

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Combined PCCs
of St Matthew's Harwell with All Saints' Chilton
held on Tuesday 1 November 2016 at 7.30 pm in All Saints' Chilton**

Present

(J) Denotes Joint PCC member. There were thus 11 voting members plus the Rector at this meeting - all resolutions refer to Joint PCC votes

Peter Barclay-Watt (J)
Jean Barton
Lizi Bowerman
Helen Brook
Hazel Connelly
Phil Corbishley
Peter Cox (Secretary)
Sid Gale
Mel Gibson (J)

Naomi Gibson (J)
Stuart Gibson (J) *
Gordon Gill
Tony Hughes (J)
Andrew Keene
Hazel King
Carina Lobley
Carol Pigott (J)
Alex Reich (J)

Pam Rolls (J)
Frances Taylor
Sylvie Thompson
Michelle Walker
Christina Wood (J)
Jane Woolley (J)
The Rector (J, Chair)

By Invitation: Vicky Johnston, Church Administrator, and Peter Shields, Children and Families Worker (CFW).

* From the middle of item B5.

A Preliminaries

A1 Opening & Prayer

The Rector read Luke chapter 14 verses 12-14.

Poverty is in our communities, and is on tonight's agenda. Jesus said that the poor will always be with us. Jesus also said that blessed are the poor and those who recognise their need to receive from God. There are many types of poverty including material, social and spiritual. We should be interested in addressing it in all its forms.

The Rector read Galatians Chapter 2 verse 10.

The Rector then led the meeting in prayer

A2 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from: Juan Bowerman, Martin Gibson, Steven Hale, Heather House, Liz Morris (J), John Pigott and Jan Radford.

A3 Minutes of the September 2016 meeting

There was the following correction: Item B0(5) EU Referendum Campaigning Paragraph 3 last sentence:

It was established that the clergy and two members of CPCC present (those who had contact with the families) had been aware of this situation prior to receiving Jonathan's paper, **as had Gordon Gill**.

The minutes of the CPCC meeting in September 2016 were signed as a correct record.

A4 Actions / Matters arising

There was no Matters Arising.

B Mission Strands

B 1 Children, Youth and Families

Paper G refers: Work undertaken since the last meeting and work pending.

The Children and Families Worker (CFW) distributed copies of the paper and apologised that it was not available before the meeting. It is reproduced here with information the CFW added:

Work Undertaken

It was a shorter gap since the last meeting.

- Re-starting of all programs ... Fledgelings, YF, Pathfinders, Y-Club
- Planning programs & rotas ... Pebbles, Kids Church, Pathfinders, Youth Fellowship (YF), Y-Club - Initial topics for YF include moral dilemmas.
- Seasonal events ... Harvest services x3 - In both All Saints' and St. Matthew's Churches.
- New initiatives & events ... Family Fridays – This is a pilot scheme which has continued at a low level; however it is useful to try new ideas. Also there are the Family Science meetings.
- Admin ... Record keeping (children & volunteers), Holiday Club follow-up. - All Fledgelings parents have been registered.
- Annual leave – 5 days

Work Pending

- Bill Wilson event – there has been lots of communication about this. He is a man after God who inspired the CFW's work.
- Remembrance services - Groups for the Cubs and Beavers who attend the parade services.
- Advent doors – preparations and launch shortly
- Christmas services
- Reverse Advent – Donations collected instead of gifts received, e.g. for the food bank.
- Schedule school events
- Preliminary Holiday Club prep – the dates have been set as 14th to 18th August 2017.
- Regular CFW activities.
- Fledgelings playspace feasibility
- Parish Swap – send people from here to help the Holiday Club in the CFW's former parish in Bradford (which is under resourced) and possibly Holiday Club helpers from Bradford to help here.
- Fundraising – some of the Harwell Feast money will be for the Fledgelings play area, the feasibility of which is being looked into.

There were comments and the CFW, Rector and Church Administrator answered questions including:

- The Toy Service is included in the 3 advent services. It will be the 1st Sunday in December and will be advertised in the Broadsheet.
- Schools events have been scheduled – in Harwell School things are much unchanged, and in Chilton it seems that the Rector and Pam Rolls are still welcome to do assemblies. Y Club is still being held at Chilton School.
- A couple of the CFW's friends are involved at the Bradford parish. Other possibilities are a minister or PCC swap – to be investigated.

The Rector thanked the CFW and team for all their work.

