

ST BARNABAS CHURCH EMMER GREEN

Minutes of meeting 03/2014 of the Parochial Church Council held on Wednesday 8th October 2014 in the Parish Centre.

The meeting began with a reading and prayers.

1.Present: Derek Chandler (Chair), Felicity Chapman, Richard Cunningham, Susie Downer, Elizabeth Gash, Bill Harper, Sue Harper, Wendy Howell, Des Long, Jean Rae, Sandra Rice. In attendance – David Little.

Apologies: Mark Burton, Graham Davey, May Smith.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 16th July (02/2014) were approved.

3. Financial Monitoring

3.1 The financial statements for the period to 30th September were received. Progress was broadly on track and the overall financial situation was good.

3.2 The allocation of utilities costs from the church to the hall had yet to be made, but the overall spend was as expected.

4. Hall & Buildings

The water leaks in the Centre had been found and fixed. The roof repair appears to have been successful and the electrics have been repaired. Re-decoration will be done by volunteers. The trees behind the hall have been lopped. There are no other major works needed this year and the budget is likely to be underspent.

5. Children & Young People Committee

5.1 The Notes of a meeting held on 7th August were received.

5.2 The PCC expressed its appreciation of the role Amanda Paradine had taken with the Youth Fellowship.

5.3 The survey of family views on the provision made for children is now in progress.

5.3 A first meeting of the Family Service Group had been arranged.

6. Health & Safety

No items of concern to report.

7. Organ Refurbishment and Appeal.

There had been a good response to the final appeal, and the current income total is £36,879. There is no information on submissions made to grant giving bodies. A final review will be made early in the New Year, but current indications are that it is likely that the full scheme can be financed.

8. Benefice Developments

Derek's report on current issues was received. He explained how the PTO (Permission to Operate) arrangement worked.

9. Wider Church – Deanery Synod

9.1 Mark's report on the Deanery Synod meeting held on 16th September was received.

9.2 The Synod has voted to adopt a revised scheme to allocate the Parish Share. Mark indicated that this may lead to a significant increase in the amount St Barnabas will be asked to pay. The PCC was uneasy that a decision had been taken without a clear understanding of its implications. It would like to understand how the formula works. A proposal will be submitted to the November Synod meeting for final approval, and information on it will be circulated to the PCC so that the St Barnabas representatives can be briefed. Action Bill. The possibility of Des attending the meeting will be investigated. Action Derek.

10. Parish Share Costs and Caversham Park Church.

The St Barnabas Parish Share includes an element for the costs of the Vicar. He spends a significant amount of time with Caversham Park Church. As an LEP they pay a much lower share. A case will be made out to request a financial contribution from CPC that can be discussed by the two Standing Committees. Action Derek and Bill.

11. Hall Hire Charges

Hire charges are reviewed annually, but have not been increased for the last two years. After debate, the PCC decided to hold the charges unchanged for a further year. Hirers should, however, be informed as appropriate of this decision and that there will be a further review for 2016. Action Jon Barclay.

12. Child Protection Policy

The policy and related practice documents had been reviewed in 2012. No significant changes are required, but updated versions were submitted reflecting updates required to the criminal record clearance procedures. The revised statements were approved.

13. Charitable Giving

13.1 Giving from Church Funds. The donations list for 2013 was reviewed. It was agreed that the budget of £3,000 would be maintained, the congregation would be asked for suggestions of charities to support, and the Standing Committee would agree the final 2014 list.

13.2 Supported charities. One of the MAP responses had suggested that St Barnabas consider twinning with an overseas parish under the Diocesan or national partnering schemes. To enable this to proceed a volunteer will be required to investigate such arrangements, propose possible partners and then act as the contact. If this is done a proposal can come to the next meeting and the current list of supported charities reviewed.

13.3 Christmas Collections. It was conformed that the proceeds of these collections would again go to the CiR Drop in Centre and Women's Centre.

