

Minutes of a Meeting of All Saints' Chilton PCC
Held on Tuesday 15th January 2013 at 7.45pm at All Saints' Chilton

Rev Pam Rolls read from 1 Cor. ch 1 v18 to 31, referring to the power of Christ and the wisdom of God. Paul had been speaking to the Corinthians, who had no problems regarding maintenance of old buildings and contributions to the Parish Share, but they did have issues with relationships, and reaching out to the gentiles. The content of their message seemed foolish, and their church members were quite lowly, but they were given Christ's wisdom, and power from God. In Christ, we have all we need, including His wisdom, and are in a most privileged position as children of God. She continued to open the meeting with prayer.

Present:

Rev Pam Rolls (Chairman)	Mrs Hazel King
Mr Alex Reich	Mr Andrew Hayes
Mr Stuart Gibson	Mrs Naomi Gibson
Mrs Ruth Poole	Mrs Liz Morris
Mrs Lin Kerr	Mrs Carol Pigott (Secretary)

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Rev Jonathan Mobey, Dr John Berry, Mr Philip Garner, and Mr John Pigott. (The meeting unfortunately clashed with Deanery Synod.)

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record and duly signed.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

- (i) Sound and Vision Update Stuart Gibson reported that this project had now been completed, with two projectors installed and wired in. Andrew Hayes wished to record sincere thanks to John Pigott, Stuart Gibson, and Steve Launchbury for seeing the installation through to a satisfactory conclusion. There are however a few teething problems, getting the Rector's computer to connect with the projector in the South Aisle, and Stuart is taking steps to resolve this. All the cabling would then be tidied into ducting. It was generally agreed that the sound and vision systems are a great blessing, although they can be a distraction (as seen over Christmas) when operational difficulties arose. There had been a problem the previous Sunday, when batteries in a microphone had "died" towards the end of the sermon. Andrew offered to draw up a chart to record battery charging dates, as everything goes like clockwork when John P is around, but batteries go flat at inconvenient times if he is away for a while. Stuart said charging them every 3 weeks was the best interval.
- (ii) Leadership of Chilton Evergreens Pam Rolls reported that Audrey Slater had informed the Evergreens that she would be standing down as leader in July, but that the programme of meetings would run until then. Pam requested PCC to pray for new leadership to be found. If there was no-one forthcoming by Easter, the group might have to go into abeyance.

4. Committee Reports

- (i) Finance Stuart Gibson had produced the Accounts for 2012 and these had been circulated for information, prior to the meeting. They are to be examined and audited, then presented for acceptance by the committee at the March PCC meeting. Stuart asked if any points needed clarification, and in response to Hazel King's query on office costs, confirmed that this increase was due to running the website. Lin Kerr asked why colour copies were 5p each, even if a single letter was in colour. Stuart explained that the cost is 5p per colour copy, regardless of

amount of colour used, while black and white copies are less than 1p; this is because we have a maintenance contract. Others present also confirmed that this is the normal costing in offices, schools, and elsewhere.

Joint Budget Stuart was asked why the Rector's expenses were so low. He replied that the Rector had not yet submitted his complete expenses, so these would show next year. The curate's expenses were also queried, as being quite low. Pam was encouraged to claim for her full expenses, and agreed that she would be claiming for travel within the benefice now, instead of only submitting a claim when she had to travel further afield. She did, however, always try to do multiple visits in one round trip, when possible.

Chilton Budget The stewardship campaign earlier in 2012 had been one of the most successful we had ever had. Unfortunately, we were losing more income than the increase, through death and people moving away. We shall be approximately £4000 in deficit at this year's end. We give 10% of income to overseas missions, and 5% to home missions. It was agreed that future missions giving would be based on the actual income of the previous year, rather than on a prediction of the current year's income.

Both Joint and Chilton Budgets were proposed by Stuart Gibson; Andrew Hayes seconded; and they were accepted unanimously.

Ability to pay Parish Share Stuart explained that we had ended the year in deficit, as he had predicted, and there had not been sufficient funds to pay the Share fully. He had been able to pay an additional £1000 in December, but we were left with a shortfall of £4000, which had, regrettably, not been paid. In previous years, there had been the possibility of paying late, up to 31st January; but the deadline had been set at 31st December for 2012. The Rector had provided a paper, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. Stuart believed this contained some inaccuracies, and Pam offered to speak to Jonathan to ask him to talk to Stuart.

