

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Combined PCCs
of St Matthew's Harwell with All Saints' Chilton
held on Tuesday 2nd April 2019 at 7.30 pm
at All Saints' Chilton**

Present

(J) Denotes Joint PCC member. There were thus 8 voting members including the Rector at this meeting - all resolutions refer to Joint PCC votes

Hazel Benton	Andrew Keene	Alex Reich (J) **
Phil Corbishley (J)	Rebecca Lewis (J)	Judith Russell
Peter Cox (Secretary)	Allan MacArthur (J)	Yvonne Sanderson (J)
Sid Gale	Patrick Moseley	Michelle Walker
Gordon Gill	John Pigott	Jane Woolley (J)
Tony Hughes (J)	Christopher Pollard	The Rector (J, Chair)

By Invitation:

Vicky Johnston, Church Administrator
Melanie Shields *** Children and Families Worker
Helen Brook*

* From middle of item B1 to the end of item B4

** From middle of item B 2.1

*** From Item B 2.2 to end of item B1

A Preliminaries

A1 Opening & Prayer

The Rector read Romans 14 v 1-10

He said that we had read recently about the MPs and the difficulty they are in with Brexit; should they act on behalf of their constituents – the majority view or minority view, or according to their personal consciences?

All PCC members have had different experiences and different backgrounds which they bring to the meeting. We should receive, reflect, decide and encourage each other and the leaders.

We are all servants of God, so we should not look down on or judge those who think differently to us or have a different background. We have the same Master so we should love and accept one another.

The Rector then led the meeting in prayer.

A2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from: Stuart Gibson (J), Phill Johnston (J), Tim Paget (J), Jan Radford (J), Pam Rolls (J), Eliza Wheaton

Items A3 and A4

These items formed Individual PCC meetings which have separate minutes. The purpose of the meetings was to facilitate the Induction of new PCC members and their responsibilities and appoint each PCC's Treasurer, Secretary and Vice Chair to complete the standing committees of the Individual PCCs which form part of the Joint PCCs.

The Rector gave explanations of structure and procedure at several points in the meeting for the benefit of the new PCC members.

A 5 Minutes of Previous Meetings

A 5.1 Minutes of the January 2019 meeting

Paper M is the Minutes Subject to Formal Approval.

There were the following corrections.

Item C 5.1 “Gordon Gill, **Deanery** Synod representative,” Changed to “...**Diocesan (and Deanery)** Synod..”

Item C 5.3

Second Bullet point LGBTQTI+ changed to “LGBTI+”

Third bullet point “LBQTI+” changed to “LGBTI+”

On approval the minutes were signed by the Rector.

A6 Actions / Matters arising

Paper N refers, reproduced here:

Status of Actions and Matters Arising Not Covered Elsewhere as of 1st April 2019

FROM OCTOBER 2018 MEETING:

ITEM B 5 Worship Services

Action: Combined PCC Secretary to add “Review of Worship Services” to October 2019 Agenda

Status: In Hand

There were no further matters arising.

A7 Other Joint Issues

The Rector said that there were no other joint issues not on the agenda.

B Mission Strands

The Rector explained that the Combined PCC oversees staff and gives some leadership on items such as Mission Strands, which is run at a Benefice level, and Item C Facilitation and Partnership, which is how we carry out and support the Mission strands. Individual PCCs look after buildings, facilities and finances.

B 1 Children, Youth and Families

See after item B 2.1.2

B 2 Evangelism and Discipleship of Adults

B 2.1 Home Groups

Paper D Refers: Home Group Report for January to March 2019, covering Lent Central, the Tuesday Morning Group, topics being studied, group meeting days and times, attendance statistics and thanks to the leaders and members. There are currently 11 home groups with 75 regular attendees.

A show of hands indicated that half of those present attend a home group.

The Rector reported and answered questions:

The Rector said that there are a number of home groups spread across the week and times of day with different flavours. It is relatively unusual to have this number of groups and attendees in a rural area. This is

a very important aspect of Church life. The first church met in a home and there are many house churches and groups. We focus on the Sunday gatherings but should not neglect the home groups.

Lent Central

The Rector said that this is an experimental new meeting taking place for 6 weeks in St. Mathews during Lent on Thursday evenings. About 30 people attend, a quarter of whom are not in a home group.