B 2 Evangelism and Discipleship of Adults

B 2.1 Home Groups

Report

The Home Groups Co-ordinator Jean Barton gave the following report:

A new home group will be starting in Chilton Fields in November. This is composed of mothers and very young children, some of who attend Fledglings and are wanting to study the Christian Faith in more depth. The group will be looking at Christianity Explored and working out together the best way forward with young children present! It was requested to pray that we they find the right balance. Initially Jean will be leading the group at the Corbishley's home.

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The home group leaders have been contacted with the suggestion for the book their group might study in Advent. It is called "Herald the coming King". It has group ideas but encourages each member to read a daily study. It is important that, if possible, individuals study on their own, so that they can contribute at a group meeting is very good for us all.

The sessions are: Prepare the Way; Draw near to Jesus; Seek Him first; Who will you live for?

So far two groups have agreed to study the book during Advent. One is going to continue a study of 1 Samuel, which they are immersed in at the moment! Jean is awaiting replies from the other groups by the end of this week.

There was publicity given to Home Groups at the beginning of September and there are flyers still available. Jean is trying to encourage everyone to personally invite individuals. Often a personal invitation can work whereas bits of paper get forgotten!

Some members of Mike Pepper's home group spent a weekend together away in Wales.

The Barclay-Watt home group has committed to providing a "Christmas Together" lunch on Christmas Day. Chilton Village Hall has been booked. This will be aimed at those who would like company on Christmas Day and do not want to be on their own. The group met last night with others from our Church who had heard about the initiative and wanted to be part of it. Watch this space! This came out of a group discussion on helping others and being along side others and Alison Gale challenged the group to do something about it.

Yvonne Sanderson's group helped provide food at the last Alpha Course.

All the groups are continuing to encourage one another in various ways our journey of faith. Jean offered a big thank you to them all.

Float for Christmas Lunch

Peter Barclay-Watt requested a float of £250 for the Christmas Lunch from the outreach fund; the organising team are aiming to get some money back. The Rector put this to the meeting.

There was a general consensus of agreement.

The Rector said that it was good to see the home groups being active, especially externally in the community. The Kings Church are starting a similar initiative called "Missional Communities"

B 2.2 Marriage Course

Jean Barton gave the following report:

Jean was contacted about the marriage course on 25 October.

Harwell and Chilton currently have 7 weddings booked in for next year plus one in December of this year. There are also a few more Banns readings (particularly from Great Western Park) and it has been suggested that we could invite some of these couples for whom Banns have recently been read.

Jean and Peter have had a discussion and replied that they felt unable to commit to organise and run a Marriage Course at the present time, due to personal circumstances.

Sometime ago it was considered whether someone younger leading the course would be appropriate, and this may be an opening for that. Jean and Peter thoroughly enjoy the course and feel it is a valuable opportunity and of course would be willing to have an input if it was considered appropriate. They have had experience of running marriage courses, of various kinds, for something over 20 years, let alone their own marriage of nearly 51 years.

The Rector said that the feedback was that the attendees liked having older leaders. Any volunteers to run the courses should go to him. It is a great ministry, involving meeting and engaging with couples over a couple of years. It has a lot of potential.

B 2.3 Alpha Course

The Rector reported:

A Christianity Explored course is currently mid way through. 8 to 10 people attend who are at different stages in their journey of faith. There may be another Alpha course after Christmas.

B 2.4 Science and Faith

Paper F refers:

Carina Lobley talked through the report and emphasised these points:

Meetings

There have been two Family Science sessions, attended by 20 – 30 people, they were very good and enjoyed by all who attended. There is a great team of people helping. Some new material has just been received and will be started soon.

There have been three meetings of the Science and Faith discussion group covering “Can Scientists Believe in Miracles?”

Speaker Event 29th November

The speaker has recently been confirmed as Prof. John Lennox. It will be held at the Pickavance lecture theatre at Harwell Campus which seats 195. The refreshments are being arranged. Questions for the speaker will be collected before the event

Carina Lobley answered questions including:

- Places can be booked on line, and a few invitation cards will be available.
- The speaker will pitch the talk at a level for the lay person.
- The talk will be publicised across the Campus.

Presentations to the Archbishop of York

Carina Lobley continued that the talks including the presentation she gave was very affirming and encouraging. A summary video is on the Benefice website.

The Rector thanked Carina Lobley and her team. There is no Mission Apprentice yet to do the associated administration so Carina is doing this too. He asked for prayer for Carina and the work.

