

Minutes of a Meeting of All Saints' Chilton PCC

Held on Tuesday 3rd October 2017 at 7.30pm at St Matthew's Harwell

1. Opening Prayer and Combined Discussion

Revd Dr Jonathan Mobey opened the meeting by reading Matthew chapter 22, from verse 15 onwards. Following Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the Pharisees were intent on finding a way to trip him up using the law on taxation. Jesus turned the tables on them, using a Roman coin, with the exhortation to "render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's, and give to God that which is God's". As PCCs we have obligations to both God's kingdom and to the human world, for example observing safety practices while having work done.

Jonathan then led the meeting in prayer.

(i) Parish Share 2017

PCC secretaries had, as asked at the previous PCC meeting, produced a paper (Paper A) outlining the current situation regarding the Parish Share, with tables summarizing the relevant finances of each parish. The funds held by each parish were also tabulated, and described as "Restricted", "Designated" or "General".

"Restricted" ...received for a specific purpose – only the donor can change this use.

"Designated" ...set aside by PCC from General Funds for a particular purpose – only PCC can "undesignate" or "redesignate" them.

"General" ...freely available for general use.

Tony Hughes thanked the secretaries for the clarity of this paper.

(Carol Pigott was especially thankful to Jane Woolley, who had done most of the work on this.)

The paper showed that St Matthew's is over target by £369 to pay the Share, while All Saints' is under target, by £906.

In the ensuing discussion:

- Sid Gale asked about All Saints' Carterton House Fund. Pam Rolls explained the history of this fund. Parishioners of the benefice had donated to purchase a house for clergy use. Eventually the house at Carterton was bought to provide a retirement home for the then rector, and was finally sold some years later. The money from the sale was returned to the benefice, and split between the parishes. All Saints' had not used their share as yet, reasoning that it should be used for a concrete purpose, such that the original donors would have approved. (Liz Morris explained that All Saints' had planned to use it for the heating project, if this had come to fruition).
- Carol commented that using this type of fund for a regular commitment such as the Parish Share, would be akin to selling the family silver for living expenses.
- Tony Hughes stated that some of St Matthew's reserves had in effect been used to cover deficits in their on-going expenses for a number of years.
- Becca Lewis felt that on-going expenses should be covered by reserves if necessary, if there was money somewhere available.
- Carina Lobley pointed out that it was the decision of each PCC individually, as to which pots of money they should use.

- Christina Wood replied that we needed to decide where the money would come from, if the Benefice decided to pay in full.
- Gordon Gill explained about the rebate that the Deanery receives, if the Deanery Share is paid in full, and how that is used.
- Jean Barton asked if St Matthew's had ever made up All Saints' shortfall. Pam replied that this had not happened here, although it may have happened in other benefices.
- The Rector pointed out that we could re-visit the split of the Share, instead of having the 2/3 to 1/3 ratio.
- Hazel Benton reminded PCC that George Curtis (Deanery Treasurer) had informed the PCCs that the Diocesan view was that Parish Share should take precedence over Missions Giving. She did not want that to happen.
- Gordon had pointed out the benefits we received from the Diocese, which are funded by the Share, including clergy training. Pam replied that, although she and Jan Radford had benefitted from this, the Diocese benefits from their non-stipendiary roles, and also from the fees they receive from conducting services, etc.

Tony Hughes proposed that:

The Benefice pay the requested Parish Share of £72,413, with the amendment:
To be split - St. Matthew's £48,879, All Saints' £23,534.

Seconded: Carina Lobley.

Both proposal and amendment carried: Unanimously.

(ii) **Children's and Families Worker**

Jonathan Mobey reported that progress was being made, with candidates to be interviewed on Sunday afternoon. (8th October).

The interview panel would consist of Jonathan, Christina Wood and Alex Reich.

Jean Barton will find children of junior school age to co-opt for the children's activity. Jane Woolley, Wendy Critchlow and Jean Barton will observe the children's activity.

Jonathan then led the meeting in prayer for our own church family, and for all the arrangements and decision at the weekend CFW interviews.

PCCs then moved to their individual meetings, at 8.15 pm.

