

Minutes of a Meeting of All Saints' Chilton PCC
Held on Tuesday 6th January 2015 at 7.45pm at All Saints' Chilton

Present:

Rev Dr Jonathan Mobey (Chair)	Rev Pam Rolls
Mr John Pigott	Mrs Naomi Gibson
Mr James Hellem	Mr Stuart Gibson
Mrs Sylvie Thompson	Mrs Hazel King
Mr Alex Reich	Mrs Liz Morris
Dr Carina Lobley (Until item 8 (ii))	Mrs Carol Pigott (Secretary)

1. Opening Prayer

The Rector opened the meeting by explaining the concept of "Dwelling in the Word", which all PCCs had been requested by the Diocese to do at the start of each meeting. We were to immerse ourselves in a passage from Luke, ch 10, vv1 – 12. After reading and meditating on it for a few minutes, we were to divide into pairs, and ask each other

- a) What had captured our imagination, and
- b) What would we like to explore further?

Pooling these thoughts later, the general feeling was that the passage seemed to dwell on the harshness of the black or white outcome, with no middle-ground. There was no concept of taking time to consider. People either accepted those sent to them, or they were immediately rejected themselves. The question "How were the 72 led to the homes they were to approach?" aroused most curiosity. The Rector drew these thoughts together in prayer, and the meeting continued.

2. Apologies for Absence:

Apologies had been received from Mrs Helen Brook

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

These were accepted as a true record, and duly signed.

4. Proposal delegating Authority to JPCC over matters concerning employment of personnel

The Rector proposed from the Chair, that:

The PCC delegates to the Joint PCC the authority to take all decisions pertaining to employed staff and also to ministers and other individuals licensed or authorised to operate across the benefice. This includes – but is not limited to – the whole appointment process, authorisation to operate, changes to terms of employment or operation, disciplinary procedures, and ratification of a post following a probationary period.

The resolution was carried unanimously

5. Appointment of Church Administrator/PA to Rector

Seven applicants had been shortlisted by the Rector and 4 Churchwardens. They had been interviewed on 9th December by an interviewing panel consisting of the Rector and 2 Churchwardens, one from each parish. The standard had been very high, and the decision was made to offer the position to Mrs Vicky Johnston, from Abingdon. Vicky is active in her own church, and has been working at Ripon College, Cuddesdon.

She will start work on 12th January, and will work 20 hrs/week, across 5 days, with the Wednesday working from home. She should be in the office until early afternoon on the other 4 days.

Carina asked if, as PA to the Rector, Vicky would be accessing all his emails. Although it is normal for a PA to do this, and to observe confidentiality, the Rector would consider offering an alternative means of communication to those wishing to contact him with problems of an intimate nature.

6. Approval of Communion Assistants

The Rector proposed from the Chair, that:

PCC approves those on the list below, to be authorised to administer Holy Communion within the benefice of St Matthew's Harwell, with All Saints', Chilton.

Barclay-Watt, Nicola	Greer, Georgina	Reich, Alex
Barclay-Watt, Peter	Hayes, Andrew	Sinclair, Wendy
Burbage, Judy	Kerr, David	Slater, Audrey
Evans, Kate	Macarthur, Vicky	Taylor, Frances
Gill, Anne	Nickerson, Alan	

Gill, Gordon

Pigott, John

The resolution was carried unanimously

7. Matters Arising from the Minutes

- (i) Bell Ringing Simulator Carina Lobley had written to the Old North Berks. Branch of Guild of Bell-ringers, regarding a grant towards the cost of this. They will be considering it at their next meeting.
- (ii) Installation of Telephone Line Stuart Gibson had no further success to report on this. Several BT engineers have now been to install the line, and each time have been thwarted by the fact that no contractors have been sent by BT to lop the branches prior to installation, as necessary. Stuart will continue to pursue BT.
- (iii) Christian Aid Representative No volunteer had come forward to replace Mr Derek Tisdall as yet. Rev Pam Rolls would be contacting someone suggested by the meeting. Mr Tisdall had been sent a letter of thanks from PCC.
- (iv) Re-positioning of Noticeboard from Old Post Office John Pigott said that the Fabric Committee were hoping to find a new position at the other end of Main Street. Liz Morris said that the Parish Council were hoping to erect theirs at the pub. The publican needed to get permission from the brewery. She would ask if ours could also be put up there.
- (v) Photos on Church Noticeboard Carol Pigott had asked Lin Kerr about up-dating the photos. Sylvie Thompson and James Hellem needed their photos taken, but it was known that Lin was quite busy. James would ask if she would have the time to produce the finished mounted photos in the near future.
Pam would email John Berry with the new and amended information to go on the main noticeboard, by the lych-gate. He has taken this down, ready to be up-dated by Falcon Signs. The names of our Churchwardens and Church Administrator were to be changed, her own status changed from Curate to Associate Minister, and now we also have Rev Jan Radford to be added as Curate.

