



MINUTES OF ALL SAINTS' CHILTON ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETING AND ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 15th APRIL 2013 AT 7.45pm and 7.50pm RESPECTIVELY IN THE CHURCH

The Rector, the Revd Dr Jonathan Mobey was in the Chair and 22 Church members were in attendance including the Revd Pam Rolls.

The Rector welcomed everyone to the meeting and read from Acts ch 16, the story of Paul and the disciples being called to Philippi, where they met with Lydia and other devout women by the river. We too need God's leading to take us where people are, and his on-going work in their hearts.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETING

1. Apologies for Absence had been received from Mr Philip Garner, and Mrs Rosemary Rolls.
2. Minutes of the Last Meeting. Acceptance of the Minutes was proposed and agreed by all present.
3. Election of Churchwardens. The Rector thanked both Mrs Naomi Gibson and Mr Andrew Hayes, who had served as churchwardens during the past year. Two nominations had been received for 2012:

Mrs Naomi Gibson proposed by Mrs Elizabeth Morris, seconded by Mrs Carol Pigott.
Mr Andrew Hayes proposed by Mr Terence Garrett, seconded by Miss Avril Butler

There being no other nominations, they were duly elected.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting Acceptance of the Minutes was proposed and agreed by all present. The Rector thanked Avril Butler, previous Secretary to the PCC, for producing these minutes so efficiently.
2. Matters Arising from the Minutes There were no matters arising.
3. Election of Deanery Synod Representative There is a vacancy for 1 representative for 1 year on the Wallingford Deanery. There being no nominations, this item was passed to the next meeting of the PCC.
4. Election of PCC Members Vacancies exist for 3 members for 3 years, and 1 member for 2 years. 3 nominations had been received, duly proposed and seconded. These were elected unanimously, en bloc.

Mrs Elizabeth Morris
Mrs Hazel King
Mrs Lin Kerr

The Rector proposed that terms to be served by each be arranged at the May PCC meeting, which was agreed by the meeting. He thanked the continuing PCC members and the Deanery Synod representatives, and especially Dr John Berry, who was stepping down, but prepared to continue to chair the Fabric Committee.

5. Election of two PCC Members to the Joint PCC. The Rector outlined the purpose and composition of the Joint PCC. (Clergy, Churchwardens, Treasurers, and two PCC members from each church.) The following were proposed to serve as All Saints' representatives on the Joint PCC and were duly accepted by the meeting:

Mrs Elizabeth Morris
Mrs Carol Pigott

6. Election of Sidesmen The following were proposed to serve as Sidesmen in the coming year, and they were accepted by the meeting:

Dr John Berry	Mrs Judy Burbage	Mr Jerry Burbage
Mrs Grace Garrett	Mr Andrew Hayes	Mr Dave Kerr
Mrs Hazel King	Mrs Elizabeth Morris	Mr Allan Nickerson
Mrs Carol Pigott	Mr John Pigott	Mrs Audrey Slater
Mr Jeff Stopps		

The Rector expressed his grateful thanks to all the sidesmen, who always gave a very warm welcome at the door, as well as dealing efficiently with all the practicalities of the services.

7. PCC Report Copies of the Annual Report for 2012 had been made available in advance of the meeting. The report was accepted by the meeting, without further comments or questions. The Rector thanked the secretary for compiling the report, which was useful for newcomers to be able to learn more about us, and also for us to be able to look back at previous years.

8. Financial Report and Accounts. The Financial Report and Accounts had been made available prior to the meeting, and were also on the church website. Mr Stuart Gibson, the treasurer, highlighted the main points.

In round figures, our Income in 2012 was £34,000, an increase of £3,000 on 2011. Income was mainly from pledges, plated offerings, and tax refund. There were also some very generous donations, amounting to £3,000.

Mr Gibson expressed grateful thanks, on behalf of the church, for all this financial support, and also for practical activities by members of the congregation, which amounted to another form of giving.

Expenses for 2012 came to £30,000, which was a reduction of £3,000 on 2011.

