

## ST BARNABAS CHURCH EMMER GREEN

**Minutes** of meeting 02/2011 of the Parochial Church Council held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2011 in the Parish Centre.

The meeting began with prayers.

**Present:** Derek Chandler (Chair), Jim Dunkley, Elizabeth Gash, Bill Harper, Sue Harper, Owen Jewiss, Oliver Kent, Robin Kent, Des Long, Gillian Wilson, Alison Wood.

**1. Apologies:**, Mark Burton. Richard Cunningham Wendy Howell,

**2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting** held on 18<sup>th</sup> May were approved.

### **3. Matters Arising.**

13.2 It was noted that planning was in hand for a ten week Alpha Course to run from January to March 2012. It would take place on a Thursday morning, and be aimed at the young mothers who often come to the Centre on that day. Additional financial and volunteer resources were likely to be required, but more details would be given nearer the time.

### **4. Correspondence**

4.1 The Study and Discussion Group had asked that consideration be given to more frequent use of personal testimonies in services. It was agreed that such testimonies could be a valuable part when planned in the right worship context. Impromptu testimonies are not encouraged, but any individual who feels that they have something to offer can approach the Ministry Team.

4.2 An update was given on work at the Olives project, one of the supported charities.

### **5. Monitoring**

5.1 Receipts and payments are broadly in line with expectations. The allocations of the utility bills need review.

5.2 Wendy, Richard and Julie are participating in car boot sales to raise funds for another public issue of the Newsletter.

### **6. Hall and Buildings Committee**

6.1 The Notes of a meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> June were received. It was reported that work was ongoing to improve the chancel lighting, and to find an economical way to provide a path from the garden to the choir vestry area.

6.2 Parish Centre Acoustics. It was agreed that the recent donation from George Davies' family, together with the proceeds of the Garden Party, could be used to fund the installation of materials to improve the acoustics. A quote would be obtained, but it was expected that this would be close to the sum available.

6.3 Hall Floor. It was agreed to sand and seal the floor at a cost of £2180.

6.4 Hiring the Church. Two enquiries had been received recently, which had prompted the Committee to suggest to the PCC that a policy was desirable. As a starting point it was decided that the church building would not be publicly offered for hire in the same way as the Hall. When enquiries are received they will be considered by the Standing Committee on a case-by-case basis, having regard to the appropriateness of the use, the likely impact on the parking situation and the effort needed to manage the booking (inc cleaning). Charges would be made that as a minimum would cover costs of heating and lighting.

## **7. Health & Safety**

There are no issues to draw to the attention of the PCC.

## **8. Fellowship Leaders Meeting**

8.1 A meeting had been held on 23<sup>rd</sup> June, and a report was received which reviewed the pleasing amount of activity in the various Fellowships.

8.2 Arising from that report the PCC reviewed the arrangements being made for the “Come to Church” Sunday on 25<sup>th</sup> September. It was agreed that this should be a Eucharistic service, since this would typify normal practice at St Barnabas. However, it will be important for the service to be easy to follow, and not to be too long. The temptation to use all the ideas coming forward on the one occasion should be resisted.

## **9. Volunteer Positions**

9.1 An external enquiry had been received about the Publicity Assistant position which will be followed up.

9.2 An enthusiastic volunteer had started work in the garden. Since he was travelling from Tilehurst it was agreed that payment of petrol money would be offered.

## **10. Environment**

10.1 Current activity working towards Eco-congregation status was described.

10.2 A meeting has been arranged for 17<sup>th</sup> November for churches holding, or seeking, Eco-congregation status. This may be an opportunity for St Barnabas to organise a display.

## **11. Wider Church**

11.1 Owen’s comprehensive report was received.

11.2 Going for Gold. Details were given on the event related to the Olympics being planned by CTC for 1<sup>st</sup> July 2012. It was agreed in principle to support this event, acknowledging that this carried with it a commitment to provide volunteers to help. It was suggested that the link between the Church and the Olympics needed to be more clearly explained.

## **12. Children and Young People Committee**

The Notes of a meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> June were received.

## **13. Provision for Children and Young People.**

13.1 Following the discussion at the last PCC (Item 12) the CYP Committee and the Standing Committee had offered some thoughts and ideas for PCC consideration. The following conclusions were reached:

13.2 Family Service. It was agreed that a monthly all-age service bringing together the whole worshipping community was important. Some elements need to appeal to children, but it is not exclusively for them. We need to explain to parents with younger children what provision is being made for them. An area will be set aside for families with pre-school children where the rows are more widely spaced and the carpet is put down underneath these rows. Parents will be expected to supervise their children in this area. Older children will be expected to sit with their parents in the body of the church. The Activity Bags and a special booklet “My Communion” will be provided.

13.3 Junior Church and Creche. Efforts will be made to offer some activity for children more often, and not just during term time. A fully prepared Junior Church will not always be arranged, and some simpler activity offered. This new approach will be tried in the autumn term.

13.4 Holiday Periods. There will be times, and specifically during the summer holiday period, when supervised provision for children will not be made. At such time Family Service arrangements will be in operation. It is accepted that it may be difficult to occupy younger children throughout a normal service, and parents will be offered the opportunity to take children into the Centre for part of the time. The idea of providing a speaker in the Centre will be re-examined. Information on these arrangements will be included in the service sheets.

#### **14. Summer Events 2012**

14.1 Emmer Green Residents Association Diamond Jubilee Picnic. It was reported that the suggestion that the St Barnabas Garden Party be combined with this event was not favoured. The church would be welcome to be represented at the event (June 4<sup>th</sup>).

14.1. In view of the proximity of this event, St Barnabas Day and the Going for Gold initiative it was agreed that a Garden Party would not be organised for 2012.

#### **15. 9.30 Service Collections**

15.1 It is felt that the lack of a collection during normal 9.30 services is reducing the income we could expect from those attending who are not part of the stewardship arrangements. It was therefore agreed that collections will be made every Sunday, commencing on 4<sup>th</sup> September.

15.2 The letter due to go out to standing order donors acknowledging their contributions for 2010 will include a section explaining this arrangements, and stressing that people paying by standing order must not feel obliged to contribute to the collection in church as well.

#### **16. Commemorative Plaque**

The members noted with approval the plaque that had been obtained commemorating the opening of the Centre and the Garden, and which would be fixed in the Centre.

#### **17. Future Meetings**

	Standing Committee	PCC
September	7 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>
November	9 <sup>th</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup>