

ST BARNABAS CHURCH, EMMER GREEN

**THE PARISHIONERS MEETING
and
THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
will be held on
Sunday 22nd March 2015 at 11.15 am in the CHURCH**

AGENDA

Opening prayer

PARISHIONERS MEETING

- 1. Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd April 2014**
- 2. Election of Churchwardens**

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

- 1. Apologies for absence**
- 2. Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd April 2014**
- 3. Reception of the Electoral Roll**
- 4. Acceptance of the Annual Report (Inc. confirmation of the Child Protection Policy)**
- 5. Acceptance of the Annual Accounts and Examiner's Report**
- 6. Appointment of the Independent Examiner**
- 7. Reception of the Inventory 2015**
- 8. Election of Members of the PCC**
 - 1 Deanery Synod representatives to be elected to serve until 2017 (ex officio PCC members)
 - 4 Vacancies for elected members to serve until 2018
 - 1 Additional vacancy for an elected member to serve until 2017
 - 3 Additional vacancies for elected members to serve until 2016
- 9. Election of Sidesmen**
- 10. Any Other Business**

On the conclusion of the formal business there will be a reflection lead by Derek on how St Barnabas is facing the future.

PARISHIONERS MEETING 2014
Held in St Barnabas Church, 2nd April

The meeting opened with prayers

Minutes of the Parishioners Meetings held on 17th March 2013 were agreed.

Election of Churchwardens

Completed nomination forms having been received, Richard Cunningham and Graham Davey were unanimously elected to serve as Churchwardens for 2014/15.

Robin Kent had stepped down after seven years as Churchwarden and he was warmly thanked by the meeting for the exceptional contribution he had made to the life of St Barnabas Church.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. Apologies. Apologies had been received from five church members.

Present. Vicar, Churchwardens, PCC Secretary and 28 Church members.

Minutes of the Previous APCM. The minutes of the meeting held on 17th March 2013 were agreed.

4. Electoral Roll. The updated Roll, containing 136 names (134 in 2013), was presented and received. Richard Gash was thanked for his work as Electoral Roll Officer.

5. Annual Report. Derek introduced the Annual Report.

(i) Attention was drawn to the Child Protection policy which was appended to the agenda papers.

(ii) Gillian Wilson would be standing down as a Deanery Synod representative, and Derek expressed his appreciation of the work she had put in.

(iii) The Reports were accepted, thanks expressed to the many people whose efforts were recorded in them, and appreciation was expressed in particular to Jon Barclay for all that he does as Hall Manager.

6. Annual Accounts. The Accounts and Examiners Report for the year ended 31st December 2013 were presented and accepted. The overall financial situation remained sound, and the Hall finances were particularly good. Des Long was thanked for his efforts in what is a demanding role. Two Assistant Treasurers – Ann Mace and Lynne Drew - had been appointed during the year to take responsibility for some tasks. Des thanked them for their work.

7. Appointment of Independent Examiner. Thanks were expressed to Mrs Andrea Jones who had acted as Examiner. She was willing to be reappointed for 2014.

8. Inventory. The Inventory, which had been updated at March 2014, was tabled and accepted.

9. Election of Deanery Synod Representatives

Three representatives are to be elected for the period to 2017. Mark Burton and May Smith were willing to stand again and were re-elected. It will be possible to fill the vacancy if a volunteer comes forward.

9. Election of PCC members.

(i) Bill Harper, Des Long and Alison Wood were retiring at the end of their period in office. Bill and Des were willing to stand for re-election. Alison was thanked for her contributions to the work of the PCC.

(ii) Under the formula for determining numbers of PCC members St Barnabas should now have four members elected each year to serve for a term of three years. Bill Harper, Des Long and Sandra Rice had been proposed and seconded and were duly elected.

The membership of the PCC for 2014/15 would be:

Ex-Officio

Derek Chandler
Liz Gash
Richard Cunningham
Graham Davey

Deanery Synod Representatives

(For the period 2014 to 2017)

	Elected
Mark Burton	2014
May Smith	2014

Members

Felicity Chapman	2012
Sue Harper	2012
Wendy Howell	2012
Susie Downer	2013
Bill Harper	2014
Des Long	2014
Sandra Rice	2014

(Note Jean Rae was co-opted at the May 2014 PCC meeting.)

10. Election of Sidemen and Sideswomen. The current list of Sidespeople was received. The re-election of those on this list was agreed

11. Any Other Business.

(i) Derek reported the retirements of Margaret Dimmick and Paula Andrews, and thanked them for all the support they had given to St Barnabas over many years. He then outlined the steps being taken in reviewing the future of Caversham Park Church.

(ii) Attention was drawn to the “Imagining Faith” initiatives to take place in September.

(iii) It was suggested that more information could be given on the benefits of Church members taking roles in local groups and activities.

Presentation.

Bill described the aims of the Mission Action Plan (MAP) exercise and the discussion process that would be taking place over the coming months. A first draft of the MAP document was made available after the meeting. Reactions and ways forward would be considered at a special Parish Day event on 5th July.

The meeting closed with The Grace.

