

Minutes of a Meeting of All Saints' Chilton PCC

Held on

Tuesday 2nd March 2021 at 7.30 pm via Zoom

St Matthew's, Harwell and All Saints', Chilton PCCs were present together for Items 1-4.

1. Opening & Prayer

The Rector (Jonathan Mobey) read Hebrews 2: 1-9. Jonathan highlighted that there are a few things in this passage to reflect on and to take encouragement from, such as:

- We need to pay attention to what we've heard and not drift away from it. It is easy to drift in life generally. That is a risk for us as a church too. We need to fix our eyes on the right thing.
- As humans we have a great responsibility. We have been put in charge over the Earth. We have responsibility for stewarding spiritually as well as physically. As PCCs we steward the resources of the church.

Jonathan Mobey then led the meeting in prayer.

2. Preparation for Annual meetings

2020 Annual Report

Paper A refers.

Jonathan Mobey thanked the PCC Secretaries for their work on the annual report. He asked if PCC members had any queries on the content of sections 1-4 which are virtually identical for both churches.

Hazel Benton queried the accuracy of the paragraph near the start of section 2.5 about the length of extension of the Children & Families Workers' contract and the funding of it. There was some discussion about what the true situation was. This culminated in agreement that the wording needed to be amended. The meeting agreed to delegate this re-wording to Jonathan Mobey, Jane Woolley, Carol Pigott and Hazel Benton.

In terms of the funding situation, Phill Johnston, St Matthew's Treasurer, clarified that St Matthew's has already received enough in donations to cover its share of C&FW costs for 2021 and for most of 2022 even more donations were forthcoming. In addition, those who donate to the C&FW fund via a monthly sum are likely to maintain this giving for the duration. Therefore the funding of the C&FW post for a further five years looks to be on a fairly firm footing at St Matthew's. However, Phill said that he gathered from talking to the All Saints' Treasurer that this is not the case for All Saints'. For instance, its December 2020 contribution to C&FW costs had to be part-funded from money that had been set aside for another purpose, and that All Saints' PCC has agreed to continue this approach until more funds are raised.

It was also agreed that the phrase "For the remaining nine months of the year" later in section 2.5 of the annual report would be put in bold so that it was clearer that descriptions prior to that applied before the pandemic and descriptions after that applied during the pandemic.

Proposal	With the proviso of the two amendments to section 2.5 (described above) to approve the in-common sections 1-4 of the 2020 Annual Report				
Moved	Chair	Seconded	-	Passed	Unanimously

3. Encouraging nominees for churchwarden and PCC member elections

Jonathan Mobey stated that some PCC members are standing down or their terms are coming to an end. In particular, it was noted that Chris Pollard (All Saints' PCC) is moving away and so will be unable to resume his role as All Saints' PCC Secretary as planned.

Jonathan encouraged PCC members to think of others who might be willing to serve on the PCC. We should think of increasing diversity and of where we have skill gaps. Jane Woolley said that nomination forms were available on the church website or by contacting the church office or PCC Secretaries.

4. Dates of electoral roll revision and annual meetings, and communicating these

Paper B refers.

There was some discussion about the dates when indoor meetings would be allowed again, and whether it was worth making the annual meetings hybrid events as in 2020 (broadcast via Zoom from the church building with the ability to attend in person).

It was agreed that the decision should be made here and now that the annual meetings would be remote meetings only via Zoom and not hybrid events. Therefore the dates would be Thursday 29 April (All Saints') and Thursday 6 May (St Matthew's).