It starts with refreshments, followed by songs, then a video, separate off into three groups for input and discussion, then reconvene to share thoughts and a song to finish. Four meetings have taken place and there are two remaining.

Care for the Family

This course is also running during Lent for parents of teens. About 6 people attend.

Two Home Groups paused for Lent in the light of Lent Central and the others carried on.

Feedback will be gathered afterwards to decide what to do next – possibly the same in Lent next year.

B 2.2 Baptisms Weddings and Funerals

Paper I refers: Description of meetings required for each of these types of service and statistics for Harwell and Chilton for 2017 and 2018.

The Rector said that this paper is from the annual report. He included it so that PCC members are aware of the information as it is an important part of church life. It creates the “crowd” part of the concentric circles diagram of the Church community - see minutes of Combined PCC meeting 1st September 2015 item B 0.2 and Paper F thereof.

The Rector and Children and Families workers have met recently to discuss how they may make more of the relationships formed with parents who bring their children for baptism services, e.g. a “Baptism Sunday” in May.

B 1 Children, Youth and Families

B 1.1 Update and Plans

Papers H refers –

- Update on Sunday Groups, including Pebbles, Kids Church and the new creche at Harwell.
- Updates on Youth Fellowship, Pebbles Family Service, Fledgelings, Holiday Club, Y Club, Reflective spaces.
- Reports on Specific services including Christingle and Education Sunday and other events
- Plans for Parenting Course and baptism follow up.
- Professional Development undertaken
- Thanks
- Key dates
- Actions.

Children and Families Worker Melanie Shields (and others as listed) answered questions:

- The actions at the end include plans, some of which they have made a start on, for example increasing contact with baptism families, to build on the contacts with families that we already have. There are a lot of families that we have contact with but not very deeply or for very long. The Saturday Dads’ group will require time and planning; it could be one Saturday a month with their children.
- There was no reason given for the schools not attending Education Sunday. The meeting discussed possible reasons, such as the timing – just after half term holidays, and the availability of supervision.
- The Rector said that there were very positive comments about Y Club at Chilton School, and Holiday Club being hosted at Harwell School. Sarah Barrett and Pam Rolls regularly give assemblies and Reflective Spaces will take place at Harwell School.
- A PCC member attended a Fledgelings session recently. It is going very well. The Rector said that Fledgelings is going from strength to strength recently with more sessions, but this has resource implications.

New Wednesday Afternoon Fledgelings Session

The Rector said that this had been discussed at today's Staff Team meeting, reflecting on the experience so far. The number attending is increasing but there are overheads, for example room rent. Fledgelings is supported by the church General Fund and we are treating it as outreach. There is some income from donations which offsets the costs. We could ask for more donations or apply for grants. Fledgelings generally is going well with lots of attendees and there will be more young families in the parishes as more housing is built.

Melanie Shields said that there is one new family at one of the groups most weeks. 50 families attend the Harwell session, 35-40 attend the Chilton morning session and between 13 and 24 have attended the first 5 weeks of the new afternoon session. Some families attending the new session attended the morning session, others are returners whose children are at nursery.

A PCC member said that it was good that we are not charging but we should say that donations are welcomed.

A PCC member said that the new session means that the two Children and Families workers have less time to spend on other areas.

Melanie Shields said that both CFWs set up and tidy up and finish off each Wednesday, but only one runs each session with a volunteer helping. However, she was aware that when two CFWs are present there is time to listen to someone, which is not there if there is only one present.

The Rector said that leaders should recruit and deploy other leaders as Jesus did across all areas of Church life. The CFWs are each contracted to work 20 hours per week each and we should make sure that this time is used well. The purpose of the Combined PCC is to ensure that there is a strategy as Paul had one. We too should set out in a particular direction, though it may change.

Other Activities

- An Alpha course is being run by a volunteer during the daytime for mums.
- Two Mums' Socials have been run for Fledgelings families, especially for families that have just moved to the area and don't know anyone.
- The Rector said that Pebbles Family Service is growing and is well supported by a committed group. It is a Fresh Expressions service which runs alongside the Chilton Services once a month.