ST BARNABAS CHURCH, EMMER GREEN
ANNUAL REPORT of the PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
For the Period ended 31st December 2014

1. ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

St Barnabas Church is situated in Grove Road, Emmer Green, Reading. It is within the Reading Deanery, which is part of the Diocese of Oxford. The correspondence address of the PCC Secretary is 37, Kidmore End Road, Emmer Green, Reading, RG4 8SN

The PCC is a charity exempted from registration with the Charity Commission.

The PCC members who served for the period from the 2014 Annual Meeting were:

Incumbent	Revd. Derek Chandler	Chairman
Lay Minister	Elizabeth Gash (until December)	
Wardens	Richard Cunningham	
	Graham Davey	

Deanery Synod Representatives	Elected
(For the period 2014 to 2017)	
Mark Burton	2014
May Smith	2014

Members

Felicity Chapman	2012
Sue Harper	2012
Wendy Howell	2012
Susie Downer	2013
Bill Harper	2014
Des Long	2014
Sandra Rice	2014

(Note Jean Rae was co-opted at the May 2014 PCC meeting.)

2. STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Parish comes within the Benefice of St Barnabas with Caversham Park. Both are separate parishes with their own officers and PCCs. Derek Chandler is the CoE Incumbent for Caversham Park.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All eligible Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC normally meets four times during the year, but much of the detailed work is carried out in a series of Committees. Fuller details of the activities of the year are set out in later sections of this Report.

3. OBJECTIVES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting, in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the church and church hall.

4. CHURCH ATTENDANCE

At April 2014 there were 136 parishioners on the Electoral Roll, 32 of whom were not resident within the parish. The average weekly Sunday attendance (“normal” 8am and 9.30am services), counted in September and October, was 91, but this number increases at festival and special services.

REVIEW of the YEAR

5. INCUMBENT'S REPORT

It has been an eventful year and the challenges and opportunities for St. Barnabas Church are connected to some degree with how we manage change as a Christian community.

It has been a delight to see people at St. Barnabas take up new roles and responsibilities, including some of our newer members. Richard Cunningham and Graham Davey have responded very well to all that it means to be churchwardens, along with Rob Page as an assistant churchwarden, and they have placed their mark firmly upon our church community with their memorable Curry Evening! Communications and worship have received much attention with the revising of the church website, a St. Barnabas Facebook and Twitter account, and the establishing of a new worship group for our family services now called 'COGS'.

A notable highlight of the year was the confirmation service at St. Barnabas Church with the Bishop of Reading in December. The number of adult candidates had much to do with our continuing 'Alpha' programme and much thanks should be given to Marianne Long and Elizabeth Gash, along with their team, for all they have done to make this fruitful.

We celebrated Elizabeth Gash's formal retirement as a Licensed Lay Minister of 25 years at the beginning of January and I can extend no amount of thanks that would justify all that she has done as a colleague and friend. To ease this transition we have been fortunate enough to welcome Rev. David Little into the church community in recent months and his ministry and insights have been most welcome by all of us. David will not be with us permanently but his presence is welcomed and appreciated while it lasts. Mark Burton has also been formally licensed as a Local Preacher and his ministry continues to grow and be a welcome enhancement to the work of the whole church.

The organ fund target has been reached through much hard work and we now await its resolution. I would like to thank Alison Wood and all those who have made this possible and who, through the gift of music, enhance our worship at St. Barnabas Church.

In February we welcomed Rev. Dr. Graeme Fancourt to an alternative service and open church meeting to reflect on what it means to be a parish church in 2015. Graeme's words resonated with many of us and reassured us that in terms of our challenges we are by no means alone. What an encourager!

We continue to explore our links with Caversham Park Church LEP and share in fellowship what it means to be called to mission in the benefice. From Caversham Park Dr. Alison Johnston has been based at St. Barnabas from January to Easter to help her continue to explore her Christian ministry. We continue to hold joint Standing Committee meetings between the two churches and I would personally not only like to thank the committees and respective church councils. I also wish to express my appreciation to Bill Harper for the way he has taken personal responsibility for the Mission Action Plan at St. Barnabas.

Unfortunately I cannot thank everyone in this report. But I hope you will see that we all have much to be thankful for and encouraged by as we continue to explore together what it means to be followers of Jesus Christ in the 21st century. To that journey let us walk boldly on in faith, hope, and charity towards one another.

Derek Chandler

CHURCH MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE

6. Overview of the PCC year

Much of the detailed work involved in keeping St Barnabas going and growing takes place in a series of groups and Committees. This spreads the work around, and means that many more people are participating in the governance of the Church than just the members of the PCC.

The PCC has met on four occasions since April 2014.

The topic which occupied most time at the PCC was the progress of the Mission Action Plan and discussion of the issues being raised. Separate MAP documents were produced throughout the year setting out our views of ourselves as a Church and the actions identified to develop mission and ministry. Many other topics that have

been considered by the PCC are separately reviewed in later sections of this Report and not repeated here. Other issues which have been discussed include:

- Parish Share liability
- Review of various fees and charges
- Local Lay Ministry training
- Office holder and volunteer vacancies

Bill Harper

7. Financial Summary

Our general funds showed a surplus of £8,128.75 for the year ended 31st December 2014 (2013: deficit of £375.26). The improved surplus was attributable to an increase in income of £3,885.38 and a significant reduction in expenditure of £9,618.63 mainly due to reduced repairs & maintenance costs, which enabled us to make an additional transfer of £5,000 from general funds to our Organ fund in 2014.