Our main expenditure is always the Parish Share (the formula for which is about to be revised), and last year we failed to pay this in full.

The amount due as Parish Share for 2012 was £21,000 but unfortunately there was not enough in the General Fund to cover this, and so we paid £17,000, i.e. £4,000 less. (Hence expenses in 2012 were less than in 2011)

There had been a "hole" in the General Fund, which had been growing over recent years. By the end of 2011, this "hole" amounted to £4,000.

The General Fund is now "in the black", at about £400, as a result of not paying the Share in full, and also generally cutting back expenditure.

Although we are in a state of parity at the moment, and there has been a good response to the Stewardship Campaign, we have lost some generous donors. Mr Gibson also had some concern over the reduction in tax rebate in the future.

However, there are to be some changes in legislation, and in future it may be possible to claim tax back on up to £5,000 loose change in plated giving. (We currently receive about £3,000 in the plate).

Mr Gibson went on to explain that we are not a poor church, although we have a struggle with maintaining a healthy balance in the General Fund. The General Fund deals with the day-to-day running of the church, but we have three further funds.

These are

- (i) The Carterton House Fund consisting of money initially raised by parishioners to purchase a house for clergy occupation. This fund is waiting for an appropriate use, which would be commensurate with the intentions of the original donors.
- (ii) The Legacy Fund was initiated when money was left to the church for a specific project. The East Window repairs were covered by this fund, and it will also be used to support the path project.
- (iii) The Church Hall Fund is a Charitable fund of which the PCC members are Trustees, and have access to the interest for designated uses. (It was set up with the proceeds from the sale of the old church hall. Again, this had originally been given for specific ecclesiastical purposes within the parish.)

Mr Gibson explained that, although these funds are assets, they cannot be used for our day-to-day expenses.

He requested prayers for our future financial situation, and thanked everyone again for their support.

Mrs Slater asked why the clergy expenses appeared to be very low.

Mr Gibson explained that the Rector's claims would appear in the accounts for 2013.

At the previous PCC meeting, Rev Pam Rolls had been urged to claim realistically for her expenses. He had discussed this matter with her, and assured the meeting that these would be dealt with properly.

The accounts were accepted by all, and the Rector reiterated Mr Gibson's thanks to all our donors.

He also thanked him for the enormous amount of work which he had done so diligently as usual.

9. Appointment of Independent Examiner. The appointment of Mrs Jane Moreton as independent examiner was proposed and agreed by the meeting.
10. Fabric and Ornaments Reports. The report was presented by Dr John Berry. Dr Berry explained that the full report had been made available before the meeting, and was available on the Church website. He went on to say that a Spring Clean had been carried out after finalizing the report, and this had been very well supported. He wished to thank everyone involved.

There had been ongoing electrical problems with the fan heaters, and the future heating arrangements in church were being investigated. The projectors were now installed in church and being used effectively, and Dr Berry expressed his thanks to those involved with this project, both in the physical installation, and in obtaining the Faculty for them.

Mrs. Judith Russell had taken over responsibility for the churchyard during the year, for which Dr Berry was most grateful. She had obtained a free Tree Survey,

which showed that the chestnut tree in the corner by the road and East House needed to come down. This had been done, and disease was very obvious in the remaining stump. The Fabric Committee had canvassed PCC for thoughts on cutting down or leaving the bulbs, when grass-cutting was resumed each year. The decision was then taken, to leave a designated area (to the north of the church, near the church path) uncut until the bulbs had died down. Bulbs growing outside this area would be cut down as usual, with the first grass-cut.

Dr Berry continued with an up-date on the churchyard path project. The path is to be re-laid from the Humfrey Stevenson Gate to the Church Door, and on to the Lychgate. (The paths to Middle House gate and to the Garden of remembrance will not be replaced.) Quotes for resin-bonded paths had been received for £12,000 to £13,000, and Dr Berry was pursuing information on the location of examples of these, that could be seen by the committee.