During the following discussion, mention was made of Gordon Gill's suggestion that the Parish Share could be regarded as part of our missions giving. Alex Reich asked for clarification of the purpose of the share. Pam replied that it was mainly to cover the costs of clergy stipends, pensions and housing, some of the costs of training curates, and also to support the wider church including other parishes who could not (or would not) pay. Carol Pigott asked if other parishes had been unable to pay this year, and Stuart replied that Chilton was one of four in the Deanery who had not fulfilled their full contribution. We were just unable to pay.

In conclusion the PCC expressed their gratitude for Stuart's guidance and diligence in managing the church's finances in difficult circumstances.

- (ii) Fabric Andrew Hayes spoke on this report, which had been submitted by John Berry and circulated prior to the meeting.

Disabled Access Path A second estimate of £11,000 had been received from Drayton Construction for this. With additional drainage needed, a realistic ball park figure would be £12,000. Judy Goodall had told Andrew that the Wives Group would be donating 50% of the Quiz Evening profit towards the cost, plus the proceeds from a table top sale. With the £825 given in memory of Jim Rolls, and £8,400 in the Legacy Fund, the meeting felt the total could be achieved with a reasonable amount of fund-raising. (eg cream teas in August, etc) Grants from the Vale, etc, would also be pursued, as suggested by Pam. Hazel recommended the term "Disability Access" be used when seeking grants, but to use the term "Access Path Improvement" for clarity when publicizing the project in the village.

Hazel also offered some paving blocks, which might be useful outside the Humfrey Stevenson Gate, where there is a muddy patch.

Andrew Hayes proposed that the project now be accepted in principle and that he approach the DAC now, as the next step in the Path Project. Carol Pigott seconded, agreed unanimously.

Update on Trees There followed a discussion of the three options offered by the Fabric Committee on maintaining our trees. There were some wanting to adopt the management plan, the option proposed by the fabric committee; but the majority felt we should do any work as and when it became necessary. This would not be the easiest solution, as we needed to be sure the trees were as safe as possible. There is also the need to trim back the trees overhanging the path. However, with our current financial position it was felt this was the only course possible for us.

Alex Reich asked if there might be a local person with the expertise to check out and work on the trees. Naomi and Stuart Gibson did know of one possibility. Liz Morris reminded them that he would need liability insurance, as well as qualifications. Andrew Hayes requested he be asked to examine the trees and produce a survey.

SmartWater Carol Pigott passed on a note from John Berry, that, although Ecclesiastical Insurers had been circulating an advertisement for roof alarms to prevent metal theft, he had just read an article in the January 2013 "Chemistry World", which concluded with a note that since the advent of forensic marker technologies, (amongst other systems), metal thefts from churches have fallen by 60% over the last year. Liz Morris reminded the meeting that thefts from churches have increased locally recently, and there had been cases of thieves hiding inside churches, when they were locked.

- (iii) Youth Report/Child Protection Ruth Poole reported that it was quite disheartening, when the only attendees at Discoverers were her own three children. She was hoping more would materialize after Connect (the new venture at Chilton School) starts up.

Pam thanked her for her hard work, and said we must continue to pray for the youth work.

Naomi Gibson also had quality, rather than quantity, at "Check it Out"., but she and Pam had a couple of enquiries about confirmation.

"Y-Club" was restarting this week, but Pam reported that here also there were fewer attending. However, the Advent Activity event had been very good, and was well attended.

- (iv) Pastoral Care Pam reported that this was on-going, and that a lot of informal care was also observed to be continuing in the village.

5. Lighting of Chancel Window

Liz Morris reported that there had been several compliments on the lighting of the window. Carolyn Vickers had received an email at the church office, asking if it could be done again next year; and Hazel King had been given some good comments, especially from residents of Latton Close, while out collecting with the Carol Singers. It was decided to repeat this illumination this next Christmas.

6. Up-Date on Hall Extension

Liz reported that there had been a consultation in the Hall on the previous Friday evening, when all parishioners had been able to see both the designs that had been submitted, and residents had been able to vote for their preference. 130 had attended,

including children or others un-qualified to vote. 116 votes had been cast, with 3 to 1 in favour of the final choice. This would be made public after the architects had been informed. The proposed extension still had to go to Planning.