The accumulated balance on our general fund was £35,178.86 at 31st December 2014 (2013: £27,050.11). This is an acceptable level of reserves which represents approximately 5 months cover for our current annual running costs.

The balance on our restricted funds of £42,031.54 (note7) included £41,971.40 reserve on our Organ Regeneration Fund at 31st December 2014. The very generous donations and fundraising efforts for our Organ Appeal, including those received in 2015, has enabled us to raise the total amount required within the set time span of 2 years, which has been quite an amazing achievement enabling us to give the go ahead for this project later this year.

Income from users of the Church Hall has shown a dramatic increase from £13,000 in 2010/11 to over £20,000 per annum over the last 2 years thanks to all the efforts that Jon Barclay, our Hall Manager, has put into running the Hall and encouraging greater use.

Our charitable giving is set out in note 4 and 7 in the accounts and this shows that we are maintaining a very positive level of giving through our fundraising efforts, collections and from our own general funds.

Our pledged giving and associated gift aid tax has remained static over the last 6 years and is almost entirely absorbed by our Parish Share which has also remained at the same level during this period.

Due to changes in the Deanery allocation, we are now facing significant annual increments which will increase our Parish Share to over £60,000 over the next few years. Our thanks to Caversham Park for their agreement to contribute to our Parish Share as this will help offset the immediate increase payable.

It is clear that members have been very generous and enthusiastic in supporting special appeals and we would hope that we can now encourage members to increase their regular giving to ensure that we have the funds to meet our regular Church expenditure and increasing Parish Share.

Our sincere thanks once again to Andrea Jones for carrying out the statutory Independent Examination of the accounts. Sadly Andrea has indicated that she now wishes to stand down from this role so we will need to seek a new Examiner for our accounts in future.

Our income has now reached the level which triggers the need to register St Barnabas with the Charity Commission so we will be taking steps to comply with this requirement over the coming months.

We are very grateful for the work carried out by all our Finance team who have made a very valuable and worthwhile contribution to the smooth running of our Church finances and have all helped to share the load. A special thanks to Lynne who has been issuing the Church Hall invoices with great efficiency but sadly wishes to stand down from this role due to other commitments. So we are now looking urgently for a willing volunteer to take her place!

8. Health & Safety

Introduction

The benefits and concept of a positive Health & Safety Culture at St Barnabas continues to be much in evidence with good and helpful support from members of the congregation which is appreciated.

Specific personal responsibility for Health & Safety matters generally rests with The Vicar supported by the Church Wardens. Following completion of the Parish Centre, the Health and Safety Policy now applies across the Church Building, the Church Hall, and the Parish Centre, plus the Parish Garden.

Child Protection Policy

This forms a major part of the overall Health & Safety Policy, and the Child Protection Policy Statement of St Barnabas has been regularly reviewed and updated since it was originally agreed at the PCC meeting of 1st February 2006. The application of the principles involved continues to be maintained and the full statement may be viewed in the Health & Safety Policy Document.

Day to day control of the Policy is under the responsibility of the Children & Young People Committee.

Annual Fire Precautions & First Aid Audit

St Barnabas complies with the current Statutory Regulations concerning Fire Safety procedures, conducting an Annual Risk assessment exercise, plus professional checking and testing of all Fire extinguishers. Statutory testing also takes place of electrical equipment and wiring. First Aid equipment is made available in The Church, the Parish Centre, & the Church Hall, and is checked regularly.

Disability Access and Facilities

Care continues to be exercised to ensure the premises are compatible with the requirements of the relevant Statutes.

Future

For the general safety of all members of St Barnabas and visitors to our premises, it is important that we all continue to be vigilant to the ethos and general principle of creating a safe environment in which to operate. The requirements of the Policy continue to be reviewed on a regular basis with changes to procedures implemented as appropriate. Suggestions and ideas to improve health and safety matters generally are always welcome.

Douglas E Rae Health & Safety Officer

9. Child Protection

Procedures for the appointment and vetting of volunteers working with children and young people are well established. St Barnabas policies and procedures were updated in 2013 and again in 2014 to conform to the most recent Diocesan guidance. The arrangements are in operation for use of the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) when relevant, with one existing and one new volunteer successfully cleared during 2014.

Child Protection is reviewed regularly at meetings of the Children & Young People Committee.

Bill Harper

WORSHIP and MINISTRY

10. The Alpha Course

This is the fourth year that Alpha has been running at St Barnabas, the third evening course which started on 23rd January. Four people from the St Barnabas congregation signed up for the course, one member from Caversham Park Church and two people who do not attend our Church. Having people from within the Church come along is such a blessing as they can then tell others about the course having experienced it first hand. Without a doubt those who have been Christians many years are amazed at the benefits of joining the course, learning from the DVDs and each other. Then there are others who have very little knowledge of the Christian faith and are very much searching.

