

REPORT OF THE PCC AND ITS COMMITTEES

The PCC met on seven occasions this year – six ordinary meetings and one extraordinary meeting. As always, in those months when the full PCC did not hold a meeting, the Standing Committee, comprising the Rector, Wardens, Parish Co-ordinator, PCC Secretary, PCC Treasurer, Barry Hall and Frances Jones met to deal with essential business.

We began the year in May welcoming our two new members, Carol Levy and John Kuti as well as our new Warden, Ed Newman who has not sat on the PCC for over a decade.

The reports from the Committees of the PCC which follow give a broad synopsis of many of the matters which the PCC discussed during the year. We all owe our grateful thanks to the individuals who give their time, energy and talents on behalf of us all to ensure the smooth running of the Parish life through its sub Committees and groups.

As always the Fabric Committee kept us and the Treasurer on his toes with requests for consents to proceed with builders' quotes and approvals for insurance claims. Frances Jones must be able to prepare Faculty applications in her sleep!

Janet Beal and the Parish Centre Management Committee have done sterling work throughout the year improving the facilities at the Parish Centre to ensure that it continues to be such an important resource and income earner for us. A number of Parishioners have hired it for private functions, as well as enjoying the many social events organised by members of the Social Mission and Charity Committee. One of the largest functions held this year was, of course, the fabulous banquet in St John's to raise funds for our link Parish in Mozambique. The success of the evening was measured not only by the funds raised but also by the numbers who attended.

A continuing theme, carried forward from PCC meeting to PCC meeting, is our commitment to the Mission Action Plan ("MAP"). The projects identified following the Stewardship Supper in the autumn of 2007 were adopted and explored at the PCC Awayday in November 2007, along with other hopes, aspirations and goals. Whilst the PCC did not hold an Awayday this year, we regularly revisited the MAP to check progress and remind ourselves of its aims. As a Parish community we need to exist for more than just ourselves, we thus need to involve ourselves in the community around us. The Winter Night Shelter project as reported by Liz Murray is an example of what some members of the Parish are already doing. Going forward it will be important that all PCC members take an active role on one or more of the Committees and groups which report back to the Council. Our hope as we move into the new church year is that we establish a few more working parties and groups to look at our commitment to the link with St George's Beira and the school at Zove, to the environment and to the growth and development of St John's Care. All these will be examined at our next Awayday with the newly elected Council.

No review of the PCC year however would be complete without mention of St James and the continuing burden which we face with two listed churches and one limited parish income. At last year's APCM we mentioned developments concerning the proposal that a Licence under Faculty be granted to enable us to pass the use and

enjoyment of St James, plus a small area of the churchyard, to the Greek Orthodox Community (“GOC”) of St Katherine, Barnet. The Extraordinary meeting of the PCC last July discussed the proposed Head of Terms for the arrangement. These were approved and since then we have been finalising the details of the agreement assisted by our Surveyor, Simon Coe and the Diocesan solicitor. The final form of the Licence is now almost agreed. Under the arrangement the Parish will receive rent of £15,000 per annum for ten years. Additionally, during those years and in lieu of rent the GOC will undertake to spend a total of £100,000 on the fabric of St James to carry out much needed works to enable it once again to become a living, active (and health and safety compliant) place of worship. Thereafter, assuming that the GOC will wish to stay at St James, the full rent of at least £25,000 each year will be payable for the final 10 years of the licence term.

A great deal of time and energy has been spent over a long period of time trying to solve the problems caused by maintaining two church buildings within one parish. Whilst there is an inevitable sadness in accepting the change, the new arrangement will mean that the building will be held and nurtured in a way which we can no longer afford. The Rector of the Parish will still hold the freehold and God’s word will be proclaimed on the site by the GOC. The rent which the Parish will receive will enable it to realise some of the mission and outreach plans discussed in the MAP. If all continues to move ahead, faculty applications to the Chancellor will be made, St John’s will be appointed the Parish church in place of St James’ and sometime during the next few months the Licence will be granted. I look forward to reporting on the situation at next year’s APCM.

