

Minutes of a Meeting of All Saints' Chilton PCC
Held on Tuesday 5th May 2015 at 7.45 pm at All Saints' Chilton

Present:

Rev Dr Jonathan Mobey (Chair)

Mr Alex Reich

Dr Carina Lobley (Until item13)

Mrs Naomi Gibson

Mrs Carol Pigott (Secretary)

Rev Pam Rolls

Mr James Hellem

Mrs Hazel King

Mr Stuart Gibson

1. Opening Prayer

The Rector opened the meeting with a reading from 1 John ch 2. We show we belong to Christ when we obey and follow him. He gives us a new commandment, if we love others, we are in the light, and not living in the darkness. The meeting continued after prayer.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Liz Morris, Sylvie Thompson, John Pigott, and Helen Brook.

3. Welcome of New Members

There being no new members of PCC, the Rector thanked those who had been re-elected, for their continuing service.

4. Minutes of the Last Meeting

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

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

(i) Bell Ringing Simulator Carina Lobley reported that the Old North Berks. Branch of the Guild of Bellringers had turned down her application for a grant, and so she would now apply to the Guild.

(ii) Telephone Line Stuart Gibson had finally had success, in his dealings with BT. The telephone line had been installed and internet router set up. He and the Churchwardens would consider the security needed for future internet use.

(iii) Christian Aid representative Pam Rolls had received three offers of help. Helen Brook would coordinate collections in the old village, and Carina Lobley on Chilton Field. Hazel King also offered to assist, but would be away for the actual 2015 Christian Aid Week.

(iv) Repositioning of Old Noticeboard This was ongoing, although Stuart thought the Parish Council were to be allowed to put theirs up on the wall of the Rose and Crown, so it might be that we also had permission, but this was not known in Liz' absence. Hazel suggested the patch of ground by the BT cabinet on the corner at the bottom of Elderfield Crescent might be an option. Liz to be asked about this.

Alex reported that the lychgate noticeboard had been updated, and was ready to be collected from Challow. Hazel offered to collect it.

(v) Photos on Noticeboard Carol would check what new or re-named photos were needed, following the APCM, and contact Lin Kerr when she was home from holiday.

(vi) Possible Concert in September James had not had a response from his friend recently, but was aware that a member of his family was unwell. He would follow up at some time, and maybe re-schedule a date.

6. Possible Changes to Service Pattern

The Rector reported that he, Pam, and the churchwardens had met, as agreed at the last PCC, to discuss this possibility. There could be 2 services on a Sunday morning, each 1 hour long, with half an hour between for coffee and mingling of congregations. One could be a more "traditional" service, with BCP or Common Worship liturgy, with Holy Communion twice a month. The other could be "contemporary" in style, with minimal liturgy, extemporary prayer and generally more interactive, with music provided by piano, keyboard, guitar or CD etc. There had been discussion with the

preachers/leaders, and Naomi would need to look at the rotas, and the manpower issues. PCC agreed to continue to explore the possibility. Feedback should be sought from the congregation during May, with regular members of the congregation at 8.00 HC being consulted individually. There would be more discussion at the June CPCC, and further consideration at All Saints' PCC in July. If it were possible to start a new pattern in September, this would be reviewed in 12 months' time.

The questionnaire should be carefully worded, and include the option for "no change". Responses would need to include the person's identity, in order for follow-up to be possible. Hazel was happy to assist in the wording. She also suggested contact could be made with non-churchgoers at the Chilton Festival, on 6th June. If we had a stall at this, it could have a display showing our activities, and be manned so people could chat with us. Alex offered to email Bob Girling about setting this up. Offers of help could be given to him or the Rector. Parents of children attending the Holiday Club in August could also be approached, to ask what they expected, or wanted, from us as a church.

7. Deanery Synod Vacancy

There had been no volunteers to fill this. There is also a vacancy for a PCC member, for the 3 years to 2018 APCM.

8. Election of Officers

- (i) Vice Chairman..... Liz Morris.
- (ii) Treasurer..... Stuart Gibson.
- (iii) Secretary..... Carol Pigott.