The subject of the Holy Spirit was a one day event, held on a Saturday and we were fortunate to have Robin Kent join us to lead a session.

Once again we are blessed by the support of prayer, excellent food cooked by willing volunteers and help in the kitchen.

Although this Alpha group has been smaller than other years the privilege of being part of it does not diminish. To spend an evening having had an excellent meal together, then exploring the Christian faith together is something we would recommend to everyone.

Elizabeth Gash and Marianne Long

11. Choir and Music

The choir of St. Barnabas have continued to give a good vocal support week by week. Although the numbers have decreased, their loyalty and commitment has not. The music group is also going through a transition. Its numbers have also decreased but we have seen the younger and less experienced members taking on a more crucial role.

I would like to pay tribute to Felicity who has worked incredibly hard this year. She took on the role of Musical Director while I took my sabbatical and showed what an excellent musician, organiser and enabler she is. I have been very grateful that she has agreed to share the role with me since my return.

Alison Wood

12. Children's Church

The leaders of Junior Church recently decided to change the name of the children's Sunday ministry in our Church to Children's Church. The 3 to 7 year olds are named Seekers and the 7 to 11 year olds remain Investigators. We meet on Sunday mornings during the 9.30am service, except for the 1st Sunday of the month, when COGS takes place and the main school holidays.

Seekers have 13 children on their register and Investigators 8 children. Both groups' sessions are based on material produced by Scripture Union. At Seekers a Bible story is told with a prayer then there is a time for singing and craft. Investigators' sessions are based on the same story used by Seekers but time is spent exploring and questioning the meaning of the story by discussion, drama, craft and games.

With the Family Service Committee the leaders and helpers of both groups are seeking to involve the children in COGS. We are fortunate that so many of the children are willing and able to take part in our Services and we need to endeavour to nurture and encourage that. A good example of the children's talents was evident once again at the Nativity Play, which was so well supported by members of the Youth Fellowship Group.

May we continue to pray for the children and for those that minister to them.

Shirley Corti and Marianne Long

13. Youth Fellowship

Youth Fellowship continued to meet on the first Sunday of the month with breakfast kindly provided by Richard Gash followed by Bible study and discussion and on the third Sunday of the month from 4-6pm. There was a change of YF team in the autumn term of 2014 when Robin Kent, Christine Davies and Georgia Boon were replaced by Amanda Paradine.

Youth Fellowship members are aged between 11 and 18 with a core group of about 7.

Youth Fellowship took an active part in the St Barnabas Nativity Play at Christmas and the Fish and Chip supper pantomime in February. In autumn 2014 we went on a local pilgrimage of historic religious sites in Caversham and visited Dunsden Church to hear about War Poet Wilfred Owen's local connection.

Members of Youth Fellowship contribute to music in Church services, regularly read intercessions and several are involved as Servers as well.

The new COGS services on the first Sunday of the month provide another opportunity for Youth Fellowship involvement and plans for socials include a fun table tennis tournament.

Amanda Paradine

14. Prayer Chain Ministry

Prayer is a thread which runs right through pages in scripture. This important ministry has been part of the life of St. Barnabas Church over the last few years. A faithful group of people takes time to pray for specific situations which are communicated via emails.

Committing to a prayer chain requires very little time. It requests people to pray while continuing with normal activities. It does not require going to meetings, prayer relates to a need when called upon and then retained in prayerful commendation. We would welcome others to join us if they feel called to this ministry of prayer. Please speak to the Vicar or me for further information.

Jean Rae

FELLOWSHIP

15. Fellowship Groups

The fellowship groups of St. Barnabas Church meet in each others' homes on a monthly basis and provide mutual support and pastoral care for their members. The fellowship group co-ordinators meet on a quarterly basis to review things and the sharing of ideas and observations within the church community is a valuable resource in helping us to explore what it means be a Christian community today.

In so far as it is possible to record the groups meet as follows:

First Monday of the month : 8pm, facilitated by Rosemary Weekes and meeting in her home. Second Thursday of the month (but subject to variation): 8pm in Joy Wallbank's home, various members of the group facilitate.

First Thursday of the month: at 10am, peripatetic in members' homes, facilitated by a member or the Vicar when available. The fourth group is peripatetic and meets on mutually convenient evenings: in members' homes; Wendy Howell is the contact, various members of the group facilitate.

Derek Chandler

16. Study & Discussion Group

Though numbers might vary which mainly relates to prior commitments and illness overall a faithful nucleus of people continues to attend the meetings.

The theme of a study which we undertook last year was "Following Jesus" and the wide ranging topic generated many lively and challenging discussions. This confirms that is appropriate for members of this type of gathering to have "ownership" of the group. Some meetings were led by Mark Burton whose research is always in-depth. We have been fortunate to hear some very inspiring speakers at our open meetings. Many of them come from within the congregation. When possible members of Caversham Park Church join us for such sessions – another example of the two churches working more closely together.

The blend of study and speakers continues to work well. New members to the group would be assured of a warm welcome.