2. **All Saints' PCC**

Present:

Rev Dr Jonathan Mobey (part-time)
Mr Phil Corbishley
Dr Carina Lobley
Mr Alex Reich
Mrs Helen Brook (part time)
Mrs Carol Pigott (secretary)

Rev Pam Rolls
Mrs Liz Morris (Chair)
Mr Stuart Gibson (part time)
Mr John Pigott
Mrs Hazel Benton

3. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies had been received from Mrs Yvonne Sanderson, Mr Steve Hale, and Rev Jan Radford.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted unanimously, and duly signed.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

- (i) Bell-ringing policy Carina reported that altering the ringing time, so that this ended at 9.10 a.m. had not been a successful experiment. The brief ringing time was not conducive to encouraging our travelling ringers to come for such a short time, and there had been a couple of occasions when the 8.00 a.m. service had overrun, making the time even shorter. The reasons for altering the time had been to allow more time for setting up the projector, and for the preparation of the upper room for Pebbles. The Pebbles group would in future be meeting in the Hall, now that numbers had increased, which meant one reason was no longer valid.

(Stuart Gibson arrived at this point)

Discussion followed on projection, and it was decided to try running the laptop from the back of the church, downstairs. Liz suggested that the sidesmen switch on everything upstairs when they first arrive in church (which should be well before the bell-ringers). This would allow enough time for the projectionist to run through before the service. (Sometimes there are glitches that need to be ironed out; sometimes the laptop starts to up-date itself, which all takes time)

Action: Stuart and John would look into the practicalities of running the laptop from downstairs.

- (ii) Sound and Vision training Stuart had held one training session, and would organise more when necessary. Hazel asked if there was a prompt card, for setting up. Stuart said there was one for sound, and projection would also need one.

Action: Stuart.

- (iii) Ride and Stride Naomi Gibson was to be thanked for covering this event this year. Hazel had wanted to cover the event, but circumstances, arising from her recent marriage, had prevented it.

- (iv) Sale of Pew There being no further news, secretary would remove this item from future agendas.

- (v) Involvement of Families in Services Carina and Helen spoke on the need to involve families more in services, as had been agreed earlier.

For example, having families contribute the prayers. Also, there had been a group, led by Jean Barton, which met a few times and contributed ideas to a couple of all-age services. Harvest had been a good All-Age service for the families. It would be great if someone could lead a similar group, enabling people to give their ideas, and maybe even explore people's gifting and if they wanted to contribute to services/church life. Mostly, the older members of the congregation enjoy seeing the children in church, but unfortunately some find it distracting when noisy toys make it hard for them to follow the service.

Pam would be organizing a service for All Souls in November, looking at different ways of prayer, etc. Discussion continued on the different ways of organizing the family space in church. Currently, there is an L-shaped area to the front, on the lectern side. PCC all seemed to agree that this was a good area, although small, when there is a large group using it. It was suggested that the whole front area could be used for services such as Harvest, Toy service, when large numbers of youngsters are expected. (This had been the initial trial, but did not work when few children were present). There were thoughts to trial an area at the back of

the nave, by the vestry door. The advantages would be that parents could more easily exit, if necessary during a service. Some of PCC felt this might be seen to be “pushing the children to the back”, and they would rather see them at the front, where some of the older ones are now taking more of an interest in the service. Also, it would mean dislodging some of the older members of the congregation, who sit there regularly. Hazel suggested keeping the family area to the front, as it is now, for most services, while extending it across the whole front for All-Age services.

Action: Jonathan would arrange for notices to go in the notice sheet, letting people know that we are still experimenting with this, and to ask for feedback. Also, the Service Leaders and Preachers group (including the new CFW when appointed) should progress the involvement of families in services.

6. Committee Reports

(i) Finance

Stuart had produced the revenue accounts for the ¾ year to the end of September, and financial report.

a) The discussions of the Combined PCCs, at the start of this meeting, had been on Parish Share and it had been agreed that we pay the full amount requested.

Stuart explained that we were now receiving a 1% discount, as he was paying the Share by Direct Debit. This would cover £230 of the £906 shortfall, leaving £676 to find. Discussion followed on the different Funds that could be accessed to pay for this shortfall.

- The Childrens’ and Families Worker Fund could be used, as the Church Hall Fund could be used for CFW purposes in future.
- The Evergreens Fund should be held for any future work with the older generation, such as Generation Gold.
- The Carterton House Fund could be accessed to cover Parish Share and other deficits (such as the Path Fund), and we could then have a fund-raising effort to put us in a better position for next year: this would however set an unhealthy precedent.

(See comments above, during Combined PCC section)

(The Rector left at this point)

The CFW Fund could also be used for Missions Giving, if the donors were in agreement.

In summary, we have a shortfall in the General Fund, and have been asked for an additional contribution of £906 to the Parish Share.

Stuart Gibson proposed that:

We use the 1% discount for paying Parish Share by Direct Debit, plus approach some donors to the CFW Fund to ask if they would be prepared to transfer their donations into the General Fund for this year.

Seconded Helen Brook.