All the above were prepared to continue.

They were proposed by the Rector, and accepted unanimously.

9. Election of Committees

Two resolutions were put to the meeting:

- (i) That the Standing Committee comprises (alongside the statutory Minister and CWs) the other licensed clergy, the Treasurer, the Secretary and the Vice-Chair.
- (ii) That the following resolution be put to the 2016 APCM:
That from now on, the PCC Vice-Chair and PCC Secretary will always be the two additional members of the Joint PCC allowed for, without the APCM needing to vote on this every year. This can be altered by a new resolution at any future APCM.

[(i) Means Rev Jan Radford is now on Standing Committee.

(ii) Simplifies matters, as in practice the 2 additional members voted on JPCC have always been the Vice-Chair and Secretary]

The above resolutions were proposed by the Rector, and carried unanimously.

- (iii) Finance Committee, currently Clergy, Churchwardens and Treasurer.
- (iv) Fabric Committee, currently Andrew Hayes, John Pigott, Judith Russell and Jeff Stopps. Chair vacant.

Alex Reich (churchwarden) agreed to join the committee, as a formal link with PCC, and Andrew Hayes had expressed agreement to be chair.

Both the above committees were agreed unanimously.

Andrew had suggested a 3-yr term of office as Chair, and the Rector would work with Andrew to produce a "job description", to include submitting an annual budget; agreeing un-budgeted expenditure with the treasurer; and keeping PCC informed of Fabric Committee business with a short update report at each meeting. Additionally, the Chair should have a deputy, or secretary, and/or leader of the "Task Force".

Mr George Curtis, Secretary and Treasurer to the Deanery Synod, joined the meeting now, and so the following item was taken at this point.

14. Deanery Synod Report, Including Vote for Option re Share

Mr Curtis explained the historical and current situation in the Deanery regarding Parish Share. In 2013, the Diocese introduced new rules, whereby every deanery would have to pay the costs of its priests and priests in houses for duty, plus support and 'Church of the Future' costs. 70% of the share covers the clergy, with 30% the other costs, based on Electoral Roll, October attendance figures, and the Experian figures for incomes in the area. Under the Deanery rules, the target Share is currently in proportion to the clergy and house for duty. The shortfall in 2014 had been made up by using loans against the 2015 dues.

The old Archdeaconry had looked for sustainability, but the new one is looking for growth, both numerically and in discipleship, which would necessitate keeping all clergy posts.

George said that, if all parishes were able to grow their share by 12% by 2019, the diocese would allow a 3% rebate.

However, the parishes are finding it increasingly difficult, and the Share is due to go up by another 1.5%.

The Astons have cut their own missions giving, in order to fulfil their share, and their congregation now contribute to the Didcot Foodbank instead.

However, the Diocese gives 4% of the Share to Missions, and George is to ask the Diocese to explain where it goes, and why they give, in addition to parishes giving.

Questions were raised about the priority. Was the Share expected to take precedence over Missions? Why raise the Share, when neither inflation nor salaries were increasing? From a business viewpoint it would make sense to "prune" back. I.e. to lose a clergy post, probably from Didcot, where one parish has always had a large shortfall, but where there are a number of churches of other denominations to cater for the spiritual needs of the parish.

In our case, we have over-contributed over the last 15 years or so, and are currently investing in the future, by employing our Children's and Families Worker. However, from a financial point of view, there is always a lag between successful mission – making disciples and growing a congregation – and seeing an increase in income from that growth.

PCC thanked George for his time and explanations, and appreciated his dedication to the offices he fills, and he left the meeting at this point.

PCC voted unanimously to ask that Option 2 be voted for at Deanery Synod; that we consolidate, with no increase in Share, for this year, with a review at the end of it.

However, PCC were tending towards Option 3, to cut a clergy post.

10. Election of PCC Representatives

- (i) Village Hall Management Committee..... (vacant)
- (ii) Stewardship/Gift Aid Secretary..... Stuart Gibson
- (iii) Electoral Roll Officer..... Gordon Cowan

The above were agreed unanimously.