There had been two churchyard working parties, in June and October, and Dr Berry wished to thank all those involved. He also expressed his thanks to Mr Hayes, whose gentle diplomacy ensures we maintain very good relations with our neighbours in Middle House.

Mrs Morris asked if the noticeboard by the lychgate would be going to Falcon Signs, to be up-dated. Dr Berry replied that this was in hand.

Mrs Garrett asked if there were plans to replace the chestnut tree. Dr Berry was open to suggestions, and he would discuss this with Mrs Russell.

Mrs Goodall asked if anything could be done to improve accessibility at the chancel step. (A recent innovation has been to position a volunteer at the step, to assist those who need steadying as they go up to receive Communion). Dr Berry replied that Mrs Russell was currently pursuing the provision of a wrought-iron rail, to be fixed to the floor, and this would be covered in the report next year. There is also the main doorstep, and at both places there are problems re fixing rails to the walls.

Mr Hayes remarked that, with the problems with the fan heaters (which had been very good, but were now very old), the committee were looking at church heating. One solution to this might be to have under-floor heating, in which case the floor would be raised, and the problems of access would be solved. However, there were a lot of other possibilities, and faculties would be needed, whatever solution was decided upon.

The Rector thanked Dr Berry and the Fabric Committee for all the hard work they had done over the year. They were not a committee who just discussed the fabric, but were all very "hands-on" people. The Fabric Report was accepted by all.

11. Electoral Roll Report Mr Gordon Cowan reported that there had been a complete renewal of the roll this year, and there were now 60 people on the roll, 20 fewer than last year. Mr Cowan had given out 84 forms for completion. 59 had been completed and returned physically, and 1 had been completed via the website. 7 of these 60 are not resident in Chilton.
6 new names had been added to the roll, and 26 removed. Of these, 5 had died, 2 were not well enough to complete and return them, 3 had moved away, and 4 had been temporarily away at the time the roll was being revised. The remaining 12 forms had not been completed and returned.

Mrs King asked if it was usual, to have so many names removed from the roll at a renewal.

Mr Cowan said he would check the figures and report back.

The Rector thanked Mr Cowan for maintaining the roll again this year, and reminded those present that members of the congregation must be on the Electoral Roll in order to be able to vote at the Annual Meetings. The number on the roll also determines the number of Representatives we are entitled to have on the Deanery Synod, which also impacts on decisions regarding the Parish Share.

12. Deanery Synod Report Mr John Pigott presented a report on behalf of Mrs Gibson, our other representative, and himself, on the Deanery Synod proceedings in 2012. The Wallingford Deanery Synod met four times during 2012; in March at St Matthew's Harwell; June at All Saints' Didcot; an extra meeting in September at St Mary's Cholsey; and the November meeting at St Mary-le-More, Wallingford.

The March meeting was attended by the Bishop of Reading, the Rt Revd Andrew Proud, who conducted a short service to licence Revd Jason St John Nicolle as Area Dean and commission Revd Josie Midwinter as Assistant Area Dean. The financial accounts for 2011 were presented and passed, and the process for producing the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Plan was discussed.

The main item on the agenda for the June meeting was the current status of the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Plan and looking at its challenges and opportunities. The plan has been split into two sections, with the first looking at ways to grow the churches in the Deanery, and the second part the decisions about future staffing, with the likelihood of reducing from 8 posts to 6. It was decided that further meetings of the Mission and Pastoral Committee, along with any interested members, were needed to develop possible solutions for the cutting of posts. The Wallingford Deanery has two clergy and two Laity places on the Diocesan Synod. For the new session, Gordon Gill and David Dancy will be representing the Laity and Revd. Jason St John Nicolle and Revd Jeremy Goulston will represent the House of Clergy. Graham Goy announced that he would be stepping down at the next meeting, after many years as Lay Chairman. He was pleased to announce that Gordon Gill had been nominated for this role and the election, at which only the House of Laity could vote, would take place at the next meeting.