Alison O’Hare

Fabric Committee Report for APCM March 2009

Membership

Frances Jones (chair), Reverend Paul Walmsley McLeod, Margot Huish, Ed Newman, Andy Beal, John O'Hare

Dates of meetings

20 June 2008, 22 August 2008, 7 November 2008, 23 January 2009 and 13 March 2009

Saint John the Evangelist

Most parishioners will have noticed the enormous improvements which have been made to the appearance of the church, both the interior and the exterior. Much of this we owe to the Community Service working party (run by the Barnet Courts' Probation Service) which came to our church every Saturday for four months last year, ending in June. The standard of their work was exceptionally high. They redecorated the Parish Centre and the adjoining rooms and toilets and undertook a lot of exterior painting and weeding and gardening. They also dug a trench alongside the eastern side of the church which seems to have reduced if not solved some of the dampness problems there. The trench was subsequently filled in and some of the flower beds on that side of the church have now been covered with a plastic membrane and pea gravel in order to keep down the weeds. Jason, the gardener who maintains the gardens and plants on the northern and western sides of the church, has now increased his work hours with us each month so as to maintain the eastern side as well. All of the gardens have been greatly improved because of the regular weedkilling and hoeing which Jason is now undertaking.

Over the years the paving slab wall on the northern side of the church (beside the bus stop) had become badly damaged and unsightly. Luckily for us, the local council decided to raise the pavement level around the bus stop which necessitated them also raising, and therefore repairing, our paving slab wall. The paving slabs we have now are as wide as the brick supports beneath them so there is no overhang, which was a possible cause of the loosening and breaking of slabs in the past.

Saint John's also sounds better. The church bell has been refurbished and its timbre is now very much improved.

Good appearances have to be maintained by a regular cleaning and maintenance programme. Whilst Jason looks after most of the exterior for us, we cannot afford professional cleaning teams to look after the interior. Last November the one day

event we held (de-cobwebbing in the morning, church cleaning in the afternoon and lunch provided in between) was fairly well attended. We have also re-launched the system of regular cleaning sessions, on the first Saturday of each month. Volunteers are asked to sign up for a one hour stint between 9 a.m. and 12 noon, before or after which they will be rewarded with coffee etc. The first session was held on 7 March 2009 and was very well attended. Well done everyone. There is now only another eleven Saturdays left until the next year starts!

Also in the future, plans are being made for the installation of a memorial for John Phillips in the window over the crèche. John was a very active member of our church for almost the whole of his life. An architect by profession, he was for many years our Church Architect and designed many things including the Parish Centre, the Jubilee Room and the original buildings at Saint John's School, when it moved to its present site. Ideally the design of a stained glass window to commemorate John would have to be something characteristic of him, perhaps referencing his love of Pearson and also the work John did at Truro Cathedral. The plans for this memorial are still in a very early stage. Expect much more on this in the coming months.

Saint James the Great

We are very lucky in that a few hard working parishioners put in many hours each month to maintain the churchyard and gardens. This is a long term commitment because even if, as planned, the church itself is let to another church community, most of the churchyard and gardens will remain ours.

If the church is let, we will need to bring to Saint John's the wooden board which lists all of the Rectors of the Parish and also the lectern presently at Saint James'. The list of rectors might be set up on the western wall, behind the font.

During the Open Day at Saint John's last September the documents displayed on our noticeboards included 8 or 9 photographs of previous Rectors of the Parish. This has inspired some members of the Fabric Committee to assemble a complete set of photographs. These will be photocopied into regular sizes in order to fit standard frames and kept together with some biographical details as to each Rector. The collection, which is now nearly complete, will be stored in the sacristy.

PARISH OF FRIERN BARNET
Report from the Parish Centre Management Group for 2008

Members of the committee

Janet Beal
Stella Watts
Emma Gilbertson
Denise Hill
Pauline Alexander (from December 2008)

Overview of the 2008

From last years report!

