

ST BARNABAS CHURCH, EMMER GREEN, READING

Minutes of PCC 01-2023 held on Tuesday 10th January 2023 at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre

1. Present

Revd Kevin Lovell (Chair), David Howell (Churchwarden) (DH), Joy Abel (Asst Churchwarden)(JA), Wendy Howell (Asst Churchwarden)(WH), Bob Abel (BA), Mark Burton (MB), Felicity Chapman (FC), Richard Cunningham (RC), Susie Downer (SD), Noel Drury (ND), Irene Lindsay (IL), Roger Moore (RM) (PCC Secretary)

2. Opening Remarks, Welcome and Prayers

Revd Kevin Lovell opened the meeting and thanked members for their kind welcome to the Parish which he and his wife Gill much appreciated and especially for the welcome gifts.

He prayed for the work we are doing here in Emmer Green and Caversham Park for our future and for concerns the unexpected death of Mrs Ruth Perry, Head Teacher of Caversham Primary school. He prayed for her family, friends, the whole school community, and the wider Caversham community, at this extremely difficult time.

3. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of PCC 11-2022 were agreed.

4. Mark Burton's Authorization to Preach

Proposal:

The PCC of St Barnabas, Emmer Green, being satisfied that Mark Burton has met all training requirements and has up to date DBS certification, give our approval to Revd Kevin Lovell, to recommend to the Bishop of Reading the renewal of the authorization of Mr Mark Burton to officiate as an Authorized Preacher at the Benefice of Emmer Green and Caversham Park, St Barnabas

Agreed unanimously

5. APCM

Revd Kevin outlined his thoughts about the APCM. He outlined potential options: a short APCM after the service on Sunday 23 April or a more substantial event on Saturday 22 April which would give a better opportunity to discuss the evolution of future ministry at St Barnabas and a future pathway. DH suggested that Sunday 23rd may be difficult because it is St George's Day and there could be scouts involvement. After a short discussion the consensus was towards a Saturday event. Final decisions to be taken at the next meeting.

Weekend 22/23 April agreed unanimously

RM confirmed that in order to meet timescales, contributions to the Annual Report should be sent to him by 8th February.

6. Finance

BA gave a short report. He indicated that at year end there was a deficit of £800 which was better than expected. A Diocesan grant to help with energy bills had ameliorated the situation.

BA informed the meeting that he would be stepping down as Treasurer as from the APCM. He informed that Richard Cunningham had agreed to take on the role effective from the APCM and would be working alongside BA up to that date. BA noted that he would continue looking after the Hall accounts.

It was proposed that Richard takes over the role of Treasurer effective from the 2023 APCM. Agreed unanimously.

RC informed that he wished to relinquish the responsibility of Electoral Roll officer as of APCM.

7. Where is God at work in Emmer Green and Caversham Park, and where does St Barnabas' fit in?

Revd Kevin outlined his initial thoughts based upon the first 3 or 4 weeks in post and the last six years of reflection. He described how he saw St Barnabas and its position in the community. He described his perceptions of the societal difficulties with religion where knowledge and understanding of church were at best limited. He focussed on the importance of building relationships, of getting alongside people and showing “Christlike” behaviour. He emphasised the importance being kind, gentle and loving.

His focus for the immediate future would be:

- Reaching out to Caversham Park
- Building up work with young families
- Improving communications

In response:

RM welcomed the enthusiasm but highlighted the difficulty of engaging the congregation to support the work. ND thought that Alpha was an important method of getting people informed and wondered if it had a place in the plans. He also highlighted his concerns about Highdown School. DH described the work that had started before the pandemic in the Parish Centre for children after school. IL expressed the importance of having pastoral visits by the vicar especially to those unable to attend church. In response Revd Kevin also noted the importance of establishing good contacts with the funeral directors in order to ensure St Barnabas was known to those in the Benefice who wished to have an alternative to the Crematorium.

There was concern expressed about the time being taken to create the new merged parish. Revd Kevin explained that the proposal was wending its way through the Church of England bureaucracy. As far as he was aware, following formal consultations with interested parties, it had been agreed by the Archdeaconry Mission and Pastoral Sub Committee, a crucial step.

8. AOB

Next meeting 21st February

DH closed the meeting with a prayer and the Grace.