B 2.5 Responding to Financial Need

B 2.5.1 Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Money Courses

Carol Pigott, Naomi Gibson and Peter Barclay-Watt reported:

The courses are run by Carol Pigott, Naomi Gibson, Peter Barclay-Watt, Elaine Shrimpton and Liz Roberts. No one attended the first session of the latest course on Saturday 29th October. Instead, Liz Roberts explained how the new Universal Credit payments will affect people. The course will run if anyone signs up at the next session.

Quite a few CAP Money courses have been run up to now which have been successful. The latest course coincided with half term so the team are not discouraged by the lack of attendees.

The courses are being publicised on the Harwell Village and Chilton Village Facebook pages, there are posters in the village broadsheets and the Job Centre in Didcot. The Rector added that Liz Roberts is also pursuing a link with SOHA.

B 2.5.2 CAP Centre

The Rector reported:

Didcot Baptist Church has a budget meeting in the coming weeks. If they agree with this project then the OX11 CAP Centre is secure. There is a plan for CAP Centre Manager Sue Bright to visit the Benefice. There will possibly be a launch in January 2017. He will continue to keep the Combined PCC informed.

B 2.5.3 Acts 435

Paper C refers: A description of this national initiative which involves linking vulnerable people with a need for items such as household goods or travel expenses with those willing to donate via the Acts 435 website.

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The beneficiaries have the item paid for and the knowledge that a complete stranger was prepared to help them and the donors know their money is going to a specific person. An advocate assesses each request before putting it on the website and a volunteer would be required from the Benefice to do this.

The Rector said that he currently issues food bank vouchers which are a rescue initiative. The CAP Money courses are preventative and the CAP Debt Centre provides major ongoing help to restructure people's finances. The Acts 435 initiative is for people in crisis similar to the food bank vouchers. The Rector expressed his desire that the help that the Benefice offers be more comprehensive and not just bailing people out when in a crisis. A lot of new housing has been and is being built in the Benefice and this may add to the need.

The Rector asked if we should become involved in the Acts 435 initiative. Discussion ensued and the Rector answered questions including:

- There were some positive comments about the initiative.
- There are a lot of projects already running which require volunteers and there are a number of vacancies in other areas. The Rector said that there may be an ideal candidate for advocate in the Benefice.
- This may be better considered after the CAP Centre is launched or it may naturally follow on.
- There is no financial commitment required from the Benefice. Individuals can donate if they wish.
- The CFW said that this works really well. It is the best way of getting items quickly.
- It is really easy to donate.
- The advocate assesses if each request is genuine in a similar way to the Rector assesses requests for Food Bank vouchers.

The Rector summed by saying that that the CPCC seems to want to bear this in mind and maintain a watching brief. He suggested that this is put back on the agenda in 6 months.

No Objections.

ACTION: Combined PCC Secretary to add to June 2017 Agenda.

B 2.6 Social and Community

B 2.6.1 Walking Group

Paper E refers: Report and schedule of future walks.

Sid Gale reported:

Walks are scheduled for every other month from October and are aimed to be suitable for all. There will also be special walks for those that are more able including one on 18th November with members of Kids Church and Youth Fellowship, and another as a Lent pilgrimage along the Thames Path in July 2017.

It was mentioned that the 18th November is also Children In Need day and the St. Birinus walk is on the 1st Sunday in July. Sid Gale said that he will mention these points to the other organisers.

The Rector thanked Sid Gale and the other walk leaders for their work.

B 2.6.2 Harvest (Barn Dance 2016 and Plans for 2017)

Barn Dance 2016

The Rector read the report on the 2016 Barn Dance from the minutes of the October 2016 Chilton PCC meeting (Item 6 first paragraph).

It was suggested that Alex Reich writes to thank the band in addition to the verbal thanks on the night.

ACTION: Alex Reich to consider writing to thank the band.
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The Rector added that this event had been very successful and people had enjoyed themselves. He thanked Alex Reich and the organising team.

Plans for 2017

Suggestions and comments included:

- The Barn dance and other events including Harvest supper could be held in the new space at St. Matthew's Church which might be available by then.
- Harvest events could alternate between parishes each year.

- We need to reconsider the sale of donated vegetables so that they are sold promptly.

B 2.6.3 Benefice Away Day

The Rector said that this suggestion had come out of a Generation Gold discussion with Pam Rolls and Jan Radford. A possibility could be a trip to Ripon College with lunch, social and a service in the chapel, or a coach to the seaside or leisure centre. It would need less work than a weekend away and could be a trial for one similar to those held in the past. It would need a key person to organise it.