Teenagers Work

The Rector said that this includes Youth Fellowship, Pathfinders, the Parenting Teens course and the Youth weekend away. There is a need in the wider community as there will be a bulge in the number of teenagers in the coming years. Bishop Steven has encouraged us to think about how we will respond to this need. There was also caring connected with the recent death of a local teenager. We should think and pray how we should engage and respond, possibly with other churches. It is a big opportunity and challenge.

Melanie Shields said that it was important to build a good relationship with the children and community. Pam Rolls had contacts with the friends of the local teenager through Y Club and School assemblies. His family appreciated Pam's attendance and prayers at an event put on for his friends.

B 2.3 Alpha and Christianity Explored

The Rector reported that there have been two courses recently. The group attending one course that ran before Christmas has moved on to the Christianity Explored course, which they have nearly finished. The other group is the Daytime Alpha course mentioned in item B1.3.

There are no plans to run another course at the moment. A course may be run in the Summer or Autumn terms. He is always open to run a course if there is a demand from an interested group of people.

B 2.4 Responding to Financial Need

B 2.4.1 Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Money Courses

Sid Gale reported that courses continue to be run, each usually consisting of three sessions. One is currently being run during the week.

B 2.4.2 CAP Centre

The Rector is a trustee of this centre, which covers Didcot and Wallingford areas and is supported by both churches. He reported that there are a lot of clients. The centre manager Sue Bright spoke at the Sunday services a few weeks ago. The annual report is due out shortly and will be presented at the next meeting.

ACTION: Combined PCC Secretary to add CAP Centre Annual Report to July Agenda
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B 2.4.3 Didcot Emergency Foodbank

The Rector said that this is supported by both churches, with a particular focus at Harvest.

Response to Emergency Appeals

A PCC member asked if the Benefice should be prepared to respond to emergency disaster appeals such as the recent appeal for Mozambique. We have occasionally done so in the past, and individuals will respond in any case. Discussion ensued:

- There was an emergency giving fund in the past which stopped. It was part of the budget and supported a local charity and emergency appeals. There were problems selecting a local charity, but something similar could support emergency appeals.
- The Rector said that this could be done, or we could have one off appeals from the front at services. We would need to decide which approach to follow
- We could encourage people to give to the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) appeals.
- We could contribute from PCC resources – e.g. fund matching.
- We could set up a fund of £500 or a larger amount and decide when a need arises.
- Tearfund, which we support, is already on the DEC list so we could increase our giving to them and trust them to respond.
- It tends to be DEC and distributed through charities working in the area.
- All of the charities listed on the DEC website will work on a particular appeal but will work at the time appropriate to the work that they do.
- There was discussion of what Chilton PCC could do in its current financial position.

The Rector summed up by saying that it is an interesting and timely idea. Helen Brook, the World Mission Group Leader has also considered it. We have directed or restricted giving to the Children and Families work and other areas. We could have a similar arrangement for World Mission or parts of it. Considerations are: how it is done, how often, and whether it will distract from regular giving which is not as exciting as disaster appeals.

ACTION: World Mission Group to consider giving to disaster appeals and restricted giving to World Mission
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B 4 World Mission**B 4.1 Update and Plans**

Helen Brook gave a presentation on the situation at present and a possible new area of support.

Current Mission Support

The Benefice currently prays for and financially supports five organisations. It was decided 18 months ago that each organisation would be connected with one of the Anglican Church's Five Marks of Mission.

We also support some missionary partners: David and Heather Sharland working for the Church Missionary Society, John Abu Bakker in India (supported by Chilton) and Christine Perkins working for Pioneers-UK.

Christine has finished full time work for Pioneers-UK and now works in a voluntary capacity, so we do not provide as much financial support, but cover some of her expenses.

Proposal

As the financial support for Christine Perkins has reduced substantially, we can consider supporting a new missionary partner. There are also funds available from Harwell legacies. Considerations are:

- Someone we can support by prayer and financially
- Someone we can build a relationship with
- The relationship should be two way.

- Use some of the recent Harwell legacies for the work.

After also considering options to support missionaries in Uganda and though Latin Link in Latin America, the world mission group have suggested supporting Endri and Dyshi Tabaku who lead 'Light of the World' church in Shkoze, a suburb of Tirana in Albania. Endri and Dyshi have been supported by BMS World Mission in the past (not currently) and are known to Helen and Tim Brook, who worked with them in Albania.