11. Appointment of People for Tasks

The list had been produced for information/confirmation of agreement to continue.

The names of Helen Brook and Carina Lobley could now be added under Christian Aid Reps.

12. Committee Reports

- (i) Finance Stuart Gibson had circulated the Revenue Account. Income was on target at the moment, with donations higher than expected. Youth expenses were higher, mainly because we were paying for the hire of the Community Room on Chilton Field for Fledgelings. This might be funded from the Joint Budget, as are the Alpha and Marriage courses. Stuart would speak with Peter Shields about keeping track of the money donated at Fledgelings, and the expenses paid from those donations. The amount under electricity, water and telephone was high due to the telephone line rental, which Stuart had paid for in advance for the year, to gain a reduction.
- (ii) Fabric (Excluding Heating) There was no report at this meeting, as the Fabric Committee was "between chairs". However, Carol reported that the Standing Committee had decided on a replacement shed (as they had been delegated to do, at the previous PCC) The choice was a 6 ft x 10 ft shed at £870 by Marcham Plant, who would deliver and erect it, after we had cleared the old shed and laid a base. Stuart might have slabs for this. Carol would liaise with Andrew about acquiring the shed, and organise a notice to request offers of contributions to fund it, from the congregation, in the noticesheet.
- (iii) Youth Report Although this is dealt with at Benefice level, this item was kept on the agenda, for any comments or reaction to the provision for children at All Saints' services. There had been no adverse comments from the congregation to the current situation, with the children and their parents, occupying the South Aisle, with a carpet on the floor and quiet toys. Hazel asked if we knew how the parents felt about the arrangement, and Helen would be asked to gauge their responses. She also wondered if the children were benefitting spiritually, and Carol replied that Melanie was in effect providing "Sunday School" teaching at Flegelings on a Wednesday morning. The Rector thought it was intended for her to take the children out for their own teaching during the sermon, at some point in the future, and there could also be activity sheets for them while still in church.

(Carina left at this point.)

13. Heating All Saints'

In Sylvie's absence there was no report, but she was known to be seeking clarification of quotes. PCC would request a written report prior to the next meeting.

15. Review of Easter

Easter had gone well, with Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services well attended. The procession from Chilton Field on Good Friday had also been well supported. The Vigil Service on Easter Eve had been quiet and moving. Palm crosses had been given out as usual on Palm Sunday, but mention of their significance could have been made during the service.

The innovation of holding the Annual Meetings after the morning service on a Sunday seemed to have gone well. Numbers attending were the same as the previous year, on a Monday evening, but there had been some apologies for absence from people who would have made the numbers greater. It was felt that the lead up to the meetings, with reports and opportunities to ask questions during the Sunday services leading up to the meetings, had been a very good idea, and much appreciated.

16. Future Dates

Chilton Festival on Saturday 6th June. (See below)

17. Any Other Business

- (i) Chilton Festival Alex is liaising with Bob Girling on this. There is to be a Songs of Praise, (Carina is organising a Brass Group), Flower Festival in church, and visits to the Bell Tower. Alex asked about undertaking a risk assessment on this, and Stuart said that Ecclesiastical Insurance have a template for one. There could not be access to the clock chamber, but Pam asked if a webcam could be used, so people could view the bells from ground level. Alex would liaise with Carina.
- (ii) CAP Money Management Course Naomi, Carol, and Judy Burbage had attended this one-day course in Birmingham, with three from Harwell. It had been very good, intensive, and inspiring. The six attendees would be meeting to discuss running the courses, and had provisionally lined up dates to run two courses, each of three sessions. The first, in June, would be open to members of the congregation, and the second, in September "100 days to go to Christmas" open to the public.

18. Closing prayer

The Rector closed the meeting with prayer at 10.35 pm.

Date of next meeting. Combined PCC Tuesday 2nd June 2015 at 7.45 pm in Chilton

.....Chairman

Carol Pigott
Secretary