Proposal	To hold the annual meetings remotely via Zoom. Recommendations about publicising the electoral roll revision and the annual meetings as set out in Paper B were accepted.				
Moved	Chair	Seconded	-	Passed	Unanimously

All Saints' PCC Only: (from 8.20 pm. Hazel in chair)

Present

Rev Jonathan Mobey (until item 13)
Mrs Judith Russell (Churchwarden)
Ms Hazel Benton (Vice-chair)
Dr Phil Corbishley
Mrs Carol Pigott (Acting secretary)
Mr Alex Reich

Rev Pam Rolls
Mrs Yvonne Sanderson (Churchwarden)
Dr Pat Moseley
Mr John Pigott
Mr Stuart Gibson (Treasurer)

5. Apologies for Absence

had been received from Rev Jan Radford, and Chris Pollard.

6. Decisions requested of Standing Committee

No decisions had been requested, but Alex asked if it were time to resume face-to-face worship, now lockdown was to start easing, with schools re-opening on 8th March. The most recent arrangement of evening services alternating between the churches could be used, starting on Sunday 14th March, he felt.

Discussion followed. Pam said the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) were thinking of small services of Holy Communion at Easter, and also outside activities. Jonathan said the SLT wanted to produce a plan looking forward, long-term, with possible new ideas for our future worship patterns of services in 2021 and 2022, to present to the May PCCs

Alex was happy for the SLT to discuss this, and to communicate their thoughts as soon as possible, possibly by email?

Action. JLM, SLT

7. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 3rd November 2020 were unanimously accepted as a true record, and would be printed off and signed

Action. CMP/JLM

Hazel referred to minute 11 of the November minutes. At the November meeting, the minutes for the previous meeting had not been available, and the 3 previous sets had not been approved and signed. This needed to be rectified **Action. CMP/JLM**

8. Matters Arising

- Photos for noticeboard. Lin Kerr will deal with, after lockdown
- Role-holders. Paper C. These were for information.
- World Mission Budget. Paper D was the budget for 2020. The WM Budget for 2021 will be needed by November 2021 **Action. YKS**

Item 15, Fabric, Papers G (One-off tasks) and H (Repeating tasks) were taken at this point, for information, while Jonathan was still present.

Hazel commended the excellent task Andrew Hayes has done, as ever, but PCC were aware that events had progressed since these papers had been written (in January). The owner of West House has demolished "his" section of wall, and replaced with substantial fencing; the owner of East House has taken on responsibility for "his" section, and taken out public liability cover for it; and Judith Russell has petitioned retrospectively for a faculty, with this being granted.

Jonathan had spoken with Andrew, who was, understandably, keen to update the Registry that the owner of West House had taken on responsibility for that section of wall. Pam (who has worked at Diocesan house on land matters) suggested the best course of action would be to contact the registry once agreement had been made with all three owners.

PCC agreed that this should be done.

Action PCC

Annual Meeting Preparation. The decision had been taken during the combined section of the meeting, that the Annual meetings would take place by Zoom, on the Thursdays, with All Saints' being on Thursday 29th April at 7.00 pm.

9. 2020 Accounts Paper L, and

10. 2020 Finance report Paper M

Stuart reported that it was excellent that the General Fund had covered everything by the end of the year, but it had been depleted, with both income and the original balance as at the start of the year being used up. The Children's and Families Worker Fund was £1,000 down, so money from the Church Hall Fund had been used to cover this.

The accounts had been audited.

The Accounts and Finance report for 2020 were approved unanimously.

11. 2020 Fabric Report Paper E

Hazel said Andrew Hayes was to be commended for his stalwart work as chair of the Fabric Committee, and for producing the detailed Annual Fabric report.

The Fabric report for 2020 was approved unanimously.

Andrew is to stand down as chair of the committee, and the Churchwardens were to send a card on behalf of the PCC, expressing our appreciation.

Action JR/YKS

Judith asked PCC members to be thinking of a replacement as chair. Ideally, someone with the background that gave them the ability to converse knowledgeably with the architect regarding the quinquennial inspection, etc. Jeff Stopps name was mentioned, and he could be approached. Meanwhile, Jonathan would ask Andrew if he could be persuaded to continue until a replacement could be found.