14. Mission Action Plan.

14.1 Bill outlined the progress being made on the main priority areas for action.

14.2 The developments in activity envisaged for these action areas will require additional volunteer time and effort. The initial appeals for help made with the issues of the MAP document had produced no response. There were in addition several tasks currently vacant, or becoming vacant, for which volunteers would be required.

14.3 The PCC considered how best to set about encouraging people to offer themselves as volunteers. There were seen to be two ways in which the matching of tasks to individuals might be approached:

- i. Where a particular, limited, task could be specified e.g. managing the servers rota, it would probably be inappropriate to advertise this as a vacancy but to try to identify individuals who might be suitable and willing to carry it out.
- ii. In broader areas of activity, attempts to produce single, or groups of, job descriptions may be right in theory but may not be effective in practice. They can be time-consuming to draft and agree, but then appear daunting to potential volunteers. Experience indicates that it is better to describe in general terms an area where effort is needed, e.g. communications, and invite people interested in helping in that sort of activity to indicate what they believed they could contribute. It should then be possible to define a role which fitted the individual and also contributed to the overall requirements. That may mean that all aspects of an area of activity are not covered, but it would provide contributions by people who felt comfortable and motivated in what they were doing.

It was agreed that a combination of these two approaches was needed.

14.4 Some progress with recruitment is being made. A possible Newsletter Editor has been identified, additional helpers are coming forward for work with children and young people, and discussions had started with a possible volunteer to work on some aspects of communications.

14.4 In the communications area there is a need to rationalise and update the various bodies of information that exist on the people who are in some way involved with the Church. Some work is being done on this, but the implications of the data protection legislation need to be understood. Action Bill.

14.5 Pastoral care had been identified in the MAP as a priority area. The idea of creating a team of designated visitors had been floated, but was not attracting a response. It is recognised, however, that many people are in various ways involved in caring for their fellow Church members. What is perhaps needed is a way of recognising, and encouraging, a variety of activities related to what people felt able to undertake (see ii above). The idea of “befriending” was introduced, and the PCC was keen to better understand how this might operate. Action David.

14.6 It was agreed that a sheet would be prepared for distribution to the congregation outlining progress with the MAP, identifying areas where help is needed, and describing the ways in which people might become involved. Action Bill

15. Mark Burton Training

15.1 Mark had produced papers seeking support for his training activities.

15.2 There were a series of specific requests for help and involvement with aspects of the Mission & Evangelism course he is currently undertaking. PCC members should respond individually to Mark. Action All.

15.3 He is also requesting financial support for his training, and had specifically referred to the Durham Certificate in Higher Education in Christian Ministry and Mission. Derek indicated that the diocesan training arrangements are undergoing major change.

15.4 The PCC felt that it needed to better understand how training might be planned, managed and resourced, and what role it might play.

At its February meeting the PCC had approved the following resolution:

“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)”

At its May meeting it had received the following information from Derek:

“Mark has been authorised by the Bishop to conduct a ministry in the benefice of Emmer Green with Caversham Park as a Licensed Local Preacher (LLP) for a period of three years. This is the normal licensing period and is subject to renewal. Licensed Lay Ministry for Mark is still an option for the future and a programme of training over the next two years has been agreed in seeking to develop Mark's ministry further.”

In order to be able to play its part in supporting the training the PCC now wants to understand:

- i. The aims for the proposed training programme. Given that the LLP licence has already been granted, what further training is required for that Ministry? What other roles are to be played within the broader position of Licensed Lay Minister?
- ii. What academic training is necessary for these roles, and what resources are required? The PCC does not wish to consider proposals for training courses on a piecemeal basis.
- iii. What practical training is involved to give experience in the future roles?
- iv. What assessments of progress are to be made? There should be interim reviews as well as a final assessment.

15.5 Without the overall context the PCC did not feel it could support the proposal for the Durham course at the moment.

16. Elizabeth Gash

On her retirement at the end of the year Elizabeth will no longer be an ex-officio member of the PCC, so this is her last meeting. Elizabeth was thanked for all her work on the PCC, and all members showed their appreciation warmly.

17. Future meetings

Standing Committee PCC
28th January 11th February
APCM
Sunday 22nd March 11am