

St Mary the Virgin East Barnet

PCC meeting

17 March 2025

Minutes

Present: Alec Corio, Alison Blunt (minutes), Victor Chan, Margaret Cranfield, Gail Phillips, John Savage, Bettina von Cossel.

1. Welcome and opening prayer.
2. Apologies were received from Katherine Duncan-Kerr, Amy Jobson, Roger Melling, and Revd. Abe Konadu-Yiadom.
3. Approval of minutes of January PCC meeting – unanimously approved. AC to sign.
4. Correspondence received
 - a. Request for Inclusive Church membership donation: agreed to make a donation of £50. AC will talk to RM when back.
 - b. Retirement gift for the Bishop of St Albans: agreed to donate £25. AC will talk to RM when back.
 - c. Vacancy in See Committee: the link to the online form has been circulated for PCC members to complete in a personal capacity. This is our chance to feed into the selection process.
5. Matters arising:
 - a. Minuting resolutions passed by correspondence: passed the resolution to approve Steve Hicks as governor at St Mary's School (8 in favour, no objections, no abstentions); passed the resolution to install a shed in the churchyard (5 in favour, no objections, no abstentions). Planning checks are in process.
 - b. PCC safeguarding progress: PCC member training is up to date. Some training will need to be renewed over the course of the year. Chris Mears has registered to complete further training. Anyone working with children need to complete the Awareness of Domestic Abuse training. We could look at using Safeguarding Sunday to give the congregation an understanding of the basic training. AC will discuss further with MC and Chris Mears.
 - c. Sharpe monument: AC is convening a meeting between Estates at the Council and a representative from the Diocese to agree a series of viable options. JS suggested better designed iron railings to enclose the memorial and keep it safe.
6. MAP SMART goal 1: Steps toward appointment of a children's worker
 - a. Approval of draft bid – an application is in development for the New Barnet Parochial School Trust for funding to employ a children's worker (full cost of a part-time children's worker for three years (three days / week), a portion of which would contribute towards a parish administrator role). If successful, the PCC would need to find funds to cover the rest

of the cost of a part-time parish administrator. AC will circulate the final draft of the application.

7. MAP SMART goal 2: Planning and attending a congregational course on church growth
 - a. Outline of plans – the course entitled ‘Everyone’s Invited’ (based on the Church Army course ‘Faith Shared’) will be held over six sessions in May and June, with wine and pudding. The course focuses on sharing our faith and sharing with others, including ideas about how to become more confident about inviting people to church. The course will end around Father’s Day, with a particular invitation to attend church (15 June). JS suggested that each PCC member should commit to at least two sessions.
8. Church growth priorities
 - a. Receiving report on current quantitative data and November’s PCC reflection: AC summarised the key findings of the report. There is slow progress in the right direction, with variation between Sunday services and special services. Attendance was disappointing yesterday (29 people) when the Very Revd Jo Kelly-Moore, Dean of St Albans Abbey, was visiting. 14 people attended at 4pm – often different people compared to morning services.
 - b. Identifying further actions at this stage: GP suggested that the organ could be played for c.10 minutes before the service. The warden team will discuss further (e.g. recorded music). JS suggested a line of introduction to the readings (written by AC). GP asked about inviting children to come to the altar for the Lord’s Prayer. Agreed that the children’s choir should move further forward when they are singing. AC will talk to Alan. MC suggested that there could be a discussion group for those at All Age services who aren’t involved in other activities. Another suggestion was to hold occasional breakfasts before the service.
 - c. Outline of plans for facilitated PCC session in May: Darren Collins, team rector of parishes near Welwyn Garden City, will facilitate this session during the scheduled PCC meeting. The session will focus on what we can do and come up with changes that should go in a positive direction. MC would appreciate guidance on leaflets.
9. Annual reporting
 - a. Receiving the draft annual report, without financial statements: AC will follow up on final sections. RM will complete the financial reporting when he is back.
10. To ask questions on written reports circulated or available to the PCC
 - a. Children’s Outreach Working Group: no questions.
 - b. Communications: AC updates the website. His new phone number is on the safeguarding pages.
 - c. Events and Fundraising Committee: the table-top sale on Saturday raised £500.
 - d. Fabric: the Quinquennial report has been circulated. The first item is a report from 5 years ago. The key points to focus on are urgent, immediate actions. We will need to do some work on longer-term heating solutions for the church within the next Quinquennial period.
 - e. Finances: the report prepared by RM had been circulated. He is investigating a shared booking role with the Methodist church.
 - f. Halls Working Group: no questions.
 - g. Partnership Enabling Group: no questions.
 - h. Planned public events: there might be an additional event for VE Day on 8 May. Christian Aid week is the week of 11 May. GP suggested combining the VE Day tea with Christian

Aid, which was set up soon after WW2. There will also be a sponsored walk on 10 May. JS noted that we need to confirm dates for Christmas events soon.

- i. Safeguarding: no questions.
- j. St Mary's VA Primary School: the Bishop of Hertford will be coming to the school Eucharist later in the month. AC is confirming a date for a church-school evensong.

Any other business

BvC has asked Dick Selby about the model of the church. He has offered to make a new model including the community halls. We can then put it on the website or sell it.

The meeting ended with the grace at 10pm.