8. Committee Reports

- (i) Finance Stuart Gibson had produced the financial papers, and reported on them.
 - a) Finance Report and Revenue Report Although pledged giving was down, plated was up, and Gift Aid Tax recovered was significantly up. This was because we could now claim the refund of tax on loose giving in the plate. Gift Aid can be claimed on up to £5,000 (Plate was £4,453 in 2014). We had been able to make a payment equivalent to the full Parish Share for 2014 but by effectively making a down-payment on the 2015 share. This loan to the Deanery resulted in the General Fund going into the red. It did mean, however, that the Deanery were able to pay their share in full, qualifying for the 3% rebate from the Diocese. Next year would be quite different, as the Shares are due to rise by 7.5%, and several other parishes are likely to have great difficulty in meeting their share allocation.
Some of the pledges towards funding for the Children's and Families Worker had still not materialized. Stuart would check with Elizabeth Gill, of St Matthew's, to check none of our pledges had been going to them instead.
There had been a donation of £1,000 towards the Heating project, and outgoings so far had used this, plus £4,500 withdrawn from the Carterton House Fund.
 - b) Budget This was again a deficit budget, with a higher projected deficit than for 2014, although the actual deficit had not been as high as anticipated.

The budget was proposed by Carol Pigott, seconded by Alex Reich, and accepted unanimously.

- (ii) Fabric Dr John Berry had circulated his Fabric Report, and the Rector and Secretary spoke on this.
Quinquennial work. John Berry would be contacting Ray Cox in January, with a view to starting this work in the spring.
Liz Morris would check the deeds held by the Parish Council, to ascertain who owned the piece of rough ground/pavement leading from the Humfrey Stevenson Gate to the Hall Car Park. We could then determine who was responsible for maintaining it.
The purchase of a new shed was held over to the next PCC. It was hoped that Jeff Stopps could suggest a specific shed, and the cost could be advertised to the wider congregation. The previous one had been donated, so it was hoped offers of help towards the cost of its replacement might be forthcoming. It is used to store tools, and the small tables and chairs that are used at church events.

PCC agreed with John Berry's suggestion that the path from the porch to Middle House could be dealt with "in house" by covering with earth and seeding. This would make mowing easier. The Rector had raised a question over the proximity of the headstones outside the kitchen window, which might cause problems to, say, an elderly person being assisted along the path, or young families with small children either side, as the stones are quite rough. At this point, PCC members went outside to see for themselves. It was thought that, if the path could run as close to the large headstones (on the north side of the path) as possible, there would be good clearance of the smaller cross on the south side. It would then be possible for the northern stones to be removed, if found desirable, at a later date.

John Berry had asked for PCC's decision on the extent of the path to the Garden of Remembrance. It was agreed that this should run along its present route, and extend into the Garden, to run along the concrete base of the bench, and end at the further end of the bench. This would enable wheelchair users to sit beside their companion.

The question of grants was discussed, with Naomi Gibson pointing out that the next window of opportunity for seeking grants from the Vale of White Horse would be in July. The Faculty would be needed for this, and the Council will not provide grants towards work that has already started.

Liz Morris thought that the Vale were running low on funding for grants.

The Rector proposed from the Chair:-

Proposal :

That the Fabric Committee obtain a final quote for the three paths as specified:

From the lych-gate to church door; from the church door to the Humfrey Stevenson Gate; and from that path to the bench in the Garden of Remembrance.

This quote to be approved by the Standing Committee.