Background

Helen Brook gave a presentation on Albania's history during the 20th and 21st Century, moving from Christianity to Islam to an Atheist Communist State and finally opening up to Christianity and other faiths in the 1990s.

Currently Albania is 70% Muslim, 30% Christian - of which half are Orthodox and half Catholic. There are very few evangelical Christians.

There is a lot of poverty, it is one of the poorest areas, with water, electricity and transport difficulties.

Helen and her husband Tim were missionaries in Albania, based in a suburb of Tirana called Shkoze, which has new housing and a lot of poverty and imbalance in wealth. There is a Romany community.

Helen and Tim were associated with the Light of the World Church. This was looked after by an English pastor. They ran community projects aimed at "opening the doors" of the church and letting people see that Christians are approachable.

Opportunity

An Albanian Pastor called Endri Tabacu and his wife Dyshi also worked with the English pastor. They have since trained in ministry and taken over from him. It is a growing church but the space they have to use is too small. There is lots of work but not much money.

Endri and Dyshi have been helping the church grow and flourish, they work with children and teens, and do health and medical outreach. There is a men's group that visits pubs, and a project to establish a Romany Church in the Romany community. Endri and Dyshi have a real heart for the area.

Helen and the World Mission Group have considered the Tabacus as missionary partners to support and providing space for the Church as a project to support. The group prayed and discussed this and feel that they are the right people and project to support and hence are bringing this as a proposal to the Combined PCC.

The Rector explained for the benefit of new members that the World Mission Group considers allocation of regular giving between Missionary organisations and partners and the PCCs of each church decide how much to give. The World Mission Group decides on the allocation and the PCCs then approve this.

For this proposal Harwell PCC has put aside an amount from a recent substantial legacy (the "Talbot Legacy") and 10% from other legacies to go to a World Mission fund project. Chilton PCC will decide how they can support it, either financially and prayer or just prayer.

Helen and Jonathan answered questions from CPCC members:

In some Moslem majority countries Christians are persecuted, is this the case in Albania?

Helen Brook said that Christians are not persecuted now that there is freedom of religion and speech. The population find protestants unusual as the Protestant faith is a recent arrival. It is opening up.

Harwell is setting aside 10% of Unrestricted Legacies to World Mission so would this money from the Talbot Legacy be going to World Mission anyway? Are we adding this project to the list?

Helen Brook said that Christine Perkin's retirement has freed up some funds, some of which can be allocated to this couple.

The Rector said that the 10% allocated from the legacies has been held awaiting a project such as this one. There are two types of income: Unrestricted giving, of which 10% goes to the five missionary organisations and the mission partners. Then there is 10% of the Talbot legacy which has been put aside together with 10% of a subsequent legacy.

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A PCC member said that the 10% from Legacies allocated to world mission is a fixed amount suitable to fund a project over one or more years, whereas the funding that was for Christine Perkins is out of the 10% of unrestricted giving and could be indefinite. The Rector said that Helen and he had discussed spending the Legacy funds on a substantial project related to the partners we are supporting so funding extra space for the church in Schloss could be a suitable project.

The first step is to decide if the Benefice is to fund mission in Albania.

Helen Brook said that the World Mission group discussed this and is in favour, the timing is serendipitous and she knows that the people involved are good people. There is the opportunity for people from the Benefice to form a relationship too and visit. Other missions are much further away and more difficult to visit. Another World Mission Group member said that they felt that God is in this.

The World Mission Group has only brought one proposal to the CPCC, what about the what about the work in Uganda which Yvonne Sanderson has connections with? Helen Brook and other WMG members said that they had considered supporting this work, but the Albania work seemed a better choice.

Did the WMG group also consider funding missions that they did not have contact with already?

Helen Brook said that there are very many possible projects and missions we could support, but they really wanted a relationship with the mission partners. The Albania option fits quite well.

Will the couple visit us as the Sharlands and Christine Perkins do?

Helen Brook said that she hopes so.

Other comments included:

- Some PCC members were happy to go ahead with the proposal as stated so far.
- The presentation is good but a paper might also help that explains all of the reasoning.
- A WMG member said that there are only 3 members in the group and more would be welcome to join.

The Rector said that he sensed that the Combined PCC was happy for this proposal to go forward.