Discussion ensued including:

- Various possible days and venues such as Cuddleston College and Clanfield Adventure Centre were discussed.
- This is another project requiring committed people and we should do a few things well. The Rector said that he did not want to burden those already burdened.
- The Rector said that the emphasis of the day would be on enjoyment and community with a reminder of why we are together. It would enable people to get to know each other including across the two parishes.
- Away days bring in the extended church family.
- Volunteers to organise the day could come from the wider church not just the Combined PCC or the usual volunteers.

The Rector summed up by saying that the meeting considered this could be good to do. Volunteers and suggestions for the day should go to him.

B 3 Pastoral Care

Pam Rolls reported and answered questions:

Visiting Teams

Both Parish Visiting Teams are busy with visits to private homes, care homes and hospitals. Let Pam know if you hear of anyone who would like a visit. Home Communion has been provided to 6 people in hospital and others in their homes.

Hazel King said that the visiting teams had been a great support to her recently.

Generation Gold

Thirty people attended the September service including 6 new people. The theme for the next service is “Bells” on the 12th December. Pam is in touch with the Harwell bell ringers and hand bell ringers. People give cakes they make themselves but more volunteers to help with the catering are needed. A joint budget is required and requested; Jan Radford added that they want to provide small gifts.

The Rector said that the PCC Treasurers should note this.

B 4 World Mission

Helen Brook reported:

After the last Combined PCC meeting budgets for contributions have been composed for approval at the next PCC meetings. Please pray especially for inspiration and creative solutions.

B 5 Worship Services

B 5.1 Fresh Expression Service

The Rector and the CFW reported:

This is currently going through a trial phase: There have been five Family Friday meetings and two Family Science sessions so far. The Family Friday meetings have been led by Jean Barton, the CFW and the Rector. They have been attended by about 30 adults and children, all of whom are members of the Church community, have committed to trial the sessions, and include the Rector and CFW's families.

The ultimate aim is that each meeting consists of: a family session (which the current focus is on), then a meal, followed by a session for adults – currently this is Christianity Explored. Different venues and formats have been tried; they have set out to try as much as they can, eliminating those ideas that don't work and improving on those that do. The feedback has been useful and they are learning good lessons.

The ultimate aim is to have a service accessible to people not currently engaged by the standard Sunday services.

Discussion ensued and the Rector answered questions including:

- It was suggested that Friday may not be the best day
- Currently the sessions may lack focus and it is not drawing people in though it is fun when all of the children and families are there.
- The current plan is for the trial to continue in the weeks up to half term then it will be publicised more widely (though new people will not be turned away from the sessions before then).
- It was asked if success will be judged by the number of new people attending. The Rector said that it is a similar question for the Sunday services. The aim for all Worship Services is to grow faith and explore God's Word and Worship. The Fresh Expressions service will be an informal and non liturgical style of worship to engage with those not currently involved in Church. We are not at the point of judging success, merely trialling options
- Carina Lobley said that even with quite good publicity the Science and Faith meetings have not attracted different people to those who attend the Family Friday meetings. Fellowship is going deeper if not wider.
- The Rector said that personal invitations may be required. It was stated that publicity may be by word of mouth - children at school may tell their friends and bring other children and adults.
- The Rector said that there would be further Steering group meetings to consider progress so far and address any problems. These would be after more sessions had been run - probably before Christmas.

ACTION: Rector to arrange Steering Group meeting

The Rector asked that any ideas about this should go to him.

C Facilitation and Partnership

C 1 Communications and Operations

Paper B refers: Communications Report October 2016: Progress on courses being studied by the Church Administrator including a survey of non Christians' understanding of Christianity with resulting broadsheet item, also Christmas publicity.

The Rector said that the Church Administrator has enrolled on various lifelong learners courses on her own initiative, they are not a requirement. The Church Administrator said that she finds them very inspirational.

Christmas Cards

The Church Administrator said that Lin Kerr did not have time to create new artwork for the cards but does have a painting that may be suitable. The Church Administrator is also looking at other options. Discussion ensued of possible designs.

The Rector said that he usually puts a short message in the card as well as the service dates.

C 2 Stewardship and Finances

Peter Barclay-Watt reported:

The individual PCCs have been updated. The budgets were in September. The only joint item is the Deanery Synod and Parish Share.

The Rector said that this item would be considered at this point.