Action JR/JEP/JLM

12. 2020 Annual Report Paper A

Benefice part (sections 1 to 4) had been approved, subject to rewording of paragraph 2.5, at the combined part of the meeting.

Parish specific part (sections 5 to 6, and appendices) was approved unanimously.
(The Rector left the meeting at this point)

13. Annual Meeting Agenda Paper F

There are 2 existing vacancies for Deanery Synod representatives to be filled, and 3 PCC members to be elected. (These also consist of 2 existing vacancies, and Chris Pollard, whose 3 years are ending, and is now moving away)

The meeting would be at 7.00pm on Thursday 29th April via Zoom, as agreed earlier.

The agenda was approved.

14. Budget for 2021 Paper N

Stuart responded to questions.

- The Joint Budget meeting had not yet happened, so he was using last year's figures. He had included Andrew Hayes' fabric budget as it stood, but would need to confirm upfront before committing to funding, as we have a deficit budget. The general fund budget shows a deficit of £5,000 but the joint expenses are the same as last year and could well go up. Also not included are the CFW expenses and that fund is currently zero. So we shall have at least £8,000 to find for that making the real budget deficit more like £13,000+
- Pledged giving consists of Standing orders/Envelopes/Parish Gift Scheme (PGS)
- Over the last couple of years, pledged giving was down, but PGS up. Some use the "Inflationary increase" facility with PGS
- Stuart had been unaware of any response to Jonathan's recent letter until Deborah asked him what to do with website giving. The first £2000 which he and Deborah had "found" related to donations made from April 2020 onwards, which have now been moved to Chilton's account. He and Deborah are looking at how to make it easier to identify donations made through the website that are specifically for Chilton; at the moment this requires some detective work. 3 or 4 parishioners had responded to the Gift Day, and a further £2,000 came in response to the letter.
- The question of CFW Funding would need to be raised after the outcome of setting up the new Trust

There had been some negative feedback from the letter; some had mis-read it to mean they had to take out a Direct Debit; others that it was the church asking for money again. However, our situation needed to be stated.

Although there is a deficit of £13,000, Stuart was optimistic of the future after lockdown.

Stuart proposed this deficit budget, which was accepted unanimously.

Communication in general

This topic arose during the above discussion.

Ensuring information is circulated adequately is always difficult, and especially now, in lockdown, when people are not allowed to meet in the flesh.

Several parishioners had expressed dismay, at not knowing when someone had died, and some had been especially distressed to hear that Rev Bruce Keeble had passed away, seemingly unnoticed. Alex asked if a suitable obituary for him could be circulated somehow, as he had been attached to our clerical team for some time.

Jonathan would be asked to put a notice in the broadsheet.

Actioned. JLM/AR

15. Fabric (Continued from above)

- Paper I - Budget Request had been approved within the Annual budget, minute 14.
- Paper K – “Snapshot”. As he comes to the end of his 6 year task as chair of the fabric committee, Andrew expressed his views on the boundary wall situation, within the report, which PCC took careful note of. However, there had been some developments since Andrew had produced the report (in January, as the secretary had inadvertently mis-led him on the dates of PCC). Specifically, the faculty regarding the work that had been carried out on the boundary wall by the owners of West House had now been obtained.
- Paper J – “Project Prompter”. Andrew had produced this comprehensive “to-do list” for any future projects, which was approved as a guide for those taking on future projects.

Hazel brought to the attention of PCC the marvellous job that Andrew had done personally, in repairing the lock on the main door, and all agreed he will be sorely missed when replaced as chair of the committee, but will hopefully still be available as a source of knowledge and expertise.

Health and Safety

With Andy Wells moving to Wantage, a replacement will be needed

Services and Seasonal

Pam said that Easter activities are planned for the churchyard, and distributing Mothering Sunday flowers during lockdown was being discussed.

Pam closed the meeting in prayer at 9.45 pm.

Signed

Date

Carol Pigott
29.03.2021