There was general agreement to this.

The Rector thanked the WMG members for their work so far on this proposal. He asked that they bring something in more detail to the July CPCC meeting.

ACTION: World Mission Group to submit a paper on the proposal to support the Mission in Schloss to the July Combined PCC meeting.

2019 Mission Funds Allocation

The Rector asked if the World Mission Group had completed the proposal for the breakdown of funds allocation. Helen Brook replied that they had completed a provisional breakdown, but it was on hold pending approval of the Albania proposal. She agreed to bring this to the July meeting.

ACTION: World Mission Group to bring proposed allocation of annual funds to the July Combined PCC meeting.

B 2.5 Social and Community Including Walking Group, Harvest and Christmas activities

The Social Committee has had its first meeting and composed a provisional program of activities. The activities are to encourage and engage those involved or interested in church life, i.e. the "Congregation" and Crowd".

B 3 Pastoral Care

Paper C refers: Report on Volunteers, Leaders, Easter Home Communion, Funerals follow up visits, Generation Gold Services, and pastoral care for the funeral of a Chilton teenager (see item B 1.1 Teenagers work paragraph).

The Rector said that the above-mentioned funerals and the support and care around them were exceptional events. A lot of regular faithful work is undertaken. The quarterly Generation Gold services are an encouragement – it is good to see the numbers attending increase.

B 4 World Mission

B 4.1 Update and Plans

See earlier.

B 5 Worship Services

B 5.1 Figures for 2018 including Fresh Expressions

Paper H refers: Service Attendance 2018 for each service, with 2017 figures for comparison.

The Rector said that the paper is for information. This is an important part of what we do. He highlighted these points:

- There is a dip in the average attendance at the Chilton 9:30am Sunday service but the Pebbles Family Service more than compensates for the drop.
- The heavy snowfall on the day of the 2017 Chilton Carol service accounts for the doubling of attendance in 2018.

C 1 Communications and Operations

C 1.1 Update and Plans

Paper F refers: Luke readings series: card and associated Facebook updates. New Giving Leaflet produced, Broadsheets, Easter Cards, Ongoing Church Administration, Events Planning Document and Church Administrator Conference.

The Rector said that a lot is mentioned in passing but are very significant roles and tasks.

In answer to a question Vicky Johnston confirmed that she also organised the Ladies Social for Harwell and Chilton and appreciated those that attend, though this may fall outside Communications and Operations.

Vicky has obtained the Easter cards at a reduced cost of £89 (previously £350). The number of cards has increased from 2000 to 2200.

She has also drafted an on line survey on the Broadsheet to be publicised next month.

C 1.2 General Data Protection Regulation

The Rector said that complying is quite a challenge. A lot of other organisations are also working on it. We are currently semi-compliant; it is a work in progress. We are required to obtain permission to hold people's data and communicate with them. Data can be held on a legitimate interest basis, which is a justification used by many other churches – if you decide to be part of a group it can be assumed that the group will communicate with you about the matters pertaining to the group.

Electoral Roll Renewal GDPR Update

A PCC member asked if the electoral roll forms had included the GDPR consent questions. The Rector said that they had been included and most people had completed them. Carol Pigott, the Chilton Electoral Roll Officer has recorded the consents for Chilton. There was a much smaller return in Harwell parish and some chasing up is required. We still have consents from emails previously circulated but there is some clearing up required.

Fall in Harwell Parish Electoral Roll

It was stated that there had been a large fall in the electoral roll for Harwell. The Rector explained that the 6-yearly complete renewal of the electoral roll in all parishes in the Deanery was carried out this year. The Chilton electoral roll had fallen from 81 to 74 and the Electoral Roll renewal in Harwell had fallen from 111 to 44.

There was some discussion for the reasons for this. It was suggested that this should be discussed at the Harwell Individual PCC meeting and the Harwell PCC Secretary said that it is already on the agenda as a result of the discussion at the Harwell APCM.

The Rector said that this has an impact at PCC level because the number of PCC members is now smaller; Harwell did have vacancies but has hardly any now though there are no more members. It also has an impact at Benefice level because the numbers on the electoral roll directly affects the parish share and the number of representatives on the Deanery Synod. The parish share is currently split 2/3 Harwell to 1/3 Chilton. The ratio of Electoral Roll sizes differ from this now, though this 2/3:1/3 ratio will still be used for this and in other financial calculations.