The proposal was carried.

Voting: 7 for, 1 against, 2 abstentions.

Discussion continued. Hazel was concerned that, if no-one agreed to transfer their donations, would Missions Giving be affected? Pam said there would be preaching on stewardship in November. Helen asked if, say, Fabric and Missions committees could contribute to the budgeting process. Stuart thought this sounded good.

Helen Brook then told PCC that, as she had already told the clergy and secretary, she was having to stand down as member of PCC, due to family circumstances. PCC thanked her for her contributions to PCC, and for continuing as Chair of World Missions Group in future.

(Helen left the meeting at this point)

- b) Path Fund PCC agreed with Stuart, that we leave the Path Fund in deficit. Some donations may still be received.
- c) Missions Giving Stuart said we would try to achieve our giving. Liz asked if we might decide next year to change our giving to 10% overall. (Currently 15%) Pam commented that, if we had a successful stewardship campaign, 10% of future income may be the same as 15% of current income!

(ii) Fabric

- a) West Wall. PCC discussed this, again, at length. Pam has been searching documents in the Diocesan Records in Oxford, and has purchased some deeds relating to West House and East House from the Land Registry. There had been a recent exchange of land between East House and Middle House, which should imply ownership of the wall by them but no mention of the wall appeared in the document which covered the exchange of land. She has also found reference to a "Statutory Declaration" dated 3 months before the sale of the Rectory in 1950 but, strangely, the Land Registry did not have a copy of it even though it is referenced in a number of the documents concerning the old Rectory. She is in communication with the Diocesan Registry and has asked if they would borrow the relevant file from the Church Commissioners so that she can examine it in the Registry's offices in Oxford to ensure that there is nothing further to explore. Pam is adamant that we should do all we can to get to the bottom of the case. PCC really appreciate her efforts on this, and will wait for her to exhaust all avenues, before progressing further.
- b) Chair Trial Alex had received no comments on this, but Hazel said some do slide back, if sat on heavily. PCC agreed to keep them, moving around as necessary.
- c) Mandatory 5-year Inspection of wiring Andrew Hayes had requested this be done, although it would involve an increase in cost. Stuart said that fabric expenditure overall was still under-budget, and so PCC agreed this be done. Stuart requested it be held over until January, if possible.
- d) Plaque PCC agreed Pam continue with this installation. It will not need a faculty.

7. Harvest Feedback

The Harvest Service had gone well. The school had not been in attendance, but had held their own Harvest in school. Hazel and Liz both objected to the instruction to bring items for Didcot

Foodbank, and not fresh produce. They felt, as a rural parish, Harvest means being thankful for the produce of our own gardens and allotments. The benefice does contribute to the Food bank throughout the year and Pam suggested that the needs of the Food Bank should continue to be advertized.

Pam also suggested having a cream teas afternoon on Harvest Sunday next year, with sale of perishable produce. Other suggestions were to have a table at the lychgate, for people to take, or baskets of food could be given to the local elderly, or families, as with the Lydia Thomas Trust but it could prove difficult to know how to allocate this wisely and well.

8. Christmas Preparations

Naomi's list for Christmas preparations had been passed on to Yvonne, our new Churchwarden, Hazel would approach the garden Centre, for a tree for the tower.

Pam would provide a tree for inside church.

Liz would organise the sherry for Christmas Day

Pam would ask Muriel about carol singing, to see if she would welcome the singers this year, and ask Shea about singing in the pub.

All Saints' Carol services will be on Dec 10th this year.

There would be no 8.00 HC on Sunday 24th Dec, but there would be the usual 9.30 am service, and the 10.00 pm Holy Communion, as usual.

There would also be a 6.15 pm service on New Year's Eve, Sunday 31s Dec.

9. PCC Secretary

Phil Corbishley agreed to act as secretary, for Carol's absence in January.

PCC meeting would be on Tuesday 2nd January 2018, at All Saints'.

Carol also reminded PCC that she would be coming off PCC at the next APCM, when her current term ended.

10. Future dates

In addition to the Christmas dates, above, Pam said she hopes that we will be part of a Prayer Spaces event at the Garden Centre, or in the conservatory area, in the run-up to Christmas. She is meeting with other local Prayer Space co-ordinators to see how this might develop.

In the absence of a CFW currently, advent Doors would not go ahead this year, but it was hoped to hold this next year.

11. Closing Prayer

Pam closed the meeting in prayer at 10.10 pm.

Date of next meeting

Combined PCC. Tuesday 7th November, 7.30 pm at All Saints' Chilton

.....Chairman

Carol Pigott (Secretary)