

## ST BARNABAS CHURCH EMMER GREEN

**Minutes** of meeting 02/2015 of the Parochial Church Council held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2015 in the Parish Centre.

The meeting began with reflections on Acts 10, 44-48

**1.Present:** Derek Chandler (Chair), Mark Burton, Felicity Chapman, Richard Cunningham, Graham Davey, Susie Downer, Noel Drury, Bill Harper, Sue Harper, Wendy Howell, Des Long, Jean Rae, Sandra Rice.

In attendance – David Little.

**Apologies:** May Smith

**2. Minutes of the Previous Meetings** held on 11<sup>th</sup> February (03/2014) and by correspondence in April (01/2015) were approved.

**3. Appointment of Officers.** Bill Harper was appointed to serve as Secretary. This would be his final year in the role. Des Long was appointed to serve as Treasurer until the end of the accounting year in December.

### **4. Financial Monitoring.**

4.1 The financial reports for the period to 31<sup>st</sup> March were received. Pledged giving is static. The Parish Share is increasing by 10%, and will continue to increase until the target level of £60,000 is reached. Caversham Park Church is contributing towards the Share. The Hall rental income is increasing and the funds in hand very satisfactory. A summary of the finances had been prepared for the congregation.

4.2 The congregation should now be informed of the Share situation and people encouraged where appropriate to join the pledged giving scheme. Action Derek

**5. Hall & Buildings.** Following a major blockage in the hall drains a quote for £7858 for complete relaying had been received. The drains were in a poor state and had been giving problems for years. The Hall and Buildings Committee and Standing Committee had approved the quote and work will be carried out at the end of May.

**6. Health & Safety.** There are no matters of concern to report.

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

6.1 The Notes of a meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March were received. The suspension of the work with young people was noted with regret. Children's Church and Busybees remained in good heart.

6.2 Planning is in hand to organise a "Monday Club" offering weekly after-school activity for infant age children. Some concerns were expressed about the readiness of parents and children to participate at the end of the school day. This will be further considered by the CYP Committee.

**7. Staffing and Volunteers.** A short report was received showing the encouraging progress was being made in filling vacant positions.

## **8. Organ Refurbishment and Appeal.**

8.1 The start of the refurbishment work had been delayed by the organ builder until 15<sup>th</sup> June.

8.2 The redecoration of the chancel will now have to be delayed. The carpet will be taken up when the organ work starts and will not be replaced at that time. Experience will be gained on operating without the carpet before a decision is taken on its future.

8.3 The closure of the Organ Appeal required a decision to be taken on the “Brick Scheme” which had been part of the fundraising effort. It was agreed that it would not continue in the long term, but that it would remain open until 30<sup>th</sup> September. Action Bill

**9. Benefice and Ministry Report.** Derek commented on the key points of his report. The St Barnabas congregation would be encouraged to attend a meeting of Caversham Park Church organised for 23<sup>rd</sup> May to hear from Alison Boulton about the possible appointment of a Mission Enabler or Pioneer Minister for two years.

## **10. Wider Church**

10.1 A report from Mark on the March Diocesan Synod meeting was received. Throughout the Church of England increasing emphasis is to be placed on Mission to combat declining numbers. Money will be found from national sources to support mission initiatives.

10.2 Churches Together on Caversham is becoming more active with Ministers meeting more frequently and informally.

**11. Fundraising and Charitable Giving.** The actions of the Standing Committee were reported on allocating the proceeds of the Handyman Sale, allocating the free collection on 3<sup>rd</sup> May to Christian Aid, and agreeing choir concerts in November and January.

**12. Table of Fees for Occasional Offices.** It had become clear that the provisions made in the Table agreed in May 2104 had been in conflict with the legal provisions governing such fees. St Barnabas could not routinely charge for the use of church building or for completing the registers. “Extra” charges could be made for heating and for special calligraphy in the registers. The Table will be revised accordingly and reviewed again in May 2016.

## **13. Caring for Church Members (Pastoral Care)**

13.1 This is one of the last major activity areas covered in the Mission Action Plan that requires further development. The need for further volunteers to work in this area had been publicised, but without any responses. With the drop in Ministry Team resources this area will need better lay organisation and resourcing. There is a need for someone to co-ordinate information and efforts. It was agreed that a meeting of people currently active in this work and those who might be interested in participating should be arranged. Action Derek and David

## **14. Mission Action Plan**

14.1 The PCC received a report summarising the current status of the topics and issues that had emerged from the Plan process as priority areas for development. It was agreed that now was the time to focus on these key areas of action for St Barnabas, taking note of what had been achieved and identifying the fields for future action and monitoring without tying them to the MAP

14.2 Areas of Achievement. The following were identified as areas where much had been accomplished, but continuing action to sustain and develop them would be important:

- i. Parish Centre Activities
- ii. Work with Families, Children and Young People

- iii. Communications
- iv. Small Group Activity. Here the main emphasis would be on publicising the activities of the various groups and encouraging increased participation. More information would be placed on the web site. Action David
- v. Promoting Volunteering

14.2 Ongoing Areas In these areas more work is required to develop strategies and activities and to provide resources:

- i. Caring for Church Members (see above)
- ii. Leadership Development. Steps are being taken to assess the suitability and practicality of using the Church Pastoral Aid Society's Growing Leaders course material. Action Derek and David

#### 14.3 Outstanding Issues

- i. It was agreed not to proceed with the idea of introducing a Friends Scheme.
- ii. It was agreed not to proceed with participation in the Diocesan initiative to promote links with parishes in South Africa. It would require too much use of scarce resources to implement and maintain properly. There was, however, support for developing the links with Education for Life. It would be helpful to recruit a "Correspondent" to act as the point of contact for communications. Action Bill.
- iii. Taking into account this discussion and the report in item 11, it was agreed that the present arrangements to support three overseas charities with local links should be reviewed.

### **15. Partnership for Missional Church (PMC)**

15.1 The Bishop had invited the Benefice to participate in a pilot scheme in the Berkshire Archdeaconry to introduce the PMC in selected parishes. An open meeting had taken place on 27<sup>th</sup> April when the Rev Rachel Ross-Smith (who is acting as a facilitator for the scheme) had explained what was involved.

15.2 Derek then outlined what he saw to be the Benefice context within which PMC might be introduced, and particularly the situation in Caversham Park Church. (See also item 9). CPC would be considering the use of PMC at a congregation meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> May.

15.3 All members were then invited to give their views on the possible adoption of PMC within this context.

15.4 Derek then tabled two proposals which were put to the vote:

Proposal A That St Barnabas Church agreed to participate in the PMC pilot irrespective of the decision in Caversham Park Church.

In favour 4    Against 7    Abstaining 2

The proposal was therefore not approved.

Proposal B That St Barnabas Church agrees to participate in the PMC pilot subject to two conditions:

- a) That Caversham Park Church agrees to participate in the project.
- b) That a Steering Group could be formed consisting of a minimum of three members from Caversham Park Church and a minimum of four members from St Barnabas Church.

In favour 9    Against 1    Abstaining 3

The proposal was therefore approved.

15.5 This decision will be communicated to Caversham Park Church and to Rachel Ross-Smith. Action Derek.

**16. Future Meetings**

Standing Committee	July 8 <sup>th</sup>	October 7 <sup>th</sup>
PCC	July 15 <sup>th</sup>	October 21 <sup>st</sup>