It was suggested that if all of the electoral rolls in the Deanery are likely to have fallen too, this effect on the parish share will not be marked, and that the numbers on electoral rolls may increase as time goes on.

C 1.3 Annual Re Adoption of Data Protection Policy

In fact, this will be the first adoption of the data protection policy. The Rector said that the model policy for adoption by churches is very recently issued, and we need adapt it for the Benefice (and fill in the blanks as appropriate) before it can be adopted by the CPCC. This is closely related to GDPR and we should consider this again at the July meeting.

<p>ACTION: Rector and Data Protection Officer to adapt policy. Combined PCC Secretary to circulate policy and add to July CPCC meeting agenda.</p>

C 2 Stewardship and Finances

The Rector reported on behalf of Stuart Gibson that the Stewardship Group has not met so there was nothing to report. They are due to meet again soon.

The Rector added that there will be a focus on giving at this Sunday's services as it is the first weekend of the new tax year and there being a focus on Zacchaeus the Taxman

Gift Aid

There was some discussion about the provision of Gift Aid and Gift Aid envelopes, which a number of parishioners prefer to use, though they are primarily intended for visitors. Harwell regularly provides 50. Gift Aid can be claimed on anonymous gifts under £20 and is claimed on all plate collections.

C 3 Safeguarding

C 3.1 Update and Plans

Paper G refers: Safeguarding Report, submitted by Mel Gibson and reproduced here:

Judith Gold and I continue to DBS check Chilton and Harwell people whose DBS Checks have expired.

There are also new people being checked who have volunteered to help with Fledglings in Harwell and there is a new Fledglings Group now meeting in Chilton on a Wednesday.

Holiday Club is running again this year at the end of July at Harwell School and all volunteers who have not been DBS checked will need checking before the Holiday Club starts or they will not be able to take part.

Post Meeting Note: Holiday Club 2019 will be held at Chilton School due to roofing work at Harwell School during the summer.

The Harwell and Chilton Safeguarding and Social Media Policies are due for annual re adoption at the first Combined PCC Meeting after the AGM and there are no changes that need adopting for the coming year.

The Diocese is arranging a number of Training Days throughout the year on Safeguarding and there is one on the 17th July which Judith and I will be attending at Church House.

Mel Gibson
Harwell and Chilton Safeguarding Officer

C3.2 Annual Re-Adoption of Safeguarding and Social Media Policies

These papers refer:

Paper J: Parish Safeguarding Policy June 2019

Paper K: Model Policy on Social Media revised May 2016

A PCC member said that in the Social Media Policy, under “Privacy” heading, second paragraph, last sentence ending in “..as set out in Para 5” needs changing. A PCC member asked that the Safeguarding Officer could confirm that this was the latest version of the Social Media Policy

ACTION: Safeguarding Officer to check wording and confirm version of Social Media Policy

Resolution	That the Joint PCC adopts the Safeguarding Policy contained in Paper J				
Proposed	Rector (Chair)	Seconded	-	Passed by the JPCC	Unanimously (7 JPCC members were present)

Resolution	That the Joint PCC adopts the Social Media Policy contained in Paper K subject to the check on paragraph numbers				
Proposed	Rector (Chair)	Seconded	-	Passed by the JPCC	Unanimously (7 JPCC members were present)

ACTION: Rector to sign policy, arrange for all Church Wardens to sign policy and return policy to Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor

C 4 Staffing and Leadership

C 4.1 Update and Plans

The Rector reported that Eliza Wheaton had preached at an 8am service recently, it had gone very well, and she had been invited to preach again.

C 4.2 Permission to Assist at Communion

The Rector reported that there are a few follow-up enquiries to complete before bringing the revised list to the CPCC for approval at the July Meeting.

C 4.3 Employment Committee Report

The Rector reported on behalf of Jean Barton that the Employment Committee had not met and there was nothing to report from Employment Committee.

C 4.4 PCC and SLT Away Day

The Rector said that we had not had an Away Day for a couple of years, and suggested that there should be another one. There have been a couple of significant Away Days in the past, including one where the CPCC decided on the proposal for a Children and Families Worker. We need to decide what subject the meeting should focus on such as strategy, should it be devotional or led, and what venue and time of year.

