

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL,
ST. BARNABAS CHURCH, LINSLADE, HELD ON THURSDAY,
29th JANUARY 2009, AT 8.00PM IN THE CHOIR VESTRY**

Present:	Bernard Minton	Marlene Richardson
	John Deighton	Carolyn Birch
	Nick Moore	Russell Stannard
	Pat Faulkner	Janet Miller
	Wyn Jones	Fran Morrow
	Ian Woodward	Sarah Woodward
	Miranda Soper	Vernon Smith
	Maureen Gadsby	David Throssell

Apologies:	Bruce Benedickter	Carol Oakman
	Vicki Faiers	Simon Soper

Fr Bernard opened the meeting with prayers. The minutes of the meeting of 27th November were approved. Proposed by Fran, seconded by Ian. All agreed.

Matters arising:

18/08 a) Back of church – We are still waiting for the architects plans. Nick has put up the notices prior to applying for the faculties about the Votive stand, the Memorial book and Elaine's plaque.

26/08 Dates for 2009 – The list is now agreed and will be displayed on the notice board for everyone to see and use.
(Please note that Strawberry Teas at St Mary's are now 7th and 21st June, not 14th as previously advised)

28/08 f) Link doors – The crosses are on the doors. Carolyn will write to Mike to thank him and his employer for supplying the materials.

Action: Secretary

New items for this meeting:

Items for AOB – there were 3 items to be considered.

30/08 Vicar's remarks

Fr Bernard informed us of some forthcoming events. The Bishop of Bedford is coming to St Barnabas on 28th June and the Archdeacon of Bedford on 8th February. The Ouzel Valley team are holding a PCC morning on 16th May

when the Diocesan Mission worker will talk about life and mission and how the team can move forward. On 14th May there will be a series of meetings about Children and Youth work.

Lent is approaching and Fr Bernard invites any one to let him know of any particular wish. Stations of the Cross have previously been held on a Tuesday evening and perhaps this could be moved to Wednesday.

31/08 Child Protection Policy

A draft Child Protection Policy was distributed prior to the meeting. Carolyn outlined the process involved in preparing it and the next steps. There was some need to clarify what “must” happen as against “should” and who should have sight of the document before it is approved. Fr Bernard proposed and Marlene seconded and all agreed that the draft policy be sent to the Diocesan Child protection Officer, Chris Lees, for his consideration. Once approved, all interested parties will receive a copy. It was noted that Ian and Carolyn are to attend a course on Child Protection at the end of February and they will look to running a short course for members of St Barnabas.

Action: Secretary

32/08 Treasurer’s report

Vernon reported that the end of year accounts are almost completed and ready for auditing. There was £30,400 in the general fund at the end of the year but there will be an increase of £7,500 on the parish share for next year. He is putting an article in the Parish magazine to explain the position. Our utility bills are excessively high and he is looking at various ways to address this. One idea is to install programmed thermostats in the church and another to look at cheaper suppliers. Fr Bernard proposed and Nick seconded that Vernon investigate the best suppliers for our needs. All agreed.

33/08 Hall report

The hall fund is now just over £6,000. 2 commuters – one annual payment and one monthly, use the car park to date. Nick has asked Linda in the Team office to circulate details about using the car park. He will also ask other churches in the town.

Dave Darvill has put an article in the February magazine about the hall progress and to raise awareness of all that has been accomplished.

The hall fundraising committee had forwarded a list of fundraising ideas to share with PCC. These included an Easter egg hunt, an art exhibition, a kitchen tapas night, a pumpkin festival, a series of seasonal readings, and an ugly tie competition. There was some question about the pumpkin festival and amusement about the vicar wearing the “ugly tie” for a week, but other wise the list was well received! It was noted that a large injection of money is needed to get the project moving, although every little helps.

34/08 Quinquennial report

The inspection had taken place on 4th December and Nick reported on the report and recommendations. He was pleased to say that generally the church is in good order and, overall, the church has the appearance of being well loved and well maintained. Any recommended work is prioritised by categories – 1 -of utmost urgency, 2 -essential within the next 18 months, 3- essential within the next 5 years, 4 -within 10 years, 5 -items requiring routine maintenance and re-decoration and 6 -items requiring specialist advice. Nick said that we could do most of the recommendations without external help.

Priority 1 has 5 points – attend to lead saddle and rolls on north porch; carry out electrical inspection of building; carry out PAT testing; form Fire safety plan as required under Fire safety Order; check loose rung on tower access ladder.

Priority 2 has 11 points – attend to movement in north porch parapet; attend to areas of re-pointing identified; attend to masonry repairs and removal of ivy; check ceiling vents; repair tower roof; facilitate inspection of north gutters by architect; provide anti-pigeon measures at north east gutter outlet; check/repair gutter at B9, B6, B5; attend to minor plaster repairs; forward copy of asbestos report to Architect; investigate program of repairs to boundary walling.

Priority 3 has 5 points – set up monitoring of wall movement; carry out repairs to masonry; repair/repoint gable inner faces and west porch; carry out repairs to ceiling in south arcade and minor plaster repairs; consider improvements to NE toilet accommodation.

It is a very positive report and the Archdeacon has written to thank the churchwardens for their work.

35/08 Stewardship report

Russell reported that planned giving has increased by 25% since the Vision for Giving appeal, a good result for the campaign. There is a display at the back of the church showing giving for last year and for the coming year. This received much attention last Sunday. However, there is still a dependence on a few people giving a lot. The committee will not meet again until September.

36/08 Report from Churches Together

Wyn gave a report from the last meeting of Churches Together where St Barnabas was well represented. The Fair Trade shop in North Street cannot compete with the supermarkets but will consider discounts on some orders. Churches Together continue to monitor buildings and amenities in the town. The Town council website needs updating to include all the Christian groups in the town. They are organising Lent courses, the Good Friday Procession and United Service, Praise in the Park, and are hoping to share in the Bethlehem Peace Flame during Advent, as well as supporting Christian Aid week, the carnival and an ecumenical study day in June.

37/08 Standing Committee report

There was nothing further to report that was not covered by the agenda.

38/08 Any other business

- a) Worship – Fr Bernard had held a meeting on Monday evening to discuss the Church report “Transforming Worship”. He will be setting up a Worship committee of interested persons. One particular thing that came out of Monday’s discussion was that people missed the Music group.
- b) Maureen reported that the external lights by the church porch were not working and it was dangerous at night. Nick says this issue is being addressed but they are having difficulty identifying the cause of the problem.
- c) At the Bell ringers AGM some concerns were raised about remunerations received for ringing the bells at weddings and other related financial matters. Fr Bernard and Vernon will talk to the ringers and assure them the PCC is happy for the current system to continue, under which ringers receive the majority of the money relating to ringing activities and in return are responsible for the general maintenance of the Tower and Bells, which remain legally the responsibility of the Churchwardens and PCC.

The next full PCC meeting will be on Thursday, 26th March 2009.

The meeting concluded with The Grace at 9.35 pm.