

St Mary's the Virgin East Barnet

PCC Meeting

Minutes

4 February 2024

1. Welcome and opening prayer

Present: Alec Corio (chair), Alison Blunt (minutes), Victor Chan, Bettina von Cossell, Margaret Cranfield, Steve Edwards (from 5pm), Amy Flannery, Angela Johnson, Roger Melling, Gail Phillips, Shaun Sanders, John Savage.

2. Apologies: Katherine Duncan-Kerr, Grant Fassett, John Hawkins, Thomas Hodgson.

3. Minutes of the November PCC meeting were approved subject to two amendments: rewording item 7b and adding Katherine Duncan-Kerr as present. **Action:** John Hawkins to provide updated minutes for Alec Corio to sign at the next meeting.

4. Matters arising

- Outstanding DBS checks and safeguarding training need to be completed as soon as possible.
- Agreed to donate £50 to Inclusive Church (the same as last year).

5. MAP matters arising (not elsewhere on the agenda)

- Use of community halls – Church's sewing group, and new bookings for Tai Chi and hand drumming; ongoing partnership with Barnet Collective; one-off bookings for parties / wakes. Progress with other enquiries about bookings. John Savage suggested naming the two halls. Consideration of this will be taken forward via the Halls Management Group.
- NLBP – planning will confirm whether there will be a larger development and community space next month. There will be a broader briefing at the next PCC meeting.

6. Annual PCC business

- a. The PCC unanimously approved the safeguarding policy statements (proposed by Roger Melling, seconded by Angela Johnson).

7. To ask questions on written reports circulated or available to the PCC

- a. *Children's Outreach Working Group.* Messy church will be on 17 March at 3pm at Brookside. The children's chapel has playalong sets for the Eucharist and baptism, chalkboard, play altar, colouring sheets, seasonal leaflets, and My Communion books. Margaret Cranfield offered to print off these resources related to the service each month. Bettina von Cossell suggested that there should be a dedicated person to assist with children at All-Age services each month (especially during coffee time) and noted that the stairs in the small hall are a hazard for children. Normally the door to the small hall is closed. This matter will be discussed further outside the PCC. We can apply to the New Barnet Parochial Schools Trust for support with children's work. Alec Corio recommended

an ongoing discussion about the best way of growing our capacity with the Children's Outreach Working Group, ideally with a joint application with Brookside.

- b. *Communications*. The new weekly e-newsletter is being sent via Mail Chimp. We will need someone (in addition to Alec Corio) to be trained on Mail Chimp (see Job Fair below). The printed version will be in a different format.
 - c. *Events and Fundraising Committee* (no report)
 - d. *Fabric* (see below)
 - e. *Fabric Projects Working Group*. Margaret Cranfield can source new leaflets for the back of church from April. Other work on the list includes the need for a gate at the top of the cellar steps.
 - f. *Finances*. Roger Melling noted a correction to the paper: the Church's total monthly income is £10,043 and monthly surplus is £2900. Roger proposed (seconded by John Savage) that our monthly parish share payment should increase from £3000 to £4000 and that we should pay a lump sum of £45,000 towards what we owe for 2023. This proposal was unanimously approved. Roger is speaking to a book-keeper at St James.' Anna Castiglione is preparing the accounts for the annual report. Shaun Sanders noted that Brookside will employ someone who will be based at Wesley Hall.
 - g. *Partnership Enabling Group*. Partnership activities include Lent groups and the book club. There will be a farewell service for Shaun Sanders at Manor Drive, likely to be last Saturday in July at 4pm. He is moving to Walton-on-Thames, with his first service on 1 September.
 - h. *Planned public events* (no questions).
 - i. *Safeguarding* (no questions).
 - j. *St Mary's VA Primary School* (no report).
8. Report on MAP SMART Goal 5: Achievement of Bronze Eco Church status.
- Angela Johnson will make an announcement in Church and noted the importance of ongoing eco-literacy. This could be the focus of a service or post-service meeting.
 - John Savage will arrange for the certificate to be framed.
 - The PCC decided not to purchase a plaque (£96).
 - Roger Melling noted the importance of recycling correctly. **Action:** Gail Phillips will make a list specifying what should go in each bin in the kitchen. Steve Edwards will send Gail the link from Barnet Council.
9. Volunteer job fair.
- The Churchwarden role is not sustainable for one person. Roger Melling encouraged people to talk to him about the role. Ideally the Churchwarden should be a coordinator or enabler. Alec Corio noted that this role is possible for two people who work full-time and/or have children, as long as there is a strong volunteer body. The role should be more

straightforward once Alec has moved into the new Rectory. There is a committed team of assistant wardens.

- We also need a PCC Treasurer, PCC Secretary, Electoral Roll officer, Deanery Synod representatives and a PCC lead for Safeguarding to liaise with Chris Mears as Safeguarding officer. There is a long list of other jobs that need doing, but not necessarily by someone on the PCC.
- **Action:** Alec Corio will discuss roles with PCC members and will add required meetings for officers (standing committee meetings, PCC meetings) on the paper.

10. Stewardship progress.

- Stewardship Sunday led to six new people joining the Parish Giving Scheme, one increase, a couple of donations and a one-off payment. During the year, four people left the scheme and overall donations via the PGS were £1100 lower from 2022 to 2023.
- More Stewardship Sundays are planned.
- Kate Horn (Diocesan financial officer) will advise on making our stewardship campaign more effective and to look at legacy giving. She will also talk through options for a card machine. We have applied to a scheme where the Diocese subsidises a card machine, at a cost of £50 rather than £395. The church now has WiFi.

11. Amending PCC dates and reviewing timing.

- The next PCC meeting will be on 7 April (2pm) and the one after that will be on 7 July.
- There was some discussion about future meeting days and times. This will need to be clarified before the APCM.

12. Any other business.

- There has been a steady increase in attendance trends since the pandemic. This will be on the agenda for the next PCC meeting.

13. The meeting ended at 5.50pm with the Grace.