

## **ST BARNABAS CHURCH, EMMER GREEN, READING**

Minutes of Meeting 05/2021 of the PCC held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre

### **1. 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)

### **2. In Attendance**

Joy Abel (JA) (Asst Churchwarden)

### **3. Opening Remarks, Welcome and Prayers**

DH welcomed Joy Abel. He opened the meeting reading a passage from Philippians 4 and a prayer.

### **4. Apologies for Absence**

Susie Downer and Richard Cunningham had tendered their apologies.

### **5. Approval of Minutes 04/2021**

The minutes were approved unanimously and signed by DH.

### **6. Actions and Matters Arising**

To note the PCC agreed by email correspondence the involvement of St Barnabas in the St Luke's disaster recovery plan. This would involve the Churchwarden and Hall manager opening the Parish Centre and Hall if alerted.

### **7. Health and Safety**

MB reported that the step next to the sound desk was unstable and needed attention. DH agreed to investigate.

### **8. Safeguarding**

JA noted that there had been one issue which had been referred to the Diocese and was still being monitored.

### **9. Finance**

BA reported that he had distributed a financial update to members. He emphasised the importance of the contribution the Hall makes to St Barnabas finances. He highlighted the fund-raising contribution made by Wendy Howell who had raised £1700 through boot sales etc. Wendy was given a unanimous vote of thanks for her hard work.

## **10. Alpha Course**

DH proposed the running of an Alpha course in early 2022, the PCC agreed unanimously.

## **11. Authorized Preacher**

Noel Drury explained to the meeting the path that led him to seek to become an authorized preacher. The meeting passed the following motion unanimously.

"We the PCC of St Barnabas Church, Emmer Green, give our approval to the Churchwarden, David Howell and the Revd Mike Smith, Associate Area Dean, to recommend to the Bishop of Reading the authorization of Mr Noel Drury to officiate as an Authorized Preacher at St Barnabas Church, Emmer Green"

## **12. Area Dean**

RM and MB briefed the meeting on the key issues: departure of Graeme Fancourt, cost of a full time Area Dean and the new leadership team model. DH expressed approval of the new model with regard to the Caversham area. The meeting showed no appetite for a full time Area Dean. These views will be shared with the Deanery Synod if appropriate.

## **13. Vacancy Update**

DH said there was little to report. The Diocese had decided to rent the vicarage for 9 months following extensive repairs and decoration. A meeting with Rhodri Bowen had yielded little progress and we were still awaiting confirmation of the "suspension"

## **14. Vacancy Discussion**

DH introduced this part of the meeting by emphasising the need to be positive. He outlined the questions to be addressed. See Annex A for questions and answers.

Summing up the discussion, he said it was likely to be a bumpy road ahead and he specifically recognized the concerns raised by Irene and said these would be addressed in future meetings.

## **15. AOB**

IL raised her concerns about the "Happy Feet" service and the difficulties some people face in accessing care. DH carefully explained the situation and requested that Irene put him in touch with the relevant contact.

## **16. Dates of Future Meetings:**

PCC: Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> Dec proposed dates 11<sup>th</sup> Jan, 15<sup>th</sup> Feb, 8<sup>th</sup> Mar, 3<sup>rd</sup> April AGM

## **Annex A**

If a guest visited St Barnabas and was asked “what did you like best?” what might they say?

- I had a warm welcome. I was not left alone somebody showed me where I could get coffee after the service.
- I wasn't overwhelmed. I was given time to settle down.
- When I walked in it was calm and quiet
- I appreciated not being badgered to get involved
- I really liked the COGS services the informal approach
- I don't normally come to church only weddings and baptisms and I felt welcome particularly when it was an informal COGS service
- I felt a genuine welcome not something superficial and put on
- I particularly liked the All Age Service once a month
- I felt as if I belonged straight away none of us and them
- I felt isolated and uncomfortable at coffee after the service
- I had coffee but nobody came to talk to me

If you were inviting a friend to St Barnabas for the first time, what one thing would you promise they would find there?

- You will be fed spiritually
- You will find that the church has a wide participation in services of clergy, lay preachers and church members
- You will find a strong lay leadership
- You will find it is easy to follow what is going on through direction by the minister and by following the service on the screen
- You shouldn't worry it is a non-threatening environment
- You will find you settle in easily into the church community
- You will find it is inclusive, the congregation participates a lot
- You will find bible based preaching

Who comes to our church?

- All types of Christians – we are a broad church
- In recent years more non-conformists
- People who feel lonely
- Those seeking support
- The elderly

- Few young families
- Diverse social backgrounds
- To be near children and grandchildren
- People from Chiltern Court

What is St Barnabas most significant contribution to the local community?

- Building the Parish Centre which allows community activities
- Busy Bees
- The Church Hall where many groups meet – brownies, yoga, tai chi, birthday parties
- Facilities for Emmer Green as a community
- In times of need – St Lukes disaster plan, Olly
- Support for the grieving

What do we want a vicar for? What space is theirs?

- To be a caring servant for the Emmer Green Community including non-church goers
- What things should the Laity do
- To be a team leader – to release the gifts of the church members
- To help develop a vision for the church
- To manage necessary future changes
- To be seen around and about the Parish as a visible symbol
- To be humble
- To do all the things that only clergy are allowed to do