Jean Rae

PARISH ACTIVITIES

17. Parish Centre Activities

Use of the Parish Centre continues much as before, with a variety of regular groups, meetings and activities, and the occasional one-off event. Efforts are made to try and accommodate all requests for time/space, but inevitably there have been occasions when two or even three things have needed to occur at the same time, which has required a bit of give-and-take. It is good that this is the case, and that the facility is not lying idle for long periods of time. There is still scope for extending opening hours and the range of activities on offer, so please do not hesitate to talk to me if you have a bright idea – but you will need to resource it yourself and not rely on the existing very small group of volunteers who assist me in staffing the centre.

For those who are not aware of what goes on currently, the following may be helpful.

St Barnabas Groups/Activities

Busy Bees (Monday -weekly)
Craft Group (Tuesday - weekly)
Prayer Group (Tuesday - weekly)
Alpha Course (Wednesday - weekly)
Study & Discussion Group (Thursday twice a month)
Living With Loss (Friday - monthly)
Quiet Space (Friday - monthly)
Older Peoples Fellowship (Friday - monthly)
Lunch and Company (Friday - monthly)

Other Users

Happy Feet (Tuesday advertised weeks)
CADRA
Re-Inspired
Emmer Green Lady Gardeners
Caversham Park ECC

Richard Gash

18. Busybees

Busybees is songs, Bible stories and crafts for pre-school children and the adults that care for them. The big change this year for Busybees was to move to weekly meetings. I would like to thank all the volunteers who have made this commitment and it has been fantastic to see how it has been rewarded in the response of those who come. Busybees provides an alternative to Church to some of our neighbours in Emmer Green and this transition should provide us, as a Church, with encouragement to be even bolder.

Derek Chandler

19. Fundraising Events

This year's Household & Handyman Sale was exceptional due to the great weather and raised a staggering £1,800. The Christmas Fair also reached great heights due in part to one visitor, herself with South African connections, who, even after spending quite a bit of money on the stalls, then proceeded to write a rather large cheque. This meant that the money each of our 3 charities received from these 2 events was over £1,200 each.

Other events throughout the year supported the final push towards the Organ Fund target. We had another Furniture sale in the grounds and attended a Car Boot sale in Prospect Park. The Garden Party once again suffered from very bad weather. However I'm extremely thankful to those people who allowed me to twist their arms this year as so many regular helpers were on holiday. We had a variety of concerts throughout the year which are listed in the Organ Section (22). A new venture was the Quiz & Curry night organised by the church wardens, which it's hoped will become a regular event! Thanks to *all* those who helped throughout the year. Without their support, Richard Gash and I would be doing some of these events alone! Although the Organ Fund target has been reached, fundraising events will still continue for the time being to reduce the amounts needed to be found from church and hall funds for the project

Wendy Howell

20. Charities

Charitable giving and support to charities has a high priority at St Barnabas. This support takes several forms:

- i. Donations are made annually to charities from church funds. Priority is given to local and church related organisations. Each year the congregation is invited to make suggestions of charities that might be considered and the PCC agrees a list of donations. Details of the 2014 donations are set out in the Annual Accounts.
- ii. The collections from the Christmas services are passed to the Churches in Reading Drop-in Centre and Women's Centre
- iii. The proceeds of two dedicated fundraising events are used to support charities and activities that have links with the church:

Christian Engineers in Development

This is a UK based volunteer organisation devoted to providing engineering expertise for projects in the poorest overseas communities. The CED Treasurer is a congregation member. The St Barnabas donations were used on a project to bring water supplies to and related facilities to the village of Rushere in Uganda and also to help investigate and upgrade water supplies to the Majahida Bible College and community in Tanzania.

Education for Life

This charity is based in Mombasa, Kenya. Its Director has family connections with Emmer Green and does visit us when in the UK. It works to support children who have missed out on their foundation education.

Masiphumelele

A congregation member regularly visits this community in South Africa to offer help to individuals in schools and hospital. The funding from St Barnabas is used to purchase materials and equipment for local health and education activities.

21. COMMUNICATIONS

Church website

A new Administrator for the web site came forward –Janis Reeves –although subsequent illness reduced what she was able to do. Felicity and Guy Chapman made a major contribution to updating the appearance and impact of the site. It remains a major source of information about St Barnabas both internally and externally.

Newsletter

The Summer Newsletter was produced as a joint exercise with Caversham Park Church and distributed widely in the area. There is some evidence that delivering Newsletters to local homes does produce some contacts. Thanks to Felicity Chapman who served with distinction as Editor until the summer. Steve Williams took over later in the year and a well-received Christmas edition was produced for internal circulation.

Facebook

Towards the end of the year the initiative was taken to establish a St Barnabas Facebook page. We are grateful to Zoe England and David Little for their support in getting this successfully off the ground. The potential of Facebook to provide up to the minute news and publicity for activities is being realised with some positive feedback.

Targeting Communications

Historically there has been a single, extensive list recording people in contact with the Church. Communication with them tended to be in the form of letters. It was difficult to produce single communications that were relevant to such wide range of contacts, from committed Church members to people with only a casual connection. Efforts are now being made to set up a database that will enable more information to be available on the level of contact that people have. It should also be possible to make greater use of electronic communication, always remembering that not everybody has the facility to receive information that way.

