

ST BARNABAS CHURCH, EMMER GREEN, READING

Minutes of Meeting 02/2022 of the PCC held on Tuesday 15th February at 7.30pm by Zoom

Present

David Howell (Chair)(Churchwarden) (DH), Wendy Howell (Asst Churchwarden) (WH), Bob Abel (BA), Mark Burton (MB), Felicity Chapman (FC), Irene Lindsay (IL), Noel Drury (ND), Roger Moore (RM) (PCC Secretary)

In Attendance

Joy Abel (JA) (Asst Churchwarden); Rhodri Bowen (RB), Diocesan Parish Development Advisor

Opening Remarks, Welcome and Prayers

DH opened the meeting with readings from “Soul Fuel” by Bear Grylls followed by a prayer from Rhodri Bowen.

Apologies for Absence

Susie Downer and Richard Cunningham tendered their apologies.

Approval of Minutes 05/2021

The minutes were approved unanimously and signed by DH.

Actions and Matters Arising

Para 11. DH had contacted local groups and EGRA to provide a response in March.
Para 14 Hiring – taken under Finance

Para 14 Loop – ongoing

Vacancy

RB explained that his role as the Diocesan Parish Development Advisor was to walk along side church communities to help them discern their mission and vision. He clarified the difference between his role and that of the Associate Archdeacon which was centred on the process of pastoral reorganization and recruitment of a new minister. RB explained that these two activities could and possibly should run concurrently.

Because St Barnabas is in suspension members opined that there was seemed to be some confusion over the vacancy start date. RB explained that the vacancy would start when the suspension was lifted and the suspension could be lifted at a point when there was some certainty about the pastoral changes envisaged. But he emphasised that this strand of work was within the control of the Associate Archdeacon.

Given that the suspension was lifted then RB explained that normal procedures would then apply. First, a Section 11 meeting would need to be convened within 6 months of

receiving official notice of the vacancy to select the two representatives who would act on behalf of the church during the recruitment process. At this stage other decisions would need to be taken. The next key meeting would be a Section 12 meeting at which the Parish Profile, Role Description and Person Description would be agreed.

Having outlined some of the stages in the process, RB concentrated on his role. He said that a vacancy give the opportunity for prayerful discernment, and he posed three questions:

- Where might God be calling us
- What might God be calling us to do
- Who might God be calling us to be

When drafting the Parish Profile he suggested that the section dealing with mission and vision would be the most challenging. The parts covering concrete aspects such as population, schools, care homes whilst taking effort would not require the same degree of thought.

He suggested having a small management team to oversee the work with as many people as possible engaged in writing parts of the documents. This would give a sense of ownership. He also recommended seeking the views of the wider community here in Emmer Green. In discussion, the possibility of using questionnaires and follow up phone calls was highlighted.

RB agreed to facilitate a Vision event on Saturday 19th March from 10 until 2 with a break for a “bring and share” lunch.

Health and Safety.

Nothing to report.

Safeguarding

Joy Abel thanked those members of the PCC who had completed the “Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse” course and urged others to take the course.

Finance

BA proposed that the fee for hiring the church be set at £18 per hour the same as the hall. He proposed that a church member should be present to ensure there were not problems. Following discussion, these proposals were agreed unanimously.

BA noted the donation of £400 to 5 charities and that there would be consideration of further donations towards the end of 2022.

BA explained that the budget was almost complete and at the instigation of DH, MB and RM would provide an element to cover recruitment costs for the new minister.

Having only had to make a minor correction BA had submitted the Financial Statement for review and explained that Bill Harper would sign the document on Friday 18th

Annual Report

BA suggested that reference to Caversham Park Church should be removed from the section on Governance. WH proposed some amendments to Annex. Given these minor changes the Report was agreed unanimously.

Baptism Policy

DH proposed that the Baptism policy be changed to allow baptisms at times other than the 9.30am. Agreed unanimously.

DH proposed to draft a proposal on baptism visiting and bring it to the PCC for agreement. **Action DH**

APCM

RM reminded members that the APCM would be very swift to allow the All Age Worship at 11.30. The main business would be the election of Churchwarden(s) and any potential PCC members.

AOB

Joy Abel It was proposed to co-opt Joy Abel as a member of the PCC, agreed unanimously.

Deanery Synod at St Barnabas. MB sought permission of PCC to hold a Deanery Synod at St Barnabas on Wednesday 23 March. After discussion agreed unanimously. WH agreed to cater for the meeting using fairtrade supplies and to be reimbursed from Deanery funds. Potential attendees approx. 80.

Dates of Future Meetings:

PCC: Tuesday 8th Mar, 3rd April AGM