

Barnes Team Ministry

The Parish Church of St Mary Barnes

A meeting of the Parochial Church Council was held on Tuesday 22 November.

1. Present: The Rector, Anne White, Revd Ann Lynes, Phil Bladen, Christine Butenuth, William Heller, Geoffrey Barnett, Rachel Skilbeck, Judy Gowing, Patrick Findlater, Peter Boyling & Paul Phillips
Apologies: Annie Sullivan, Paul Teverson, Patty Darke, Tom Ridley
2. Richard led a reflection arising from his trip to Israel.
3. Designation of other business
4. Approval of the draft minutes of PCC meeting on 25 October. Subject to two corrections, the minutes were accepted and will be reprinted for signature.
5. Matters arising. A Visitors' book is in place and Tom Ridley has written to the Daily Friends asking them to keep the pews topped up with clean Gift Aid envelopes.
6. Correspondence – none
7. Finance
 - o Budgets

The Treasurer presented proposed budgets for 2017.

General Fund showed increased income at the beginning of the year but it is unlikely that the budgeted General Giving figure of £135,000 for 2016 will be achieved. The Treasurer has reduced the forecast to £130,000. As a result, he proposed that the budget for next year should be reduced to £135,000 from £140,000. He is forecasting similar figures for hire of church and other income. There will be increased income from the new investment. There was a modest increase in Parish Share to £169,000. Other expenses are similar. These figures project a deficit of around £5,000. However, the reserves are still at a healthy level.

The Friends Fund. There has been a slight decline in the income from events. St Mary's total charitable giving for 2017 is forecast at £28,500 and the majority comes from Friends' events. The Friends budget includes a high level of capital expense in the coming months, paying for the new lighting, window and CCTV.

Kitson Hall Fund. There is a greatly improved position with a surplus, after restoring its reserves to the previously agreed level, of around £12,000. It was agreed this should be passed back to the General Fund at year-end.

On a proposal from William Heller, seconded by Paul Phillips, the budgets were accepted as presented with the variation above

- o Financial Strategy Group had met the previous evening and discussed the method of paying for Charlie Auton's salary in future. Richard will be discussing Charlie's performance with Revd Anne Brodie, the vicar of St Margaret's, this week. He recommended that we agree to continue Charlie's employment for at least one more year, (to the end of 2018) subject to satisfactory review. This was proposed by Geoffrey Barnett and seconded by Peter Boyling.

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8. Mission Action Plan review

○ Learning. Ann submitted a written report and highlighted that the group had a number of ideas of how they could 'do what they do already, better'.

Communication is key to their work and she urged that a communications group be established involving some of the younger members of the congregation, who have worked in this area.

○ The Worship Group meeting had mainly focussed on plans for an Advent course in guided prayer to take place over four successive Tuesday evenings beginning 29 November. Plans for a new musical setting of the Eucharist are on hold until a new music director has been appointed in the New Year. Charlie has joined the group so the needs and opportunities for children and young people will be incorporated. Ways need to be found to help people explore the possibility of licensed lay ministry.

○ The Pastoral Care Group reported that a number of initiatives now run as a result of the Today and Tomorrow project (Friendly lunches, St Mary's Minis, The Retreat). It is proving difficult to persuade Baptism families to continue their relationship with St Mary's. A bereavement group was set up but has been discontinued due to lack of interest.

Friendly lunches. A series of informal lunches have been planned, inviting members of the congregation to spend some quality time together in small groups in the Melvill Room over four different Sundays, and to encourage people to get more involved.

The Welcoming Team is still at the planning stage.

○ The Faith in Action Group provides information about the supported charities, and how people can get involved. They continue to consider how most effectively to present the charities to the congregation.

○ Hospitality group will submit a report for the next meeting.

Generally a theme of the sense of blessings received and given has been taken up by each group. A communications group would be a very valuable addition to work across the whole church.

The Rector and Peter Siddall will put all the reports into a format that can be presented to the congregation. The Mission Action Plan should be constantly under review and each group should be looking for improvements/developments.

Charity Donations: The Faith in Action group recommended the following allocations, in order to distribute the funds raised for charity from the 2015 Christmas Fair and cards:

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|---------------------------------------|-------|
| Welcare: | £1820 |
| Barnes Green Centre (Age UK Richmond) | £1226 |
| Zimbabwe Link | £1226 |
| GlassDoor | £1226 |

On a proposal from Geoffrey Barnett, seconded by Revd Ann Lynes, the Council approved these recommendations.

9. Director of Music replacement. Advertisements have been placed in the Church Times, with the Royal School of Church Music and Royal College of Organists. Richard has received a number of enquiries. Interviews will take place in mid-December.

10. Reports from committees

Fabric.

Faculties have been received for the CCTV, lighting & memorial window, and work will now begin. Churchyard trees have been affected by honey fungus and have been removed or treated. Yew trees have been trimmed.

- Kitson Hall. William Heller reported that the floors need re-sanding and re-lacquering. He had received competitive quotes and is recommending the contractor quoting £5,700, and is following up references. William proposed, and Judy seconded, that he should go ahead with this quote if the contractor could complete the work at the required time, if not he would appoint the contractor offering the next best quote.

11. Safeguarding policy was circulated. The PCC agreed that the policy text was fine and in line with A Safe Church. A review will be required before the audit is submitted. Natasha Mold has joined Rachel as Safeguarding Officer. Richard requested that the safeguarding signs should be made clearer, and include photographs of the Safeguarding Officers. Rachel reported that it is proving difficult to have sufficient DBS-cleared adults to staff the Junior Choir and Sunday club sessions.

12. Church database. The ChurchApp is a cloud hosted, web-based church management system, which incorporates the database with useful tools for managing the church groups. The Council agreed that we should implement it for a trial period.

13. Richard's trip to Israel. Richard thanked the PCC for supporting his trip. Southwark Diocese was covering the costs of 20 Zimbabwean clergy. The Diocese of Rochester has links with other Zimbabwean dioceses and was hosting their clergy. It was a very rewarding but tiring trip. He would like to consider leading a Parish Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, possibly in 2018.

14. Forthcoming events. The prayer workshops 'Waiting on God' start again on 29 November for four weeks.

15. Any other business. Anne White recommended that every visitor over Christmas be given the upcoming calendar of events to take home, so they have something which may remind them of St Mary's. She also requested that the main church be swept or hoovered more often.

16. Dates of future meetings:
24 Jan
14 March
APCM: 27 April

Meeting closed at 22.00 with the Grace.