

## Bromley Parish Church

**PCC Notes** for the meetings on Wednesday 15 March and Sunday 2 April 2006

### Financial statements and reports

Income of £4,577 had been received from legacies during the year, while expenditure had been £160,645, giving a net outflow of legacy funds of £156,068. The remaining legacy balance was £59,633. While this position reflected deliberate expenditure to help fund major building and development projects, the PCC identified a need to maintain a suitable sum as a reserve against future needs.

The Statement of Financial Activity showed that for 2005 incoming resources fell £117,831 short of expenditure, compared with a surplus of £150,580 in 2004. After revaluations were taken into account, the net movement in funds was an outflow of £115,073. This position reflected the major building projects on the church, for which the bulk of the expenditure had been made in 2005. Although the figures in a sense represented a fall in the 'worth' of BPC, over the year, the picture was in many ways artificial, as it excluded the value of the church itself, in which most of the investment had been made.

More worryingly, the management accounts showed a housekeeping deficit for the year of £16,065. Deficits had increased from £4,400 to over £16,000 in three years, because of a widening gap between housekeeping expenditure (up 36%) and Fair Shares income (up only 11%). The Finance Committee wanted in principle to bring housekeeping accounts into balance by 2009: this would have to be done mainly through increasing income if the character of BPC life were not to change unacceptably. In the meantime some £20,000 had been transferred from St. Paul's House rents in 2005. The PCC agreed a proposal to use these rents to cover the deficits on housekeeping that are expected to arise between 2006 and 2009, but set a maximum of £20,000 on the value of such transfers during any one year, to minimise the effects on outreach work for which the surpluses had originally been intended. A realistic plan was

needed to bring BPC finances into line for the longer term.

In the extraordinary meeting on 2nd April the report and accounts for 2005, which had been signed by the auditors, were formally agreed and adopted.

### APCM preparation

Arrangements were well in hand. Philip Townsend had agreed to stand for the vacant churchwarden position, and it was envisaged that in future the normal term of office would be 4 years, with 2 years overlap between wardens to allow for a smooth transition. To bring things into line it was envisaged that the warden appointed in 2006 would serve for 3 years. As things stood it would be necessary to elect 4 members of the PCC.

### Parish Development Plan

It was agreed that the new plan should consider BPC's role as a town centre church, rather than as a conventional parish. This would be discussed initially at the PCC Awayday, for which a suitable date would be found in the early summer.

### Wedding and funeral fees

The PCC considered a suggestion that statutory fees to regular BPC members or the families of those who had given legacies should be waived, treating them as a gift from the PCC. After some debate, however, it was agreed that the present system of charging the same fees to every-body should continue. It was important to consider BPC's mission to all parishioners, whether or not they attended the church, and any attempt to discriminate would pose problems over where a line should be drawn.

### Town Centre Plan

Members considered a paper pointing out the possible implications of proposed developments of The Hill area for the valuation of St. Paul's House. After some discussion it was agreed that it was important to keep an eye on developments, but that there was no need for action in the immediate future.

**John Payne**  
PCC Secretary