Discussion ensued including:

- Venue and time of year, all or part of a day
- These have been helpful in the past
- These enable PCC members to get to know each other and their particular strengths.

No Objections

The Rector asked that any thoughts or suggestions are sent to him.

C 5 Wider Church

C 5.1 Deanery and Diocesan Synod

Sid Gale reported that at the Deanery Synod they had looked at the Deanery Mission Action Plan to be formed from the Parishes' priorities.

Gordon Gill said that the resulting Deanery Mission Action Plan will represent all churches in the Deanery. All churches in the Deanery had been contacted and the three priorities are:

- 1) Development of ministry to children, young people and families
- 2) Developing out outreach to new and settled communities
- 3) Development of appropriate patterns of worship

A fourth priority has been added, in respect of Didcot Garden Town to look at the Church of England's response to the growing garden town, its future presence and structure. The Designated Garden Town spreads across 10 ecclesiastical boundaries and into two deaneries with the potential to creep into a third deanery. To support this aim a priest has been recruited and appointed as Bishops Adviser, the Revd Dr Andy Lord. Andy is currently Rector of four parishes in Nottinghamshire. Andy will fill the vacancy at Didcot All Saints as priest-in-charge until such time the structure of the church and clergy posts are confirmed.

There was a workshop at the last Deanery Synod with representatives from each parish looking at key actions and a meeting in the next couple of weeks.

C 5.2 Common Vision Conference

Paper L refers: Description of Conference to be held 8-10 May for Deanery representatives.

Gordon Gill said that this is the final strand of the series of Common Vision consultations across the Diocese. Seven areas of strategic importance have been identified, three of which align with the priorities in the Wallingford Deanery. The Common Vision Conference is specifically focused on drawing lay representatives from across every Deanery across the Diocese.

A major financial part in supporting the delivery of Common Vision is that the Bishop is releasing £7.5m as a Development fund to be spent on church projects aligned with the Common Vision plan. Sid Gale and Gordon Gill are working across the Deanery to see how the churches and projects can be coordinated to deliver. They can involve significant sums of money. Examples are:

- 1) A five-year strategy for particular cities in the UK for training especially adverse areas.
- 2) A five-year plan for 50 Fresh Expressions church hubs and 7 churches.
- 3) Reaching Schools better and re-imagining the church school relationship.

It is an investment in the Diocese to make a more Christ like Church: Contemplative, Compassionate and Courageous. Funds are being released for projects to help these be achieved and are being returned to the Deaneries rather than being retained. It is an enormous opportunity for churches that want to work with each other on projects, such as our churches and the response to the growing Didcot Garden Town. Funds are available in a two tier structure, Tier One up to £2,500 and Tier Two for significant funds where employing a mission worker is part of the project.

It was suggested that this could be discussed at the away day so we have a strategic approach. The Rector said that in order to access funding we need to align our local plans with the strategic priorities of the Diocese.

A PCC member thanked the PCCs for helping to fund the Youth Fellowship Away Day. It was really successful with relationship building and sessions led by Ian MacDonald, Diocesan Youth Advisor. They really had a good time. She did not think the YF members realised how much they were loved by the congregations. It was suggested that the PCCs continue to fund this.

C 5.3 Great Western Park

No report or comments.

C 5.4 Letter from Concerned Clergy and Bishop’s Response

These Papers refer:

Paper A: Letter from Concerned Clergy in response to Bishop’s Letter titled “Clothe Yourselves with Love –
Paper B: Joint Response from Bishops

The Rector said that the Bishops had sent a pastoral letter regarding human sexuality (see paper A for January 2019 meeting). Paper A above had been written in response and Paper B is the Bishop’s reply. The Bishops had asked that the first letter was presented to PCCs so he thought that it was right to bring these to the PCC members’ attention as well.

There were no comments.

C6 Any Other Business

None.

The Rector closed the meeting in prayer at 10:00pm.

Dates of next meetings:

Individual PCCs: Chilton and Harwell 7th May 2019 at St. Matthew’s Harwell

Combined PCC: 2nd July 2019 at All Saints’ Chilton

CHAIR

SECRETARY

DATE

DATE