

Barnes Team Ministry
The Parish Church of St Mary Barnes

Minutes of the PCC meeting on Tuesday, 2 July 2024 at 6.15pm

Present: Revd James Hutchings (chair), Geoffrey Barnett, Peter Boyling, Richard Chalker, Caroline Georgiadis, Mark Glasgow, Trisha Hawkins, Richard Nickels, Catherine Roe, Michael Ross-McCall, Philip Smith, Deborah Stewartby

In attendance: Cheryl Cole, Jackie Davis

Apologies: Fouki Heller, William Heller, Revd James Marston, Elisabeth Munden, Paul Teverson

The Rector welcomed those present to his last PCC meeting, and opened the meeting in prayer.

MINUTES

1. The minutes of the PCC meeting on 21 May 2024 were approved.

MATTERS ARISING

2. Yew tree. Peter Boyling reported that subject to Council approval the tree would be pruned on 18/19 July by the Tree Company to protect the stability of the tree. The churchyard would be mainly closed while the work was in hand.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

3. Jackie Davis reported. Julie Smith's departure had been a big change. But the Toddler Group was hugely successful with up to 25 attending, and newcomers replacing those who left. She was getting positive feedback from the families. Since Covid numbers at Sunday Club had fallen, but the current attendance about up to a dozen was healthy and sessions were going well. It would be good to increase the number of adult volunteers further. She believed that the monthly All Age service was an important element of St Mary's worship.

4. For the future she wanted to create good links with local schools, especially Lowther School. There was so much that we could do. The school had faith as part of the curriculum and she thought that we could offer a Harvest service and a Christmas carol service, giving the children chances to experience church. Similarly there was scope for more involvement of the Scouts at church. The annual entry to communion course enables us to encourage those attending to become acolytes and readers. But it was important that the church gave a good lead to promote these developments.

5. James noted also the new development of the children's choir. He thanked Jackie for her great work in all these areas.

RECTOR'S REPORT

6. James reported:

- a) Worship: since the last PCC we had held the annual Garden of Remembrance service, a commemoration of the 80th anniversary of D-Day, a busy period of baptisms and weddings, and the annual Pets Blessing service (with 15 dogs);

- b) the church had hosted a general election hustings, which went well. He thanked Andrew Summers for organising, Nik Gowing for chairing and all others involved;
- c) Ben Markovic had successfully completed his probation period as Director of Music, and was also taking on the children's choir following Julia Daniels' completing her 6 month assignment to re-establish the choir;
- d) James Marston and he had attended the institution of the new Catholic priest at St Osmond's, Father Ola. He was looking forward to being involved with Churches Together in Barnes;
- e) We had issued letters at the start of June asking the congregation to review their giving. It was too early to give overall results, although he had had some encouraging responses;
- f) We needed more adults and children to assist at the altar for the Parish Eucharist as servers, crucifers or acolytes. Those children recently receiving their first communion have been invited to become acolytes.

MISSION ACTION PLAN

7. James noted that under the heading of "Growing the involvement and number of children, young people and families" the new diocesan initiative for working with young people "Youth Ministry in Communion" or YMIC was now funded and details would become available soon. Peter Boyling would be the contact point initially, but in due course it would be good if another PCC member could take this on.

FINANCE

8. Management accounts at 31/5/24

Michael Ross-McCall commented that the 5-month surplus excluding investment gains was £18k compared to budget £8k and 2023 £22k. This included a Hall surplus of £33k versus full year budget of £20k – budgeted maintenance expected in second half. Unrealised gains on investments in 2024 were £25k.

Liquid assets (cash, bank and deposits) reduced from £125k at 31/12/23 to £88k at 31/5/24. The budget at 31/12/24 was £73k. He was monitoring the bank balances at least monthly to ensure sufficient funds were available to finance church activities during the summer when receipts usually declined.

Liquid assets plus investments at 31/5/24 stood at £835k, down £12k since year end 2023

9. Approval of Annual Report and Accounts 2023

The PCC members by email circulation on 10 April 2024 had given their approval and had authorised the Rector to sign the trustees' report and balance sheet, and Michael to sign the balance sheet, on their behalf, as evidence of their approval. A resolution to affirm this approval was proposed by Mark, seconded by Peter and approved unanimously.

10. Boileau Road house final rents

NatWest was continuing with their evaluation of our request to transfer the balance of £17k on the closed Barnes Team Ministry account to St Mary's account at NatWest Putney. A new relationship manager was coordinating the discussion and a successful outcome was expected soon.

VACANCY PLANNING

11. The Rector reported that the Archdeacon had agreed a timetable for choosing a new incumbent, that ran from our sending initial paperwork to the Archdeacon in mid September to final interviews in mid December. In response to a question he suggested that some applicants might be free to take up post within three months, but it would be more cautious to work on the basis of a new incumbent arriving after Easter.

12. Peter gave a timetable for the parish and Team to create a Parish Profile by early August, with a special PCC on 9 July and a congregational meeting on 21 July. He had invited the other Team churches to begin drafting material in respect of their parishes.

13. Suggestions were made of issues to be considered in the drafting of the Profile and advert.

SAFEGUARDING

14. On behalf of Lis Munden Trisha noted that the Safeguarding Officers were considering how best to use the parish database tool Churchsuite.

15. The PCC reviewed the church Safeguarding Policy and Domestic Abuse Policy and approved both for a further year.

FABRIC

16. The PCC reviewed the Health and Safety Policy and approved that for a further year.

KITSON HALL

17. Richard Nickels reported that:

- a) Income was well above budget at present as lettings were good;
- b) We had finally been able to replace the cleaning contractor with a new company. He had high expectations of a cut in the number of complaints about dirty floors;
- c) We needed a new long term hirer for the small hall and were seeking advice from a professional letting agent;
- d) If a new nursery took over the hire of the small hall this offered the possibility of a relationship between new families and the church;
- e) He was preparing for the work to choose an energy supplier for the church and hall, for the year starting at the end of September. We had saved money in the year now ending by the contract we had chosen; and he was expecting a further reduction in cost this autumn.

MINUTES

18. James reported that at Deanery Synod there had been a report on a new venture between St Anne's Kew and Kew Gardens on the spirituality of gardening. Synod had also received a report on Project Forgiveness, tackling knife crime. James Marston was planning to stand for Diocesan Synod.

19. The PCC noted the minutes of the Financial Advisory Group meeting on 20/05/24 and of the Communications Group meeting on 12/06/24.

The meeting concluded with the Grace.

Future dates:

SC (2pm)

Monday 2 September

Monday 11 November

PCC (6:15pm)

Tuesday 9 July – Vacancy Planning

Tuesday 17 September

Saturday 12 October – Away Day

Tuesday 26 November

2025

Thursday 15 May - APCM

pmb

Approved by PCC on 9/7/24