Bill Harper

BUILDING MANAGEMENT

22. Organ Restoration and Regeneration

As mentioned in the Finance Section the appeal target of £60,000 had been reached by the end of the year taking into account income expected in 2015. The sterling efforts put in by the fundraising team are set out in Section 19. It was a good year for music with a full programme of concerts. A Brass Band Evening in March, the Five Voices group in May, the Maesteg Gleemen in October and the Gratis Choir in both May and November. Our thanks to all these groups for their support and to the many people who did the organising. Most of all we are so grateful to the many members of the congregation who made generous personal donations.

The plan is for the work on the organ to start in April 2015.

Bill Harper

23. Hall & Buildings Committee

The Committee met in February, July and November 2014

Works to respond to the recommendations of the 2011 Quinquennial Inspection of the church continued. Of the significant recommendations, only a repair to one of the nave windows remains outstanding.

Further work was undertaken to alleviate the persistent leaks in the roof of the Parish Centre. No further evidence of water penetration has been seen, but it now remains to redecorate the stained areas of wall and ceiling.

The condition of trees in the grounds was monitored and work undertaken to remove excessive growth.

The Committee is grateful to John Notton for monitoring energy usage with a view to assessing where economies might be found.

Various other small repairs and improvements were carried out by tradesmen or by the small but dedicated volunteer maintenance team.

Bill Harper

24. Church Hall

Our Church uses the Hall for Children's Church, and the Fish & Chip Supper, Handyman Sale, Garden party, and other Sales for Charity.

It is really well used by groups from our Community who hire for weekday sessions. Each week it is hired for 31 hours out of a possible 60 hours (9am to 9pm) The Church website now has a list of all the external groups that hire the Hall. Why not have a look? Click on any activity that interests you – a new page with full details appear. Our regular users – Rosehill WI, Age UK, the Art Workshop, Singing for the Brain and various dance, pilates and exercise classes – continue to use the Hall. We are also pleased to also be the home of the Guides, two Brownie packs and the Rainbow Group. The Hall is also very popular for weekend Children's Parties and during 2014 we had 70 families hire the Hall for parties. I am pleased that the Hall is able to contribute a large amount to our Church finances and to the Organ Fund.

Thanks to Shirley Choules who keeps the Hall (and also the Church and Centre) nice and clean. Thanks again go to the many people in the congregation who help with maintenance – painting, drains, bins, electrical checking and so on.

Jon Barclay.

25. THE BENEFICE – ST BARNABAS AND CAVERSHAM PARK

Further to this year's incumbent's report perhaps the main transition being handled in the Benefice at present is the continuing retirement of long standing voluntary authorised ministers and the need to handle this transition in creative and collaborative ways for the future. Ministry continues to be developed and lay leadership in both churches is absolutely essential to nurture and should accompany the desire for both churches to be mission oriented at their core.

The Mission Action Plans of both churches have received much attention in the past year. Caversham Park Church LEP continues to explore appropriate models of outreach at the Milestone Community Centre and the possibility of a Baptist Pioneer minister continues to be explored.

Managing all these changes and uncertainties in ways that are both constructive and Christian will be the challenge that both church communities face.

Derek Chandler

WIDER CHURCH

26. Churches Together in Caversham

Derek Chandler currently co-chairs Churches Together in Caversham with Rev. Nigel Jones. Derek is also the chairperson for RE-Inspired Caversham, the ecumenical primary schools project. CTC continues to question and review its role in changing times and circumstances. A greater emphasis is being placed on organic relationships as it becomes increasingly difficult to maintain institutional structures. Could this be symptomatic of the wider issues facing the Church of the future?

Derek Chandler

27. Deanery Synod

Reading Deanery Synod decides how much Parish Share we pay, but there is more to it than that. We are now aiming to focus on how all churches can engage in mission in Reading. Therefore I shall start with our last meeting.

Mission Questions

In the on 10 February 2015 we started with a Reflection on Scripture and church representatives got into groups and discussed these questions:

- What is the difference between the church of today and the church of the future?
- What is happening in the church of today that shouldn't be happening in the church of the future?
- What is the single most important outcome that characterises the church of the future (or 2-3 outcomes if necessary)?

- What should we stop doing and/or what things are we taking for granted which have become unhelpful and which we need to free ourselves from?
- If the task is to move the deanery from the reality of the present to a desired future (from ‘here to there’), what is compelling about ‘there’; what is unreasonable or unattractive about here?
- In a short phrase or sentence, how would you characterise the identity/self-understanding of the members of the church of the future, i.e. how might we describe the kind of people we need to be?
- What three behaviours will be most important in the church of the future?

Areas

Areas in the Deanery have been amended to be East, West, South and North Reading. Our Caversham area is now part of North Reading, which includes: Caversham Thameside, Caversham St Andrew, Emmer Green St Barnabas, Caversham Park, Greyfriars, St Mary Minster, St Laurence.

Parish Share

A considerable amount of time has been taken up with deciding the Parish Share. Key principles which have implications for St Barnabas are:

- the total Deanery Share will be higher than last year
- if some churches pay a lower proportion, other churches pay a higher proportion
- churches in deprived areas are eligible for a reduction in share
- St Barnabas is in a wealthy area and has had a large increase in Parish Share, and will have increases in future

The Church in Action

We had a presentation about Credit Unions and we were asked to advocate that churches and members of congregations support the local Berkshire Credit Union. We also had a presentation about Readifood, which provides food for people who are in need.

