

ST BARNABAS CHURCH EMMER GREEN

Minutes of meeting 07/2010 of the Parochial Church Council held on Wednesday 16th March 2011 in the Parish Centre.

The meeting began with prayers.

Present: Richard Cunningham, Jim Dunkley, Elizabeth Gash, Richard Gash, Bill Harper, Sue Harper, Wendy Howell, Robin Kent (Chair), Des Long, Robin Smith, Gillian Wilson, Alison Wood.

1. Apologies: Derek Chandler, Oliver Kent, Owen Jewiss, May Smith, Nicola Tallett.

2. Vicar.

2.1 The PCC were pleased to learn that Derek had just been discharged from hospital. He remains on sick leave, however, and we have been advised to plan on the assumption that he will remain off duty until Whitsun.

2.2 Concern had been expressed by a neighbour about the condition of the vicarage grounds and fencing. The Diocese had moved quickly to remove excessive tree growth and a meeting with the neighbour and the responsible Diocesan officer had been arranged for 18th March to review the situation.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th January were approved

4. Matters Arising

4.1 Website. It was confirmed that the site had gone live in February, and was being updated.

4.2 Architect's Fees. The written response from the architect has not yet been received. The same man undertook the last Quinquennial Inspection in 2006, and investigations have been made about finding another architect for the 2011 inspection if necessary.

5. Correspondence

5.1 The regular Diocesan mailing to PCC Secretaries had included, among other administrative matters:

- The need for PCCs with annual income in excess of £100,000 per annum to register as charities. Although St Barnabas' income in 2010 exceeded this amount it was the result of the exceptional Garden Fund income. Since the income in 2011 was expected to be below £100,000 registration would not be needed.
- The Diocese is to produce a booklet "For Creed and Creation" to help parishes explore how to reduce their carbon footprint.

5.2 RE-Inspired. Information had been received on an initiative to be taken with schools in Caversham focused on marriage. We have offered our building to the local team for their meetings with schools.

6. Financial Monitoring

It was too early in the year for a report to be meaningful. No exceptional transactions had occurred.

7. Hall & Buildings Committee

7.1 The Notes of a meeting held on 25th January were received.

7.2 It was agreed that the hole in the roof of the Centre office could be repaired as there had been no evidence of more water coming in.

8. Health & Safety

The PCC noted steps that had been taken to reduce possible injury if a child collided with the ramp hand rail, and to acquire “Fire Marshall” tabards.

9. Environment

The Traidcraft stock is available to be displayed two Sundays each month if volunteers can be found to collect and return items. The Youth Fellowship will be asked if they would be interested in organising this periodically. Action Robin.

10. Wider Church

There had been a meeting of the Deanery Synod, but there had been no matters to draw to the attention of the PCC. No other meetings had been held.

11. Child Protection

In September the PCC had reviewed planned responses to Diocesan guidance on the previous government’s proposals to introduce wider ranging scrutiny processes for people working with children, young people and vulnerable adults. Revised documentation had been drawn up to use with the larger number of volunteers that would need to be covered. However, the new government has reviewed the situation and announced that less rigorous procedures would be introduced. Whilst formal guidance had yet to be received, the PCC agreed that no action should be taken for the time being to apply scrutiny procedures to church members who are only occasionally involved in this type of activity.

12. Volunteers and Staffing

12.1 Details had been provided to the Reading Volunteer Centre of a number of tasks where additional volunteers are needed, and this information had recently been made public. One reply had offered paid help, but more time should be taken to assess what the overall response might be.

12.2 There had been some results from the efforts that had been made to find additional volunteers, but more were needed for the “small works team”, the church cleaning rota and the Thursday Centre activities. A “situations vacant” notice will be prepared for display in the Centre and Hall. Action Bill.

APCM Preparations

The processes that will be followed for the APCM on 10th April were reviewed. The draft documentation, although not complete, had been circulated for comment.

Mission Development

The discussion at the last meeting had been used to formulate the presentations made on 6th February, and the content of letters to regular givers. The change of approach had been well received.

The PCC then considered what the next steps might be. The following assessment of what activities were involved in “Mission” were discussed and agreed:

- Deepening the faith of church members
- Caring for people inside and outside the church

- Establishing a presence in the community
- Bringing people to faith.

Much was already being done in these areas to fulfil the Mission, and it was accepted that the issue for St Barnabas is not to draw back and start thinking afresh but affirm, reinforce and communicate what already exists.

That is not to say that there is not more that can be done. A “Wish List” will be prepared identifying what we would like to do if more resources – human and financial – were available. The aim is to encourage more support to be offered. Two main areas for future action were considered:

- In communication, the creation of a post – paid if need be – to manage all the activities that were involved in publicity and communications both internally and externally. A description of the role will be drafted. Action Standing Committee.
- In worship the development of services and activities aimed at people not regularly coming to church, including a follow up to baptisms, a nurturing group (along the lines of the Alpha Course) and “Come to Church” style of services.

Additional effort is already being put into external communication with the new web site and the imminent public issue of a Newsletter. We will await the response to these initiatives before considering what more might be needed.

The next step internally will be the presentation of this assessment and strategy to the APCM. *(NB The question of what to do for St Barnabas Day had remained open at the meeting. It was subsequently agreed to organise an outdoor service in the Centre Garden followed by refreshments. Saturday 11th June, 4.30pm)*

Future Meetings

APCM	10 th April 11am
Standing Committee	4/5 th May
PCC	18 th May