Show

This year the Fashion Show was extended to cover two days to reflect the demand in previous years. The major expenses such as light, sound and staging are not increased by the extra day. There was also a larger sponsorship (£3,500) from Marsh & Parsons.

Both evenings were sold out. Expenses were about 50% higher, the major variable being the cost of models. Ticket income was £10,260, raffle proceeds (for items contributed by the exhibitors) £2,322, and the bar profit £994. Overall surplus is not finalised, but it should be almost exactly £10,000. Of this £5,000 goes to the Friends Fund, and the balance will be split between the two nominated charities, CCP and Age UK.

This year there was a much more positive attitude towards the show from the participating shops, several of whom said it had been well worthwhile for them, and the combined St. Mary's/BCA team works well together. Overall there is a good "community feel" to the event.

Barnes Charity Bazaar – It looks as though the final figure raised will be approximately £8,600 – the result of great teamwork from a small enthusiastic group. Judy Gowing informed the Council that she will not be available to lead the group in 2016.

Waiting on God: a prayer workshop has been planned by Revd Ann Lynes and the Rector for the four Monday evenings in Advent.

Committee reports:

Fabric committee met on 12 November. David Coppinger is joining the committee. A meeting with the parish architect Paul Sharrock has been arranged to make progress on the main items in the recent quinquennial inspection report. The Vestry floor will be relaid at the start of the new year. A first design concept for improved nave lighting should be to hand soon.

Kitson Hall committee - William Heller was thanked heartily for his hard work chairing this committee.

He reported that a contract has just been signed with Clifford Studios. It is hoped that this will generate a significant increase in annual income for the hall.

The Potterton Aspray boiler is very inefficient and obtaining parts is proving difficult. It is recommended that it should be replaced as a matter of urgency.

The exterior of the hall is due to be redecorated and minor external repairs are required.

Faith in Action

St Mary's charities were publicised at the Bazaar. Our response to the refugee crisis has included an October collection in church, which raised £2250.

Friends of St Mary's

This year The Friends of St Mary's Barnes has been celebrating its 20th anniversary. Over the twenty years, Friends activities have raised half a million pounds for the church and for local and international charities.

In addition to providing funds for the fabric, the Friends have offered to take on the utilities expenses of the church (heating, lighting and water) amounting to £7500 per year.

The Learning Group has met twice since the summer. Revd Ann Lynes reported that there are now three home groups.

Patty Darke and Patrick Findlater are managing the Book Area, on the bookshelves by the church door, but would welcome others to help.

Team Prayer Walk was a great success, with participants from across all three churches.

The Rector and Revd Ann Lynes will be leading the four sessions (Waiting on God) on the four Monday evenings in Advent.

The group will meet again early next year.

Worship Group – nothing to report.

Hospitality Group – nothing to report.

Pastoral Group – nothing to report. A meeting will be planned for January.

Today and Tomorrow has been St Mary's Mission Action Plan for three years and in 2016 PCC will discuss how to take forward a review of it.

Any other business:

Team Council. The interviews for St Michael's new vicar were successful. An announcement will be made soon. There is a vacancy on Team Council as Alison Collins has resigned. The council signed a card for Alison to thank her for her service to the Council.

The new Archdeacon. John Kiddle will be Collated and Installed as Archdeacon at Southwark Cathedral on Sunday 22 November at 3pm during Choral Evensong. There will be a special service to welcome John to the Kingston Area at 7.30pm on Wednesday 25th November at St Paul's Wimbledon Park, Augustus Road, SW19 6EW.

Paul Phillips has suggested a series of talks about our Christian Heritage and how it has shaped our individual and national character and history. He suggested that it would be a means of attracting people to the Church outside of the regular services (evenings). Richard agreed to work with Paul on the content.

On behalf of the PCC Patty Darke presented Ann Lynes with two commentaries on 1st and 2nd Letters to the Corinthians, to celebrate (belatedly) her ordination.

Community Christmas lights. There has been a campaign recently to raise money for the community Christmas lights. St Mary's has contributed £250.

Date of future meetings:

26 January, 15 March, 28 April (APCM)

The meeting closed at 21.36 with the Grace.

JG

22.11.15