New Key People

The new Archdeacon of Berkshire is the Venerable Olivia Graham, and she gave a presentation about her role and her background.

The new Area Dean is Revd Stephen Pullin. Instead of a presentation he was interviewed. His key points were:

- Deaneries are the most important unit of the Church of England, they are
 - big enough to provide the scope for innovative developments,
 - small enough to function through meaningful relationships
- Stephen’s grounds for hope are
 - Bishop Andrew wants to help create the conditions for the church of the future to emerge
 - if we truly align ourselves behind God’s purposes then great things can happen.
- important ingredients in mission are identified holiness and courage, so:
 - the greatest need of our people is our personal holiness
 - if it’s not changing, you’re not leading

Mark Burton

28. Diocesan Synod

Oxford Diocesan Synod appears distant, but plays an important role as it agrees policies which will apply to our church. These are the key points of the three meetings.

22 March 2014 Synod

Research into the effect of Living Faith

The Living Faith Initiative started 5 years ago and has 5 strands, with a suggestion that parishes focus on one strand per year, although parishes should feel free to treat it flexibly . The strands are: 1. Sustaining the Sacred Centre; 2. Making disciples; 3. Making a difference in the world; 4. Creating vibrant Christian communities; 5. Shaping confident collaborative leadership.

Three groups were analysed: 1. Clergy & LLMs; 2. PCC Secretaries / Church Wardens; 3. Members of church congregations. Interestingly, the responses from congregation members was so low that it could not be analysed quantitatively.

Diocesan Board of Finance

1. The 2013 year end results were presented

The position is not as bad as was feared, and the Diocese is making strong efforts to keep costs down.

2. 1% Parish Share Rebate to individual churches that pay their share by Direct Debit.

This means that individual churches that can meet their share would not be disadvantaged if their deanery cannot, as this otherwise they would not receive a rebate.

Ordination of women bishops

We overwhelmingly supported the new proposed legislation. Bishop John noted that the previous legislation which was not passed, was, in fact flawed, as subsequent legal advice was that aggrieved persons would have had to take action against the CofE in civil courts.

There are 3 key differences to the previous proposal that was not passed by General Synod:

1. The legislation is simpler - it is simply that women can be bishops with no explanation. The original legislation was too complex and endeavoured to cover certain points which then gave rise to contention.

2. The proposal accepts that “those who dissent from, as well as those who assent to, the ordination of women to the episcopate are both loyal Anglicans”. This was an existing principle which became invisible during the November 2012 debate.

3. The shape of the legislation has been agreed first. This includes safeguards including a grievance procedure and the Sees of Ebbsfleet, Richborough and Beverley will continue to exist - churches that do not support the ordination of women can ask to be looked after by one of these bishops.

There is also a change to the ordination of women legislation to make it consistent for both genders.

This legislation has been passed and the Church of England now has its first Women Bishop.

21 June 2014 Synod

Annual General Meeting of the Diocesan Board of Finance

Revenue Budget

The revenue budget relating to clergy is currently a little under budget owing to higher vacancy levels than anticipated.

Deanery Share

The Diocese allocates total budgets to each deanery partly using Experian data (which has generated a certain amount of controversy). Reading Deanery has been allocated a significant discount compared with other deaneries owing to deprivation in the Borough.

It is then up to each Deanery to decide how to allocate their budget between their churches.

Annual Report and Accounts of the Diocesan Board of Education

Education staffing is increasing, but this does not represent an increased cost owing to traded services (selling services to individual schools). LEAs are no longer able to provide the level of support that they used to, and this is particularly so for Oxfordshire CC. The DBE is actively setting up academies.

A key point again is the desire for the Diocese to support work with children in church schools. This has funding implications. A point again raised was that we should also consider support for other LEA schools.

Intentional Evangelism

The purpose was for Diocesan Synod to:

- familiarise themselves with the national dialogue that is taking place;
- reflect on the opportunities and challenges such dialogue poses for our Diocese.

There was group discussion on the Seven Disciplines of Evangelisation.

The aim of the discussions was to listen to each other, to share and identify experiences of good practice and to attend to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. The aim was not to generate a long wish-list of potential initiatives. Three questions were to be addressed:

1. What has been the group's experience in this area?
2. What stories of good practice would you share and why?
3. What do you think the Spirit is saying to our Diocese about this area?

Parish Focus

A presentation was made on Walton Holy Trinity Church in Aylesbury Deanery. It is on the Evangelical part of the spectrum. As well as being large, Holy Trinity Aylesbury is a growing church. Therefore it is an illustration of church growth.

Opening Worship

All meetings start with a devotional worship, an element of the strand of sustaining the Sacred Centre, line with the policy of reinforcing Living Faith in the life of the Diocese.

Presidential address

The bishop of Dorchester is acting as Bishop of Oxford until the new bishop is appointed. The timetable for the appointment was described - it could be late summer 2015 before there is a new bishop.