'Where to Next

- *Complete re-decoration of the Centre*
- *Refurbish the kitchen with some new appliances*
- *Continue to promote and seek new day-time hirers.'*

I thought I would open this report with the above quote from last years report. We achieved all of the above – it is very pleasing to be able to say that!

- With the help of the probation team the whole of the Centre was redecorated during the early summer.
- Gradually during the year the kitchen has been re-furbished. The cooker has been such an improvement especially when cooking every fortnight for the Lunch Club; we can now get more than two containers in the oven at once!! The new dishwasher is also a great asset. The fridge and freezer were both replaced because the previous ones broke down beyond repair! We are also pleased to have the new 'island unit' in the centre of the kitchen. It makes the best possible use of the floor area and provides much needed work space and storage space, the wall cupboard providing further storage for lunch club provisions.
- We have had some success in attracting some daytime hirers.

The successes above inevitably have a downside!! It is, inevitably, very expensive buying new kitchen appliances. As a result the Parish Centre has not met its financial target for 2008. Well, that's not strictly true, we did meet the target but we spent some of it in improving our facilities. In order that people will want to hire the Parish Centre we felt that this was necessary. You will see from the accounts how far short we were!

We are delighted to welcome Pauline Alexander on to the committee.

Jubilee Room

Hiring at the Jubilee Room remained very limited during 2008. The premises do not meet Health and Safety and Disabled Facility requirements. This was always made very clear to any prospective hirers. It was decided that at the end of November 2008 all hiring of the Jubilee Room would cease. This was partly due to the above and also due to the fact that, in due course, a new tenant may take over.

Maintenance

At the start of the winter when the PC heating was switched on (October 2008) it didn't work and there were a couple of leaks. This naturally had to be repaired and cost over £700.00!!

General day-to-day repairs and maintenance continues to be carried out as required. These include:

- General up-keep
- A major summer clean took place in August 2008 – thank you to all who helped.
- Electrical checks, plumbing and minor repairs etc.

Thanks

Thank you to the PC committee who are always very supportive both with time and practical help.

There is very rarely a weekend when Andy Beal is not doing something to keep the premises running smoothly. Thank you for all your help and DIY skills!

Billy Davison is a tremendous support both in terms of attending the PC to carry out maintenance and being around on occasions to give access to workmen and/or contractors. Thank you very much Billy, we really appreciate your help.

Pauline Alexander who continues to manage the bookings and lettings whenever I am away. Pauline also helps out with locking and unlocking on occasions when Julian (caretaker) or I are unable to do so. Very grateful thanks go to Alison and John O'Hare who have also helped out in this way. Your support is invaluable. Thank you!

We would like to thank all those members of the Church and congregation who have used the premises for private functions. Your support is much appreciated. **Please continue to do so and encourage others to do the same.**

Janet Beal

Report written March 2009

PARISH OF FRIERN BARNET

Report for the APCM from Social, Mission and Charities Committee for 2008

On February 1st 2008 anyone who was interested in the Social/Charity life of the Church was invited to come along, have their say, make suggestions and get involved (however small) in any of the events being planned for the year.

Father Paul led this meeting and gave his vision for the coming year. It is at this meeting that the year is 'mapped out'. Nine people attended this 'get together' – thank you very much indeed for your interest.

Responsibility is passed to anyone who feels they can contribute to any of the planned occasions. This means that people do not feel overwhelmed or have to make a commitment to ALL that goes on, on a regular basis. For many people this is much more manageable. Thank you to everyone who has contributed during 2008.

Please remember when looking at the charitable contributions of this Parish in the accounts that, unless the money is paid in and goes through our accounting system, it is not recorded. Monies raised in 2008 Christian Aid week in May falls into this category.

Charities and Events during 2008

LENT: February/March 2008:

'Education for All' - The Diocesan goal was to raise £75,000. to build three Schools, one each in Angola, Lebombo and Niassa. The Bishop of London launched this appeal at St John's School which was a great privilege for our Parish.