7. Preparation of New Electoral Roll

Pam reported that Gordon Cowan, the Electoral Roll Officer, would be starting on this shortly, with a notice in the broadsheet, etc.

(The meeting took a 15 minute coffee break at 9.25 pm)

8. Approval of Resolutions from Combined PCC of 27th November 2012

PCC considered the following resolutions, which had been agreed in principle at the Combined PCC, but needed to be approved by the individual PCCs, and voted on them en bloc.

- (i) To investigate, with a view to establishing from early January 2013 (eg Sunday 13th January) a weekly congregation at Chilton School. Jonathan Mobey to convene a group to take this action forward.
- (ii) From March 2013, to standardize the service pattern of the main Sunday morning service at St Matthew's and at All Saints' by moving the 11am Communion service at St Matthew's from the second Sunday to the third Sunday of the month, and by making the 11am service on the fifth Sunday of the month a Communion service instead of a Morning Worship service.
- (iii) Combined PCC and individual PCC minutes to be made accessible to anyone via the Website and in the Church porches (most recent set only in the porches). Due to the length of time before minutes are officially approved at a subsequent meeting, minutes which have been reviewed by PCC members by email are to be displayed in the meantime. These minutes are to be labelled "subject to formal approval".
- (iv) Fees for weddings and funerals (see attached paper)
- (v) We welcome the transfer by Jean Barton and Peter Barton of their ministry to the Benefice of Harwell with Chilton.

Under item (i), Hazel asked how the venture at Chilton School was to be funded. Stuart replied that this would be covered by All Saints' Hall Fund, as this was specifically for "Ecclesiastical Purposes" in the parish of Chilton. Lin Kerr had designed the logo, flyers and invitations. The venture is to be called "Connect", and would run on 20th, 27th Jan, and 3rd Feb in the first instance, from 4.30 to 6.00 pm.

Liz Morris proposed the above five resolutions be accepted; Carol Pigott seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously.

9. Future Dates

"Connect".....20th Jan, 27th Jan, 3rd Feb, 4.30 to 6.00 pm at Chilton School
Christingle Service...27th Jan. (Preparation, 3.00pm at 18 Latton Close, Sat. 26th Jan)
Ash Wednesday Service...13th Feb at St Matthew's
Mothering Sunday.....10th March
Maundy Thursday Service....28th March at All Saints'
Good Friday...29th March...Procession in Chilton
Easter Saturday...(vigil?...to be decided)
Easter Sunday...31st March
Weddings at All Saints'...6th April and 7th September
Village fete...date to be decided, in August
Cream Teas in church (donations to Path)...Hazel volunteers to organise, once date for fete known.

Next Meetings

Tuesday 5th Feb....Combined PCC at Harwell
Tuesday 5th March...Individual PCC at Harwell
Monday 15th April...Annual Parochial Meetings in Chilton

10. Any Other Business and Correspondence

- (i) Thank you letters had been received from the organists for their Gift Tokens, and also from Rev Pam Rolls, for her gift from JPCC.
- (ii) Letters had been sent to local funeral directors, regarding the disposal of waste soil, and also a note to the garden centre, thanking them for the donation of the Christmas tree for the tower. This could have been drafted better, and so Hazel was asked to send an additional letter of thanks, as she had made the initial request.
- (iii) A letter had also been received from the Bishop of Oxford, on "Women and the Episcopate", expressing the disappointment of the bishops on the decision of General Synod, not to proceed with allowing women bishops at this time.
- (iv) The Rector and Curate had been to the meeting on re-structuring the Diocese. We are likely to transfer to the Archdeaconry of Dorchester eventually.
- (v) Following a question over our support of organisations which are not specifically church or Christian based, Hazel asked if we have a policy on this. Carol suggested we could discuss the principles we should follow when supporting charities, at a future meeting.
- (vi) Liz reported that Dina Tisdall had contacted the Vale of White Horse Environmental Health Officer, regarding the sale of home-made preserves in re-used jam jars, and had been told that this was acceptable.

11. Closing Prayer

Pam asked Ruth Poole to close the meeting with prayer at 10.10 pm

Date of next meeting of All Saints' PCC Tuesday 5th March 2013 in Harwell at 7.45pm

.....Chairman

Carol Pigott (Secretary)