

ST BARNABAS CHURCH, EMMER GREEN, READING

Minutes of PCC 02-2023 held on Tuesday 21st February 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), Irene Lindsay (IL), Roger Moore (RM) (PCC Secretary)

2. Apologies for Absence

Noel Drury

3. Opening Remarks, Welcome and Prayers

Revd Kevin Lovell opened the meeting with a reading from Mark's Gospel Chapter 9, followed by a prayer.

4. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of PCC 01 - 2023 were agreed.

5. Actions and Matters Arising

No specific issues, not covered by the Agenda, were identified.

6. Health and Safety

No issues were reported.

7. Safeguarding

PCC members noted that the Safeguarding policy had been reviewed and the master copy was signed by Revd Kevin.

8. Vicar's Report

Revd Kevin explained his strategy. It is based on three pillars: Reaching out into Caversham Park, Building up our work with children and families and "Infrastructure", building structures and processes to handle regular tasks. Details of progress to date and future plans are at Annex A.

9. Proposed changes to pattern of worship

In introducing this topic, Revd Kevin noted the changes that were made to St Barnabas' worship pattern as a result of Covid restrictions and the vacancy. Given the ending of both, the proposal is that the normal pattern of worship to be confirmed as:

- Sunday 9:30am Parish Holy Communion on the 1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays each month, and that on 5th Sundays we invite a guest speaker to preach.

- Sunday 9:30am Service of the Word on the 3rd Sunday of each month
- Sunday 11:30am All Age Worship on the 1st Sunday each month
- Sunday 11:30am said service of Holy Communion (simple celebration) on the 3rd Sunday of each month
- Wednesday 10:30am said service of Holy Communion
- Morning prayer in church at 8:30am on Tuesdays and 8:00am online on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays

This pattern to be reviewed in September.

Revd Kevin identified the 11,30am said service of Holy Communion on the 3rd Sunday of each month as a new innovation. He said this should be an informal, participative service, involving children and families. IL raised the issue of the former 8.00am communion service. Revd Kevin indicated that it was not currently part of his thinking as he had not felt there was a strong demand but as part of the review this could be considered. Revd Kevin indicated that in future the Gospel reading would take place in the body of the church.

The proposed pattern of services, with the caveat it should be reviewed before September, was agreed unanimously.

10. Standing Committee

Revd Kevin outlined his proposal to reinstate the standing committee, consisting of

- Vicar
- Wardens
- PCC Secretary
- Treasurer (optional)

And schedule to meet 2 weeks before each PCC meeting or APCM, to agree business/agenda.

The proposal was agreed unanimously.

11. Correspondence

Two items of correspondence had been circulated to PCC members. Charity Commission News on 10th February and on 21st Feb a Request of use of the Church for a Deanery Synod. As charity trustees it was noted the importance of being aware of Charity Commission announcements.

The Deanery Synod request to use the church on Thursday 30th March was agreed unanimously.

12. Annual Report

The annual report circulated to PCC members with subsequent minor punctuation and grammatical corrections was agreed unanimously.

13. Finance

- Budget. BA explained the difficulties of constructing a sound budget when many elements were changing for example energy prices and inflation rates. The outcome was a potential deficit of £10K. BA noted the deficit posed a challenge which would need to be addressed

by raising income streams. Revd Kevin outlined some of his ideas including taking advantage of baptisms and weddings. The Budget was agreed unanimously

- Report and Financial Statements. BA spoke to the report which had been approved by the Independent Examiner. The report was approved unanimously.

14. APCM

Following discussion, it was agreed that the APCM would take place on Saturday 22nd April starting at 10am followed by a session which would give a better opportunity to discuss the evolution of future ministry at St Barnabas and a future pathway.

15. Energy Audit

MB introduced the subject. In discussion there was concern about the actual value of an audit given the church audit had apparently yielded little. Revd Kevin suggested that in the future a much broader environmental approach was needed.

It was agreed, subject to the availability of a grant, that the Parish Centre and Hall should have an audit and the Church should have a review, if this was at no cost.

16. Charitable Giving

The proposals for charitable giving were circulated to PCC members on 3rd/4th January. Minor changes were suggested at the meeting.

Given these changes the proposals were agreed unanimously.

17. Any Other Business

There being no other business the meeting close with the Grace.

Next meeting 21st March

ANNEX A

Vicar's Report:

St Barnabas' PCC Tues 21st February 2023

Last meeting: I spoke of three priorities.

1: Reach out into Caversham Park

Slow burn, but we are beginning with our Lenten Discipline of looking to see where we find God at Work (and, following ++Rowan Williams, that will help show us where we might join in with God's mission). A series of drop-in sessions throughout Lent to gather those stories of where we are noticing God in and around us. Continuing to prayer walk round Caversham Park (three baptism families from the parish), prayer cycle which I use at MP online (when I remember) includes CP roads.

Not just Caversham Park, but across the benefice, I am building relationships with other ministers locally, funeral directors, care homes, schools, pre-schools, residents groups (CADRA) and parishioners in general. Also working my way round the congregation (not as quickly as I would like). Listening to many peoples' stories. Looking to see where are the needs? Wondering how might St Barnabas be able to respond to those needs?

2: Build up our work with Children and young Families

All Age Worship and Busy Bees are a good start. I am also working with baptism families (currently 7 child baptisms lined up for 2023, with enquiries coming in every week or two). I am using every opportunity to promote/encourage attendance at our activities for children/families/young people. Emmer Green Primary (Y2) and Emmer Green Pre-School are visiting church in the run-up to Easter. We have a small number of young people currently attending 9:30am worship, including at least one teenager.

My general 'direction of travel' is still to gradually establish the 'Sunday at 11:30' slot as a time for family-accessible worship (see later item on worship patterns), though 'what' and 'how soon' are still tbc. Will seek to experiment with worship and adapt according to the response. Two things that are becoming clear already

Key to all of this is about building trusted relationships: welcoming anyone and everyone from the community who comes across us. *We are good at this!* Two good examples recently from funeral ministry, also young people in worship.

Also: we have buildings. Our buildings have potential as yet unrealised (though we do have to maintain/improve them). Buildings can help us commercially and missionally: the art is to understand how we can find uses which achieve both at once.

3: Infrastructure

Making 'infrastructure investments': putting in place structures and processes to effectively handle regular/ongoing tasks.

Church management application: iKnow

- Special offer which expired 31st January. Nothing to pay until May 2026
- People database, fully GDPR compliant, central definitive list, updateable
- Handles 'Life Events': baptisms weddings and funerals (online enquiry forms on our any page, also our own website)
- Controlled access to those with key roles in the parish
- Capability to manage email distribution lists for specific audiences
- Future capability: calendar, room bookings, rotas. Plus other modules less likely to be of use to us.
- Updates to website – ongoing.
- Regular communications: using iKnow/MailChimp. Principally by email with a few paper copies as needed.
- Ultimately: weekly 'pewsheets', Read All About It, mailings to Young Families

Finance/budget: see later item

Kevin Lovell 20FEB23

DH closed the meeting with a prayer and the Grace.