

# St Mary the Virgin East Barnet

## PCC Meeting

19th November 2023

### Minutes

**Present:** Roger Melling (Chair), John Hawkins, John Savage, Gail Phillips, Angela Johnson, Steve Edwards, Victor Chan, Bettina von Cossel, Alison Blunt,

**Apologies:** Alec Corio, Margaret Cranfield, Thomas Hodgson, Amy Flannery, Grant Fassett, Shaun Sanders

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
  - a. Received as above.
3. Minutes
  - a. The Minutes of the 10th September 2023 meeting were approved and signed.
4. Matters arising (inc. Correspondence):
  - a. Recruitment Tracker Update
    - i. No material update
  - b. Correspondence
    - i. None received
5. MAP Matters arising (not elsewhere on the agenda)
  - a. Developing an integrated communications strategy.
    - i. Roger suggested that the monthly printed newsletter has outlived its current format with very few being taken from their distribution points. Many ideas on alternatives were discussed which emphasised the importance of progressing the communications strategy.
    - ii. No material progress due to lack of time by lead.
  - b. Increasing sidesmen numbers by 50% and providing invitation and welcome training to lay volunteers.
    - i. Good progress has been made and this will be an ongoing activity.
    - ii. **ACTION:** John to ensure new id badges have been printed for all volunteers.
  - c. Inviting community groups into partnership in the community halls.
    - i. Tai-chi group has started on Monday evenings
    - ii. Key access allows access to the church unless the inner door is kept locked. Alison asked if this had implications on our insurance. **Action:**

Roger to raise this with Alec in the first instance to see if this has previously been considered.

- d. Making a commitment as lay volunteers to pray for an ecumenical pioneer ministry on the NLBP housing development.
  - i. Prayer walks have continued
- e. Achieving Bronze eco church status.
  - i. Angela gave a report. We are currently at Bronze status in all categories apart from one: Community. A number of initiatives could easily get us to bronze in this area.
    - 1. Sarah Edwards from the JustMoney foundation presented at one of our Sunday Services.
    - 2. John will be adding a "Please consider walking, cycling or using public transport" to our general advertising.
    - 3. In relation to the monthly newsletter, it was suggested that we could easily add links to external sites advocating and promoting lifestyle changes, ethical gift giving, etc.
    - 4. Katherine volunteered to assist on social media with promoting events, etc. John will reach out to discuss access.
    - 5. New Barnet Parochial Schools Trust. Steve suggested that a case could be made for a grant towards providing an education programme based around promoting ways to achieve a more eco-friendly lifestyle. **Action:** Steve Edwards to put a note together on what could be possible

## 6. Regular Reports

- a. Events Committee
  - i. The PCC noted its thanks and appreciation for all assistance and help provided. A good community of helpers have formed for which Gail is very thankful.
- b. Safeguarding
  - i. Nothing to report
- c. St Mary's VA Primary School
  - i. New roof works has been completed
  - ii. Angela/Steffan (parent governors) have completed their term of office and 2 new parent governors have been recruited.
  - iii. John S. took collective worship at the school last Thursday. He complimented the relaxed, welcoming atmosphere.
  - iv. Many Christmas activities are scheduled.
  - v. Steve Edwards asked the PCC to approve a new PCC Foundation Governor, Adam Hoyle. Roger Proposed and John H Seconded. This was approved unanimously.
  - vi. A new diocesan candidate - Kritee Gower - is to be approved at a Diocese meeting on Tuesday
- d. Finance

- i. The Church has reimbursed Ash Construction for fencing works which are the responsibility of the council. We are expecting this to be refunded by the council in due course.
  - ii. The standing committee authorised £300 for emergency roof repairs to stop the leaks in the South Aisle. This work has been successfully completed and recommendations for regular clearance work received.
  - iii. Sparklight have completed work on external lighting - East window illuminations now available again.
  - iv. No figure is yet available for cost of the School House re-roofing
  - v. We bill mast electricity on quarterly basis - roughly £7000. This is separate from the income we receive for hosting the mast in the tower.
- e. Fabric
  - i. John H updated on the meeting of the fabric committee and the presentation of the Long list. Little progress has been made, largely due to time commitments from the lead however a brief summary of the intended re-organisation of the entrance hall and under the gallery was presented. It was explained that none of the intended work needed to be permanent and their impact on the flow of services will be assessed regularly and reversed if necessary.. Where those attending prefer to go straight to the South Aisle (parents with buggies, etc) we could place books at the front ready for them.
  - ii. Gail asked if it was possible to remove the worn carpet in the gallery. The PCC agreed this was something that could be done.
  - iii. Paul Moon is working on building a replacement for the external noticeboard that was removed and a potential ramp to allow step free access.
- f. Churchwarden Succession Planning
  - i. Margaret will take on the Rota after March/April/May
  - ii. Roger is talking to Paul Moon about handling the meter readings and invoicing for shared access
  - iii. Roger stated that the churchwarden's role at St Mary's has been made considerably more difficult without an administrator and a treasurer.
  - iv. John H emphasised that as a PCC we need to ensure that the role is not seen as a backstop that will take on all responsibilities in the absence of volunteers
  - v. Katherine suggested we produce a churchwarden role description -  
Action: John
  - vi. Katherine also suggested that deputy wardens could also take responsibility for a specific role (e.g. fabric, communications)
  - vii. It was suggested we could ask if other parishes had engaged a part-time administrator who may be looking to take on additional hours or seek to partners with a church in a similar situation to offer effectively a full-time role.
- g. Partnership enabling group

- i. The group hasn't met recently
  - ii. Roger suggested St Mary's should find an appropriate way to mark Shaun's departure
- 7. Working with Children
  - a. John S mentioned we would be resuming a crib service with children this year and the response had been good so far.
  - b. It was noted that compared to other churches in the area our children and young adults offering was Compared with St James
  - c. There had been little interest from parents in re-starting Sunday School craft activities. Given the potential for grant applications, Katherine agreed to look into options for paid support/activities
  - d. Several PCC members fondly remembered Toddler Praise and the friendship and support it provided. It was suggested that we look into activities such as Bubble Church to see if it would be possible to reinstate this
  - e. There was a desire for a further discussion on this topic but only when we had options explored and ready to be considered
- 8. AOB
  - a. Roger requested that anyone on the rotas send their availability for Jan/Feb rota
  - b. A new copying machine has been installed in the Brookside office

The meeting finished with The Grace at 6.07pm