Statement on the middle east situation

An inspirational presentation was given by Imam Monawar Hussain about how Islamic people wish to be integrated into British Society. Monawar Hussain founded the Oxford Foundation and developed The Oxford Muslim Pupils' Empowerment Programme (OMPEP) which works with young muslims in schools. A number of mainstream Islamic leaders and scholars have written an open letter to the so called Islamic State. This letter goes through a number of points showing how Islamic State's behaviour is contrary to Islam. Particularly inspiring was the opening address to the terrorists is "Peace and the mercy of God be upon you" (reminiscent of Jesus' greeting "shalom" or peace be with you).

Living Faith: the future

All strands of Living Faith have not been developed throughout the Diocese, and feedback is that people wish more time to do so. Therefore Living Faith will be further embedded. One example is for all meetings to start with a spiritual activity, which helps us be aware that we are undertaking God's mission.

Private member's motion: disinvestment from fossil fuel companies

The substance of this motion is that fossil fuel causes global warming and that the church has a duty to oppose the use of fossil fuels. The way to do this was said to be to disinvest from companies that are involved with fossil fuels as the Church invests in various funds and some of this investment is in such companies.

Those opposing indicated that by being an investor, church bodies can influence the extraction and use of fossil fuels, whereas this influence would be lost with no investment.

There was a lively debate, with various views expressed. These included whether the strategy would be practical, or effective, and what churches should do, and potential costs. There was also the unpopular position of whether scientific evidence does support global warming.

The motion was passed, but its effect is for the General Synod to be asked to debate the issue and there is no immediate impact on the Diocese.

Mark Burton

ST BARNABAS CHURCH VOLUNTEERS and ACTIVITIES

This statement describes how many of the activities involved in running and sustaining the Church are organised, and who – as an individual or in a small team - has responsibility for the various activities. Many of them would be happy to have some help or new members, and would be pleased to give more information.

Worship and Ministry

Intercessions	Karen Allen
Servers	<i>Vacant</i>
Sacristan	Alberto Perona
Sidespeople	Graham Davey
Sound system	Douglas Rae
Altar Linen, etc.	Susie Downer
Altar clothes	Alison Wood
Lesson reading	Richard Gash
Flowers	Wendy Howell
Alpha	Elizabeth Gash, Marianne Long (and team)
Children's Church	Shirley Corti, Marianne Long (and team of leaders and helpers)
Encouragers	<i>Vacant</i>
Baptism Visitors	Derek Chandler
Bible Study Notes	Pat Stevens
Chalice (<i>By invitation</i>)	<i>Vacant</i>

Fellowships and Groups

Monday evening	Rosemary Weekes
Thursday daytime	Derek Chandler
Thursday evening	Joy Wallbank
Evening (variable)	Wendy Howell
Study & Discussion	Jean Rae
Youth	Amanda Paradine
Living with Loss	Gillian Wilson

Activities

Health & Safety	Douglas Rae
Child Protection	Gillian Wilson
Centre Drop-Ins	Richard Gash
2 nd Friday Tea	Gillian Wilson & Mary Cameron
Last Friday Lunch	Elizabeth Gash & Juliet Holland
Summer garden opening	Sue Harper
Busy Bees	Derek Chandler (Wendy Howell, Shirley Corti, Joy Wallbank, Marianne Long, Elizabeth Gash)
Fundraising Events	Wendy Howell and team
Catering Team	Shirley Corti, Joy Wallbank
Sunday Coffee rota	Wendy Howell
Newsletter Editor	Steve Williams
Leaflet distribution	Jon Barclay
Website administrator	Janis Reeves
Stewardship	Sue and Bill Harper
Sunday Transport	Susie Downer

Building

Vergers	Richard Gash
Centre Manager	Richard Gash
Garden rota	David Miles
Maintenance team	David Miles and Bill Harper
Hall Manager	Jon Barclay
Display Boards	Anne Mace

Choir and Music Group

Alison Wood, Felicity Chapman and team.

Diocese of Oxford
Parish Child Protection Policy Statement
PARISH of ST BARNABAS EMMER GREEN

The following policy was originally agreed in 2010, and most recently revised at the PCC meeting held on 8th October 2014

1. We are committed to:
 - The care, nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children and all adults
 - The safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable
 - The establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is a culture of ‘informed vigilance’ as to the dangers of abuse.
2. We will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with safer recruitment principles, including the use of Criminal Records disclosures.
3. We will respond without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, co-operating with the police and local authority in any investigation and we will have a clear reporting procedure in place.
4. We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with him or her an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.
5. We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.
6. We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
7. In all these principles we will follow statute, guidance and recognised good practice.
8. We will advise the Diocese which Registered Body we use to process applications for Disclosure & Barring Service Disclosures.
9. We will advise the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser if we receive a Disclosure which is ‘blemished’ or ‘positive’.
10. We will review this policy annually, check that our policies are up to date, and supply a copy of the updated policy statement to the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser.

Our Safeguarding Officer is Mrs Gillian Wilson
4 Grove Mews, Emmer Green
Reading RG4 8SN
Phone 0118 947 8772
Email gbusfield@aol.com