Our contribution to this appeal was **£2898.00**

Lent Lunches:- £526.00

Retiring Collection on 1st Sunday in Lent 2008:- £2094.00

St John's School Charity Breakfast:- £278.00

ST GEORGE'S, BEIRA: May 2008

I'm sure everyone will agree that our main event in 2008 was the **Banquet and Auction of Promises** held in St John's Church on May 9th. A 'wish list' had been acquired from Father Isaiah and the hope was to raise a contribution towards a Landrover. What a great evening we all had and everyone's generosity was overwhelming, we raised enough to actually buy a Landrover with a small amount over for vehicle insurance and maintenance. The money was sent to St George's via 'Project Mozambique'.

Banquet and Auction: £11,540

In addition the congregation raised £3055.00 so that Father Paul could visit Mozambique again in November for the 10th anniversary celebrations at Zove

CHRISTIAN AID: May 2008.

Thanks once again are due to Christopher and Margaret Wood and their team who spent considerable time organising our Parish effort for Christian Aid. We raised £1386.75.

We also collected for Christian Aid through the Christmas greetings tree during Advent - £137.00.

HAB: HARVEST 28th September

Once again the Church congregation joined with the school in supporting HAB with gifts of foodstuffs. As this is a local charity which serves our local community it is most appropriate that we continue to support it. Churches Together Night Shelter project continues to offer on-going support to HAB providing shelter for the night throughout the Winter. Thank you particularly to these people for their on-going involvement.

DAY TRIP TO CANTERBURY 4th October:

This was a lovely day out organised by Pauline Alexander – Thank you! We enjoyed a very interesting tour of the Cathedral as well as lunch in the town and back to the Cathedral for Evensong.

DEDICATION LUNCH 12th October:

We celebrated the dedication of St John's Church with a Parish Lunch. It was an appropriate time to get-together as a church family and enjoy each other's company.

QUIZ SUPPER 29th November:

The Challenger Hall was packed for an entertaining 'Round the World Quiz' night. It was good to see so many friends and family of members of the congregation there. The food was good and everybody seemed to have a great time.

CONFIRMATION SERVICE - BISHOP'S DISCRETIONARY FUND: December 2008 - £115.00**CRIB SERVICE: December 2008**

This was the second year in which we'd held the Crib Service on Christmas Eve in St John's. The procession of the figures was a very moving spectacle, appreciated by all those who came. In total £404.00 was raised for The Children's Society.

If you have an idea for an event or charity please make it known to Father Paul or a Warden. Or if you would like to be included in helping for any occasion/event, again please speak to a Warden. All help is most gratefully received.

Thank you to everyone who has supported any of the events and charities during the past year – it is much appreciated. The charities desperately need our continuing help and support particularly in these times of financial instability!

Janet Beal

March 2009.

**THE PARISH OF FRIERN BARNET
ST JAMES AND ST JOHN'S**

Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting April 2009

Deanery Synod Report.

The Central Barnet Deanery Synod met regularly throughout 2008/9 to discuss matters of both local and national significance for the life of the Church.

The Deanery Synod has representatives from the following parishes: Barnet, Hadley, Finchley, New Southgate, Friern Barnet, Woodside Park and Whetstone, and has various co-opted members. It provides the vital two-way link between individual Parishes and the Diocesan Synod and provides regular reports on issues before the Church of England's General Synod. Your Parish representatives are Babs Kuti, Bridget Watts and Barry Hall.

During the year the following issues were discussed by the Synod: How Climate Change will impact on the poor in developing countries, Progress on "the London Challenge 2007—13"; Sustainability and the environmental impact of Global Warming – "What Local Churches Can Do"; Parish Mission Action Plans; the ALMA Link; Christian Faith Schools - and particularly the exciting development of Christ Church Finchley – and details of various proposals before the General Synod.

Of direct local relevance and importance were the presentation and discussions about the visit to Mozambique by Father Paul and the success of the C of E Wren Academy School, which is already making such a valuable contribution to the life of the local community.

The Deanery Synod meetings and proceedings are very interesting and your parish representatives would be delighted to discuss any matter in more detail !!

Babs Kuti

Bridget Watts

Barry Hall