The Application for a Faculty should then proceed.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

9. Heating All Saints'

Sylvie Thompson had circulated the heating report prior to the meeting, and had received the 3rd quote just before the meeting. All three companies quoting would use Kennet Electrical. The latest quote, from County Construction, was very detailed, covering everything for £97,000. E G Carter & Co of Kidlington and Benfield & Loxley had both quoted a lump figure of about £60,000. Sylvie would be asking them to give more detailed quotes. Three other companies had been asked to quote. One could not, because Jeff Stopps worked for them, causing a conflict of interests, and another said the job was too small. The third was not in a position to quote until later in January. All quotes included storage of the pews, but an alternative was suggested at the meeting, whereby they could be stored free of charge.

Sylvie would be pursuing the more detailed quotes, to go to the DAC in February, and then we could decide whether to proceed or not.

10. Christmas Review

The Toy Service had been well attended, with a good talk from Peter Shields, the CFW.

The 4.00 pm Carol Service had a smaller congregation than in previous years, but the school choir had been smaller, meaning fewer parents attending. The 6.30 pm congregation was up slightly, with the refreshments going down well. Someone had expressed concern to a member of PCC over the change to real glasses for the mulled wine. They felt the plastic ones would have been safer, if dropped.

Naomi had thanked Hilary Alner for the loan of her candlesticks.

The Living Advent Calendar was well received by those who took part. Numbers were lower than Peter had hoped for, with about 14 or 15 children involved, but this was an innovation this year. Publicity should be more widespread next year, also for the Carol Singing round the village and in the pub. The possibility was raised of a flier being distributed with the Christmas Cards that are delivered around the village, although there were about 18 adults and 6 young people who sang round the village, and ended up at Bill and Muriel Millars as usual.

The Chancel window should be lit more consistently too, next year.

Alex and Jonathan felt that the Connect Carols went well, and Peter's input was appreciated.

Christmas 10.00pm HC attendance was marginally down (8 fewer adults, but 1 more young person), and only 5 came to the 8.00 am HC on Christmas Day, but Pam said this service was always appreciated by those few who came.

The Christmas Day Service had been well attended.

The Rector expressed his gratitude to all the many people involved in the Christmas activities.

11. All Saints' and Village Fete Sat 6th June 2015

Alex Reich raised this point. It was possible that the village would be commemorating the end of WWII with another fete on 6th June. (Although the war continued past this date in the Far East, there would be the usual ceremony at Harwell Stone to remember D Day on that date). If the fete did go ahead, Alex suggested we have a festival in church to celebrate 70 years of peace and co-operation in Europe, with a flower festival on the theme of peace, with possibly Art, Poetry readings, and Music, with a theme of peace. He was happy to co-ordinate this, if the fete were to happen. W I would be providing teas in the hall if it did, so we would not be doing those.

12. Future Dates

The Rector would email the date for PCC Awayday later, as the venue was yet to be determined. (To be Saturday 31st Jan, 10.00 to 4.00 at Aston Tirrold Centre for Reflection. Added later by Sec.)

13. A.O.B. and Correspondence

- (i) James Hellem had a friend, who had been a member of the Bjorn Again (ABBA) tribute band, who would be prepared to put on a concert in church. He was a professional, using keyboard and singing, adapting to the style that would appeal to his audience. PCC agreed it would be good for James to find out if he would be available at some time in September.
- (ii) Thank you letters had been received from Rev Pam Rolls, for her Christmas Gift from the benefice, and from the organists, Anne Pickford and Carol Pigott, for their Gift Cards. Various thank you letters had been sent, including to the Garden Centre for the tower tree, Rosemary Rolls for the tree in church, and Sam Buckley, for the oak gate-post, and work done to repair the H.S. gate.

14. Closing Prayer

The Rector closed the meeting with prayer at 10.20 pm.

Date of next meeting. Combined PCC Tuesday 3rd February 2015 at Harwell, at 7.45 pm

.....Chairman

Carol Pigott
Secretary

Footnote:

Subsequently, it was discovered that the secretary had misunderstood her conversation with John Berry. (See 8 (ii)) He had not meant that we could deal with the Middle House path "in house", but that this should become part of the new paths project.