

ST BARNABAS CHURCH EMMER GREEN

Minutes of meeting 04/2011 of the Parochial Church Council held on Wednesday 23rd November 2011 in the Parish Centre.

Present: Derek Chandler (Chair), Richard Cunningham, Elizabeth Gash, Bill Harper, Sue Harper, Wendy Howell, Oliver Kent, Des Long, Gillian Wilson, Alison Wood.

Apologies: Mark Burton, Jim Dunkley, Robin Kent.

The meeting began with prayers. Derek gave thanks for the life and work of Owen Jewiss, who had made such a major contribution to the PCC and the life of St Barnabas Church over many years. Members' thoughts are with Daphne and his family as they mourn his loss.

1.PCC and Representation Vacancies

Owen's death means there are vacant positions for a lay representative on the Deanery Synod (who will be a PCC member ex-officio) and on Churches Together in Caversham. Given that St Barnabas will still be represented at both bodies, the PCC decided not to take any immediate action to fill the vacancies. However, efforts will be made to find volunteers well before the 2012 APCM.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 21st September were approved.

3. Matters Arising.

3. Sunday collections. Gift Aid envelopes had been purchased to put in the church. The arrangements were discussed for drawing attention to them.

12. Dates for charity sales had been scheduled, and sent to Margaret Notton and Steve Mardell.

4. Correspondence

Attention was drawn to an advance notice from the Bishop about an evening on "Confidence in Discipleship" for PCC members to be held on the evening of 1st March 2012 in Bracknell.

5. Financial Monitoring

The summary of transactions to 31st October was presented. Generally items were within budget, and the hope was the year would break even or do better. The Parish Share had been paid in full. The Hall was well in surplus.

6. Hall & Buildings

6.1 Work had been completed on installing a speaker in the Centre, painting inside the Centre and painting the outside of the windows in the hall. Work would start imminently on installing the acoustic panels in the Centre, renewing the kitchen roof of the hall, and clearing the garden waste behind the hall.

6.2 Quinquennial Inspection. Three architects had been invited to carry out this work, and two had responded. Visits had been made and quotes obtained. Both people would have been quite satisfactory, but the work was awarded to Montgomery Architects of Oxford with the lower quote of £575. The work will be carried out on 15th December.

7. Health & Safety

There were no matters to draw to the PCC's attention.

8. Children & Young People Committee.

8.1 The Committee had met on 21st November to consider a paper outlining an approach to developing the provision being made. This had been largely endorsed. The main aim is to introduce a new group for 7-11 year olds. The volunteer resources were being re-allocated, and moves made to recruit new helpers. Ideas were to be pursued on joint working between the groups, giving some more time to music, and making more input to Family Services. Practical details are to be worked out – the challenge being to improve what we provide without putting an unreasonable burden on the volunteers.

8.2 A number of CRB renewals will come due in the New Year (Action Gillian and Bill)

9. Volunteer Positions and Staffing

Hitendra, the garden handyman had returned after a period away. Keren Otto, who had been working on publicity material, had got a job and was no longer able to help. The advertisement at the Reading Volunteer Centre would be withdrawn for the time being.

10. "More than Gold", July 2011.

Action had been taken to draw attention to the event and seek volunteers, but there had been no response. In part this is because we are under pressure to find volunteers for our own activities, but a larger factor seemed to be a lack of enthusiasm because people could not see why the church was making the Olympics a focus for the event. The proposal to merge the event with the Caversham Festival was seen to further complicate the rationale.

The change of date had meant that the offer for the Encouragers to perform will have to be withdrawn because the date now clashed with another event. The PCC, and Wendy in particular, had put time into trying to make this work, but it was reluctantly concluded that St Barnabas would not now play an active part in the organisation. The offer to provide financial support would remain.

11. Diamond Jubilee Event

Details had been received from the Emmer Green Residents Association of a "Picnic in the Park" event on 4th June that they were planning to facilitate – inviting local groups to participate. It was agreed that it would be good for St Barnabas to have a presence at such a community event. A display could be mounted of church activity, and it may be possible to have a stall selling preserves for charity. EGRA would be informed. (Action Bill)

12. Environment Issues

Margaret and John Notton had agreed to act as "Champions" on environmental issues. They had taken a display to the recent "God's World" evening in Reading promoting the EcoCongregation initiative.

13. Churches Together in Caversham

Derek reported on the October meeting. A main item had been the "More than Gold" event (see 10 above). A part time Project Co-ordinator for the REInspired initiative had been appointed and she had made arrangements to see Derek about school links in our area. Arrangements for the distribution of the Christmas Cards had been discussed and agreed.

14. Charitable Giving

14.1 Fundraising support for the three charities working overseas would continue.

14.2 The list of donations to be made from church funds was reviewed. Some suggestions were made, and the congregation had been asked for ideas. The Standing Committee would agree the 2012 list. If necessary the budget of £2600 could be modestly exceeded.

14.3 The Christmas collections would be distributed 50% to Christian Aid, 25% to CIRDIC and 25% to the Women's Centre.

15. Anglican Communion Covenant.

A worldwide consultation was taking place on this Covenant, and it would be considered at the next Reading Deanery Synod. Derek and Bill reported on a discussion that had been organised by the Caversham, Thameside and Mapledurham PCC. Given the complexity of the issues, the PCC felt it could not make a judgement on its merits. Members did, however, believe that the aims and intentions of the Covenant should be supported. The difficulties of making it effective were not to be underestimated, but the effort to overcome them should be made.

16. Future Meetings.

	SC	PCC
January	11 th	25 th
March	14 th	28 th

APCM Wednesday 18th April, 8pm in the church