The extra meeting, in September, was to discuss the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Plan before it was presented to the Archdeaconry Pastoral Committee in October. A proposed outline strategy was presented. Gordon Gill was the only nominee for the post of Lay Chair and was proposed and seconded and duly elected. Graham Goy was retiring as Lay Chair after 13 years and 3 months service. Graham recounted memories of his time as Lay Chair working with 4 Area Deans and appreciated how over the years the roles of Area Dean and Lay Chair had become more a team working closely together.

The November meeting began with the commissioning of Gordon Gill as Lay Chair by Archdeacon Norman Russell. There followed a presentation from Gordon Gill about mission, inspiring the Deanery to look at the areas of mission in our communities and suggesting tools to facilitate these ideas. Naomi Gibson stepped down as Deanery Secretary after 7 years in the role and was thanked for her service. Mark Bayliss, treasurer, reported the Deanery's inability to claim the full rebate this year due to 4 parishes being unable to meet their full parish share. The 2013 Parish Share figures were looked at, with Moulsoford expressing their dissatisfaction about their high allocation, which was way above the target figure again. After discussion the draft figures were accepted.

In light of the rejection of women bishops at the November General Synod meeting, George Curtis asked that the following motion be presented: -

"The Wallingford Deanery Synod respectfully requests the Church of England Synod to re-address as a matter of great urgency the few remaining issues preventing the appointment of women bishops".

Following a vote, it was decided to present the motion and Jason agreed to find out the procedure.

The Deanery Mission and Pastoral Committee were to meet in December to further modify the plan before re-presenting it to the Archdeaconry Pastoral Committee.

In 2013 the Deanery Synod will have on its' agenda the new Archdeaconry of Dorchester, into which the Wallingford Deanery will move, and the implementation of the approved Deanery Mission and Pastoral Plan.

Mrs Garrett asked if the Deanery Synod elected representatives to the Diocesan and General Synods, and if so, did the Deanery instruct them as to how they should exercise their vote.

The reply was that they did elect these representatives, but they were free to vote as they wished. Rev Pam Rolls said that there were "hustings", where those offering for election did state the principles they stood by.

The Rector found the Wallingford synod to be an encouragement to him. They were a good group, who, naturally, have some disagreements, but they were not a dysfunctional group, as was the case with some Deanery Synods.

13. Other Reports The other reports this year were on Evergreens and Possible Designs for a new Church Logo.

(i) Evergreens Mrs Audrey Slater presented the following report:

All Saints' Evergreens is a club for the over 60's and is open to church members and those with no association with the church. The group was formed out of a joint group with Harwell in 1978. At present there are 22 paid-up members, 4 of whom live outside the village. The average attendance is about 17 per meeting.

Usually the group meets at 2.30pm on the first Tuesday of each month. These meetings, which take place in Chilton village hall, take the form of a talk by a visiting speaker followed by refreshments and a time of fellowship together. Other events include a Tea and Entertainment hosted by All Saints' Wives' Group, an Autumn Bazaar, a Christmas Lunch and an Annual Service with Harwell Evergreens.

The activities of the Evergreens are financed by an annual subscription of £5 per member, donations, and the proceeds of the Bazaar. The hire of the hall and the cost of a speaker total about £40 per meeting. At present the funds stand at around £1245 so the group is financially sound.

Membership numbers have declined over the years partly due to the advancing age of the members. In the last 12 months, 6 members have died. New members seem reluctant to join, mainly because after having looked forward to joining the Evergreens on reaching 60, when the time comes they don't feel old enough and are busy doing other things. Meetings however are not directed specifically towards the elderly but hopefully are of general interest. The subjects of recent talks have been North Carolina, the History of Banking, Didcot Railway Museum, and Travels in China etc. Anyone is very welcome to come along and hear any talk of interest to them.

The next meeting on May 7th will be an illustrated talk on 'Garden and Other Birds' by a member of the RSPB.

The club has its' own committee which consists of the leader who is appointed by the Rector, a treasurer and 3 others.

