

Nov 201011

Minutes of a Meeting of the Combined PCCs of St Matthew's Harwell and All Saints' Chilton

held on Tuesday 23rd November 2010 at 7:45 pm in All Saint's Church, Chilton

Present

Harwell

James Scott Cockburn	Allan Macarthur	Jane Woolley
Kate Evans	Tim Roberts	(Minutes were taken by Martin Speed)
Mel Gibson (Secretary)	Roz Shipp	
Georgina Greer (part)	Steve Tunstall	
Tony Hughes	Jonathan Wood	

Chilton

John Berry	Carol Piggott	Liz Morris (chair)
Avril Butler	John Piggott	Jeff Nesbitt
Naomi Gibson	Alex Reich	
Hazel King	Andrew Hayes	

1. Prayer

Kate Evans) opened the meeting with prayer.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Sid Gale, Gordon Gill, Vicky Macarthur, Ruth Poole, Pam Rolls, Stuart Gibson and Geoff Nesbit (whom it was reported had moved away from Chilton and resigned from the PCC).

3. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the last meeting of the combined PCCs on Tuesday 14th of September were signed by the Chair as a correct record.

4. Giving for life

Peter Barclay-Watt told the PCCs about the diocesan "giving for life" initiative following the diocesan meeting on the subject that he had attended with Andrew Hayes. (This item was item 5 on the agenda but was dealt with in this point in the meeting).

Peter Barclay-Watt reported that the initiative aimed to set up a network of Parish 'Stewardship promoters' who could disseminate good practice. A booklet had been produced by the diocese and this had been distributed to PCC members.

Peter Barclay- Watt said the initiative was very relevant to the situation in Harwell where there was likely to be a £10000 to £12000 deficit in the current financial year – which would substantially deplete the reserves (which were around £40000.) He said that next year looked

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as if it would have a similar deficit, and that although there may be legacies or one-off donations which might offset this, they should not be relied on.

He reported that at the meeting Bishop Stephen had referred to the passage in 2 Corinthians where Paul speaks of the generosity of the believers. Paul said that their giving was not only 'meeting needs' but also facilitating a generosity that demonstrated Christ's values to the wider community. Peter Barclay-Watt said that the parallel with our churches was that we *could* balance the books by reducing what our churches gave, but that to only meet our needs would not be in line with the generosity and giving that Paul celebrated in 2 Corinthians. We only need to increase planned giving by 10 to 15% to avoid this.

Peter Barclay- Watt said that a clearer vision needed to be conveyed to congregations that gave greater importance to the Christian values of a giving and generosity and that such a vision would naturally move the topic higher up the agenda than the finances for meeting our needs.

The stewardship promoters represented a way of communicating this vision and sharing what is being done in parishes rather than everyone having to work on their own. He said that a plan for Christian giving might be say 5% of a person's income to go to the church and 5% to other charities, but acknowledged that this would depend greatly on a person's stage in life and that individual circumstances may dictate something very different from this.

The Chair thanked Peter Barclay-Watt for his presentation and noted that the Deanery synod had this item on their agenda for the following night and suggested that the PCCs discuss the item again after the synod had taken place. The Chair mentioned that there was often a stewardship 'campaign' in January, but that this had been planned for later in the year, and therefore there was no problem in delaying discussion until the January meeting.

5. Matters arising from the special meeting: Harwell and Chilton Profile

The Chair thanked Steve Tunstall, Mel Gibson and Hazel King for their work on the profile – singling out Hazel King for particular thanks. The Chair led the meeting in raising issues on a page by page basis. A summary of the issues raised is recorded here – but the full details of the changes were recorded by Hazel King on her copy of the document so exact wording and locations are not recorded here.

Page 1

- Rephrase the second paragraph regarding the position of 'All Saints'.
- Add a contents page.
- Align descriptions of Harwell and Chilton (both 'below Ridgeway' but only mentioned for Chilton).
- Add a comment on the state of order of the rectory and include a photo of the inside.
- Rephrase the mention of 'estates' in the 3rd paragraph to avoid any impression of tower blocks.
- Add 'frequent' to the description of the train service.

Page 3

- Align descriptions of villages: add mention of the village hall and pre-school in Harwell. *Jane Woolley to provide suggested text.*

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Page 4

- Add mention of secondary schools and align descriptions of primary schools in two villages. *Jane Woolley to provide suggested text.*
- Clarify reference to Census.

Page 5

- Remove list related to the recent surveys. (It was originally suggested that we re-phrase the church getting 'involved in' because it gave the impression of the church not currently being involved in these activities. But this was problematical because of the wording of the survey question. It was also noted that the small samples mean the comments could not be seen as representative of the full population and so it was thought better to remove the whole section.)

Page 6

- Reflect the current status of developments – though following a recent e-mail it was thought that the latest draft was correct.
- Align the mention of groups: adding Fledglings in Harwell, Scouts in both and Light in Chilton.

Page 8

- Mention that church directories were on the website. Discussion of this also led to suggestion that the web site be given greater mention (beyond being recorded on the cover.)
- Add references to other web sites that might be useful (e.g. schools.)
- Change wording of the small 'eminence' (to avoid the connotation of 'mini Pope').

Page 9

- Add detail on upper room in Harwell including church office and equipment. *Naomi Gibson to supply suggested text.*
- Remove reference to 'Discoverers' in Harwell.

Page 10

- Add 'traditions and style of worship' of the churches and some mention of the contribution of the congregation, including music. *Naomi Gibson to provide suggested text.*
- Use a consistent time format (i.e. not both O'clock and 00:00). It was noted that a proof reader had been identified and would deal with these points throughout the document.

Page 11

- Re-phrase to reflect the 9:30am services not being quite every other month.
- It was suggested that the profile should mention when robes are normally worn – but it was felt that this would be too much detail and probably too dictatorial to the new incumbent.

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Page 12

- Change working of the administration of PCCs to distinguish between Chilton's 1/3 of members changing (3 year cycle) and Harwell where every member was elected each year.
- Note that the parish administrator works 13 hours per week.
- Add a paragraph early in the profile (current page 3) to report that the PCCs *worked well* together.

Page 13

- It was noted by Andrew Hayes at this point that Norman Russell had suggested this ought to be the full length of the report (i.e. 13 pages.) There was a brief discussion about the length with regard to which (as summarised by the Chair) a balance has to be struck between taking the advice of the Archdeacon and recognising that the profile belongs to the PCC and should reflect their views. It was noted that some of the detail was unnecessary because of the knowledge the candidates could reasonably be expected to have already. For example, there was no need to describe what Scouts do. It was also suggested that a lot of detail could be found out if the candidates wanted it from web sites, and so we could give the web site address and reduce the detail in the document.

Page 14

- Add the reserve at Chilton. *Steve Tunstall will provide.*
- It was noted that as the full accounts need to be made available most of the collapsed accounts on page 14 are not needed and can be removed. (This will also remove the potential problem of reconciliation problems between the collapsed view and the full accounts.)

Page 15

- Given the comments about avoiding detail that was unnecessary because of what candidates would already know it was agreed that the children and youth section could be reduced to bullet point 'one-liners'.
- Add Chilton's Discoverers group.
- The question of raising the profile of Alpha in the ministry section was raised, but it was noted that Alpha was mentioned elsewhere.
- References to the detailed statements from the Church vision were questioned, but it was agreed that these were correct and were included in the full vision documentation – but were just not well known.

Page 20

- Re-phrase the section about church music – *Kate Evans to provide suggested text.*
- The value of the second part of the section on the vision was discussed. It was suggested that the details (after the summary recorded on the 'blue cards') should be removed as the Harwell and Chilton versions were different and there was some confusion about what was meant by 'vision' in the Harwell section. Other members put forward two contrary viewpoints: firstly that differences in routes to the vision were appropriate in a profile, and secondly that the Archdeacon had not seen any problem with this detail (despite having wanted to reduce the detail in other places.) It was

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therefore agreed that the substance should be kept if the Harwell section was 'sharpened' – and it was agreed that all that was necessary to achieve this was to replace 'vision' with 'aim' in this section.

- It was pointed out that a 'live generously' bullet which was on the 'blue card' was missing – but Hazel King reported that this was not on the vision papers passed to her.
- Re-phrase the 'atmosphere' at Chilton wording.

Page 22

- It was noted that the Archdeacon had commented that we ought to bring out more aspects that *we are looking for in particular* as opposed to the things that would be *expected anywhere*. As such it was suggested that bullets 5 and 6 could be made into a 'sub point' of the collaborative working style point. *Tony Hughes to provide suggested text.*
- Other 'cuts' were suggested, but it was noted that removing 'expected' things could mean that they could not be used as a criterion in the selection process. (For example, though 'being at ease with all types of people' might be a 'given' for a rector, removing it from the criteria would mean that there was no justification for not selecting someone clearly not at ease with people if they were good in other areas which were mentioned in the profile).
- The question of whether 'qualifications' were requirements was raised, but it was agreed that ordination was all that was necessary.
- It was agreed that the profile did not put sufficient emphasis on selecting someone who felt they had a strong calling to take on the role. It was agreed that the first paragraph should be re-worded to make this clear. This should mention the Holy Spirit. *Kate Evans will provide suggested text.*

6. Report from the Ministry Leadership Team

Naomi Gibson provided a brief report from the ministry leadership team.

She said the team had met twice to organise and plan and an itemised list of responsibilities is displayed in the Church porches. The next service planner (March to August 2011) was being filled in and the procedures for guest speakers agreed.

Lent readings for home groups were discussed and it was agreed that this year they would be given a number of suggestions rather than everyone following just one.

The prayer chain had been re-organised with Kate Evans taking on the e-mailing. Pam Rolls would like to relinquish the role as the Chilton phone prayer chain co-ordinator having faithfully served in this role for 7 plus years. It was decided to ask for new members of the prayer chain via the notice sheet.

The team decided to hold a Harwell evening service on the 16th and not the 23rd as the Didcot United service was on the 23rd and not the 16th as previously thought.

Arrangements for John Abu Bakker's visit were discussed.

It was agreed to wait six months before reviewing the Hands Free services.

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7. Future dates

- 30th November. 7:30 Meeting with the Archdeacon and Patrons
- 12th December Carol services in Harwell
- 19th December Carol services in Chilton

8. Any other business

There were no other items of business raised.

9. Close

The meeting closed at 21:25pm

10. Next Meeting

The next **Combined PCC meeting** will be held on Tuesday 25th January 2011 at 7:45pm in St. Matthews Church, Harwell.

The next **individual PCC meetings** will be held on Tuesday 25th January 2011 at 9.00pm in St. Matthews Church, Harwell.

SignedChairman Date.....

Signed.....Secretary Date.....