

Draft for approval by the PCC

ST BARNABAS CHURCH EMMER GREEN

Minutes of meeting 04/2013 of the Parochial Church Council held on Thursday 6th February 2014 in the Parish Centre.

The meeting began with prayers.

Present: Derek Chandler (Chair), Mark Burton, Felicity Chapman, Richard Cunningham, Graham Davey, Susie Downer, Elizabeth Gash, Bill Harper, Sue Harper, Wendy Howell, Robin Kent, Des Long, May Smith, Alison Wood.

Apologies: Gillian Wilson.

1. Training for the Licensed Lay Ministry.

Mark Burton is applying to be trained as a Licensed Lay Minister (LLM). As part of the process the PCC is required to express its support for his candidacy. Kevin Lovell, the Diocesan LLM Adviser, joined the meeting and spoke about the role and the training process. Mark outlined the background to his decision to offer himself for the role and answered questions. He then left the meeting while members discussed the following Motion: "That the PCC express its support for Mark Burton's application for the Licensed Lay Ministry:

- To support him through training for Licensed Lay Ministry (subject to selection)
- To support his work as a Licensed Lay Minister in the parish (subject to successful completion of the training and licensing)"

A ballot was then conducted which gave a majority in favour of the Motion by ten votes to three.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 23rd October 2013 were approved.

3. Correspondence. None to report

4. Accounts 2013 and Budget 2014

4.1 Des introduced the accounts for the year. The Hall income was at a record level, and the PCC recorded its appreciation of the good work that Jon Barclay was doing as Hall Manager. The Hall surplus had been sufficient to allow transfers of £5,000 each to the church and the Organ Fund. The level of spending on all the buildings had been high, but broadly in line with budget.

4.2 The Accounts Statements for 2013 were approved unanimously, and Des was thanked for all his efforts.

4.3 The budget for 2014 showed that the church income is not expected to cover costs and another transfer of £5,000 from the Hall account will be required. It was accepted that this situation was not desirable for the future, and that the base level of income – primarily from pledged giving – will need to increase. This will be highlighted in the draft Mission Action Plan (MAP) and will need to be communicated to the congregation.

5. Hall & Buildings Committee

5.1 Bill reported on a meeting of the Committee held the previous day. The Action List of items for attention had been updated. The main area of concern was the continuing penetration of water in the Parish Centre. Re-pointing was needed on the ridge tiles and the end wall, for which an estimate of £2,000 had been obtained. Whilst necessary, it seems unlikely that this work itself would remedy the leaks. An estimate will now be obtained for the work of removing the coping stones, inserting the missing damp proof, relaying the stones course and doing the re-pointing in the hope that a single project would produce the most economical approach.

5.2 At the last PCC meeting it had been agreed that the sound system would not be relocated for likely cost and operational reasons (Minute 5.2). An estimate of £5,700 for the work had now been received, which showed that the idea was unaffordable.

(Copies of the Notes of the meeting and the Action List are available on request.)

6. Children and Young People Committee

6.1 The PCC received the Notes of meeting held on 18th November 2013.

6.2 Concerns about children entering the grounds, particularly after school, remained. A notice had been put on the new gates and notices were also available to put out when activities were being held in the Centre. A letter will be sent to the school to warn parents of the potential dangers. (Action Derek/Bill) However, it is clear that children (and parents) were opening the gates to gain access, and that it is unlikely (and perhaps undesirable) that this can be prevented. Centre and Hall users themselves need to be aware that the proximity of the school entrance poses a potential hazard that needed to be taken into account.

6.3 Proposals made by the Committee to vary the form and timing of the Family Service will be considered in the context of the MAP.

7. Baptism Visitors

7.1 The PCC received the Notes of a meeting of Baptism Visitors held on 21st January.

7.2 Four actions identified to improve communications with baptism families were agreed.

7.3 A proposal to introduce a form of “seeker service” – perhaps adopting the “Messy Church” approach – will be considered in the context of the MAP.

8. Fellowship Co-ordinators

8.1 The PCC received the Notes of a meeting of Fellowship Co-ordinators held on 21st January.

8.2 A proposal to arrange a Tenebrae service on Maundy Thursday was agreed. The aim will be to re-introduce in 2015 a celebration including some form of meal.

9. Health & Safety

Current issues had been considered at the Hall & Buildings Committee, but there were no item to draw to the attention of the PCC.

10. Volunteers, Office Holders and PCC Vacancies

10.1 The general situation on volunteers was good, but there were vacancies for Baptism Visitors and Sidesmen.

10.2 Robin intended to step down as Churchwarden having served a single, extra year (in the absence of a second Warden) as agreed at the last APCM. It is important to fill these two Churchwarden leadership positions.

10.3 Adopting the rules for PCC elected membership means that there should be twelve elected members in total (currently nine). Since it would probably be impossible to

immediately fill all the vacancies required to reach the total of twelve, the PCC agreed to fill four vacancies in this year and the following two years.

11. Organ Refurbishment and Appeal

An update on the progress with fundraising was received. There will be a review later in the year to assess the likely total raised and link that to the works to be specified. The appeal will close at the end of 2014.

12. Benefice Developments

Derek reported on the current situation at Caversham Park. The periodic review of the LEP is expected to be published in March, and considered by the LEP partners in April.

13. Wider Church

The PCC received reports on the Deanery Synods held on 28th November and 4th February. It was noted that the Berkshire Credit Union wanted to attract deposits from individual and corporate members, and that good quality new borrowers would help spread lending risks and thus reduce interest rates. Churches generally had been encouraged to support the work of Credit Unions.

14. Charging for the Use of the Church and the Centre.

Increasing use of the Centre by outside bodies had raised the need to consider what form of charge might be made. The PCC confirmed its policy of not making the church and the Centre available for hire. When the buildings are used by people or organisations not directly connected with St Barnabas Church, they may be asked to contribute towards the costs of any extra heating, lighting and others services resulting from their use of the premises. Hourly summer and winter charges – based on actual costs – will be fixed by the Standing Committee from time to time.

15. Chalice Administration

The PCC agreed that Mrs Elaine Bloomfield should be added to the list of Chalice Administrators.

16. Future meetings

Special PCC for Mission Action Plan Monday March 3rd 8pm

APCM Evening Wednesday 2nd April

Standing Committee 30th April

PCC 14th May 8pm