Mrs Slater wished to take this opportunity to express her appreciation to their treasurer Gordon Cowan and the committee members Grace Garrett, Daphne McElroy and Pam Rolls for all their work and support.

In November 2011, she had expressed her wish to stand down in July 2012 after having completed 5 years as being leader, but as a new leader was not found she had carried on and had planned a programme until July 2013. If the club was to continue in its present form a new leader would be needed from September. Also since the village hall would not be available for meetings during the forthcoming building work a temporary venue would be required, which could possibly be the church, the proposed community room on Chilton Field, or a private home.

Mrs Slater ended her report by saying that thoughts and prayers for a new leader, and for the future of the Evergreens would be welcomed and appreciated.

Mr Cowan expressed his thanks to Mrs Slater, on behalf of the Evergreens, for the way she had lead the group for the last 5 years.

Mrs King asked that thanks be passed on to Mr Slater, too, who she knew was a great support to Mrs Slater, both in the background, and physically setting up the hall for meetings, etc.

The Rector supported both Mr Cowan and Mrs King in their thanks, and added that the issue at the moment was to think of possible alternatives, and whether it was viable to keep the group running, especially while the hall is being extended and unavailable. It might be possible to promote the Thursday lunch club, for example, which was a weekly event. However, this would be purely social, having no guest speaker, and would also be more costly to the group members.

- (ii) Possible Designs for new Church Logo The Rector spoke on this topic, illustrated with a screen presentation, and explained that the Communications and Operations Sub-committee of the benefice had been looking at the ways we communicate, and how we represent ourselves visually to the outside world. Most organisations have logos, and he displayed examples of some for Christian organisations. These did not necessarily include crosses in the design, nor a fish, which pre-dated the cross as a Christian symbol. Our current logo has been in use for a number of years, and we need to be sure it is still effective, and not out-dated. Two possible designs had been produced by Mrs Lin Kerr, an artist and graphic designer. The colours chosen for both were two shades of green, to reflect our rural situation, and to suggest fresh growth. The first option was an "open" cross, and the second a "molecular" design, reflecting connections, and our proximity to Harwell Campus. Both designs would be used over the next few weeks on our news-sheets, broadsheet, etc, prior to requesting feedback from people. Ultimately the PCCs would make a decision.

14. Rector's Remarks The Rector needed to thank large groups of people and individuals, but could not list them, or he would be sure to leave some out. We are a unit, a body made up of individuals with different experiences, opportunities and strengths. So he wanted to give thanks for all the different roles we have. Some tasks were carried out unseen, and maybe we did not see any fruit, but God sees the work done, and will bring fruit in time. The Rector went on to say we have new challenges. Chilton Field development continues to grow, and we have "connected" with a number of families at the new

"Connect" venture on Sunday afternoons, but much more needs to be done. There is the challenge of reaching the under-40yr-old generation who have no knowledge of the Christian faith. We do have some in our church who are under 40, but we need to look at the things we do. The Rector quoted the definition of "mad" as being to continue to do the same things, but to expect different results each time. Our congregation should reflect the demographic of our surroundings. However, we have a great breadth of skill and opportunity, for example Stuart Gibson's superb financial management, and Rev Pam Rolls initiative of Y-Club, and the excellent relationship we have with the school. He closed by saying he was optimistic for the future, and we need to encourage each other, as there are seasons for all things, and we shall see results in time.

15. Any Other Business

- (i) Hands Free Service Mrs Ruth Poole said how much she had enjoyed the "Hands Free" Service at Chilton School the previous day. This was the first time it had been held there, as "Connect" was not being held during the school holidays. It had been an excellent way of connecting with people, and she suggested they use the same venue again. Mr Kerr and Mrs Pigott also said how much they had appreciated that time.
- (ii) Vote of thanks to the Rector Mrs Gibson thanked the Rector for his continuous work this year, and also asked him to pass on thanks to his family, from the congregation at All Saints'.

The Rector closed the meeting with prayer at 9.20pm.

Carol Pigott
Secretary