C 5.2 Deanery Synod and Parish Share

Stuart Gibson, Gordon Gill, Peter Barclay Watt and the Rector reported and answered questions

About a year ago, the Benefice was offered a so-called "parish share holiday", which meant no increase on the previous year's share. The Deanery Treasurer confirmed recently that we were eligible for this in 2017 (i.e. paying the same amount as in 2016), but hoped that we might be able to aim to pay more than this, i.e. closer to the amount invoiced to the Deanery by the Diocese in respect of our Benefice. The Treasurers had discussed this and agreed to apply for the 'share holiday' amount in 2017 but aim to pay more. In the

ensuing discussion it was suggested that were the Deanery to fall short in its share contributions to the Diocese, in the longer term Deanery clergy posts could be at risk.

Further points from the discussion included:

- All of the Parishes in the Deanery have to contribute the required amount to get the £13,000 rebate from the Diocese.
- A Stewardship Campaign was suggested, it is easier to get a smaller annual increase than a big infrequent one. Peter Barclay-Watt said that we could write to thank all who give and suggest that they review the amount they give. We also want to raise money for the 3 year extension to the Children and Families work and we should focus on this.
- It was suggested that we use the “The Responsibility is Ours (TRIO) Stewardship campaign material. It was successful in another Benefice.
- The Rector said that this should be considered by the Stewardship Group, we need to be proactive and ask people to review their giving again.
- Peter Barclay Watt said that a Stewardship Group meeting will be arranged.

C 3 Safeguarding

Paper D refers: Safeguarding Report October 2013 including DBS renewals up to date, Safeguarding training to take place in the New Year and Safeguarding Officer courses are being investigated.

There were no comments.

C 4 Staffing and Leadership

The Rector reported:

There have not been any changes in staffing or leadership. The Science and Faith Ministerial Apprentice post is still open. It has not been re advertised. He will follow up on ideas from the September Combined PCC meeting with Phil Corbishley and Carina Lobley.

C 5 Wider Church

C 5.1 Deanery and Great Western Park

The Rector and Gordon Gill reported:

Funding for Mark Bodeker

The Rector has attended a meeting with the Didcot Clergy and Mark Bodeker. The application for funds to extend Mark's post have been approved, and Mark is likely to continue in the post. There have been questions from the Deanery and Archdeaconry about how this role will relate to other plans. A meeting of the relevant Archdeaconry committee has taken place and a decision on the funding is awaited.

Gordon Gill said that the Archdeaconry Pastoral Fund Committee has approved funding for 10 years for a post in Great Western Park community and it will be passed to the Bishop's Council.

Area of Work

Gordon Gill said that no area has been formally designated, beyond the vicarage itself which is in Harwell Parish. The post is Community Missioner to New Communities, not necessarily confined to Great Western Park. There is a decision to be made here regarding where Mark works, as Great Western Park overlaps 4 other parishes including 60% in Harwell Parish (though the borders are under review). Mark Bodeker's curacy in All Saints' Didcot finishes in May 2017. After that he will be an independent minister free to work in any parish.

Mark Bodeker leads a very successful church which meets monthly at the Didcot University Technical College (UTC). About 60 to 70 people have been attending and it has home groups and a community café. Wedding enquiries are being received and a couple from Great Western Park are to marry at St. Matthew's.

In answer to a question Gordon Gill said that the Ladygrove Church is being considered separately. It overlaps two other parishes and two deaneries and may become a new parish.

C 5.2 Deanery Synod Update and Deanery and Parish Share 2016

This item was considered after item C2.

C6 Any Other Business

C6.1 Songs of Praise – Future Service

The Rector said that this is usually held in May on the weekend of the Harwell Feast and was last held in 2016. He asked how often this should be run, and suggested that it is not annual.

Comments included:

- It should be held every other year.
- Whilst Songs of Praise is nominally connected to Harwell Parish and Feast, we should be prepared to run it more often if an opportunity arises in Chilton e.g. a village fete. The Rector agreed.

The Rector suggested that it is not held in 2017.

No Objections

C 6.2 Bishop Steven Visit to Deanery

Gordon Gill (Lay Chair of the Wallingford Deanery) said that Bishop Steven was spending the first six months of his incumbency on a listening agenda and aiming to meet all of the PCCs in the Diocese by the end of May 2017. Bishop Steven will address each meeting and there will be an address and question and answer session. Gordon Gill has been asked to organise the Wallingford meeting.

The Rector closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer at 21:16 pm.

Dates of next meetings:

Individual PCCs: Chilton 3rd January and Harwell 10th January

Combined PCC: 7th February 2017 at St. Matthew's Harwell.