

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Combined PCCs
of St Matthew's Harwell with All Saints' Chilton
held remotely via Zoom on Tuesday 2nd February 2021 at 7.30 pm**

Present

(J) Denotes Joint PCC member. There were thus 10 voting members including the Rector at this meeting - all resolutions refer to Joint PCC votes

Jean Barton	Allan Macarthur (J)	Pam Rolls (J)
Hazel Benton (J)	Patrick Moseley	Judith Russell (J)
Phil Corbishley	Carol Pigott (J)	Yvonne Sanderson (J)
Peter Cox	John Pigott	Eliza Wheaton
Sid Gale	Alex Reich*	Jane Woolley (J)
Gordon Gill	Jan Radford (J)*	The Rector (J, Chair)
Phill Johnston (J)		

* Present from item B 2.2

By Invitation:

Sarah Barrett and Melanie Shields, Children and Families Workers (for items A1-A6, B0 and B1)

The items are minuted here in agenda order but they were taken in the following order:
A1-6; B0-5 C1.1, C2-5 C1.3, C1.2. C6

A Preliminaries

A1 Opening & Prayer

The Rector read Hebrews chapter 2 verses 14 to 28.

He said this is the reading for today which is Candlemass.

He said that there is a sense of solidarity between Jesus and humanity, He became one of us and entered our situation. He suffered so knew what it is suffer – He is not aloof and not unaware. Jesus needed to be one of us to take the punishment due to us, and so defeat the devil and the fear of death.

There is a lot of fear due to the Coronavirus pandemic and all the time, particularly during the pandemic – there is suffering due to the virus and the response – the lockdown and what this means for children's education, people's families and so on. Ultimately death always wins, unless defeated by Jesus. This is the heart of the Gospel, what we hold out for others and should hold ourselves – like in a depressurising plane, you need oxygen yourself to help others put their masks on. Jesus offers freedom from fear.

We should take time to pray, both individually and corporately.

The Rector then led the meeting in open prayer.

A2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from: Stuart Gibson (J), Tony Hughes (J) and Chris Pollard (J)

Andrew Keene, Rebecca Lewis (J) and Michelle Walker were absent.

A 3 Minutes of Previous Meetings

Paper H refers: October 2020 Combined PCC Meeting Minutes

There were no corrections.

The minutes were approved.

As this meeting was held online, the minutes will be signed by the Secretary and Rector in due course.

A4 Actions / Matters arising

Paper L refers. The Rector said that the matters arising are a mixture of completed actions, in progress deferred actions and items in the agenda for this meeting. The matters arising are:

STATUS OF ACTIONS AND MATTERS ARISING AS OF 1st FEBRUARY 2021

FROM APRIL 2019 MEETING:

ITEM B 2.4.3 Didcot Emergency Foodbank

Heading 2: Response to Emergency Appeals

Action: World Mission Group to consider giving to disaster appeals, and restricted giving to World Mission

Status: Defer to January 2021 **Update:** Added to February 2021 agenda

FROM THE JULY 2019 MEETING

ITEM B 2.4.2. CAP Centre

Action: Rector to circulate CAP Centre Accounts

Status: Not yet done

Action: Rector to discuss SOFEA Oxford with Liz Roberts and Sue Bright

Status: Not yet done

ITEM B 4.2 Proposed Albania Partnership

Action: World Mission Group to submit a paper on the proposal to support the Mission in Shkoze to the October Combined PCC meeting

Status: Added to October 2020 Agenda

Update: In hand.

ITEM C 1.3 Annual Re-Adoption of Data Protection Policy

Action: Rector and Church Administrator to adapt policy in discussion with Chris Pollard.

Status: to be deferred.

FROM JANUARY 2020 MEETING:

ITEM C 2.1 Fundraising strategy

Action: Jonathan Mobey agreed to co-ordinate the following approaches:

CAP

Audiences: Congregations of both parishes plus wider community

Timing: Wider community - January. Congregations – around the CAP celebration service in March

Roof repairs at St Matthew's

Audiences: Wider community plus Friends of St Matthew's in the USA plus St Matthew's congregation

Timing: Wait until there is a clear decision about whether we can use a lead substitute

C&FW contract

Audiences: Congregations of both parishes

Timing: Existing donors – January; See what the shortfall is. Then appeal to wider congregations if necessary in April/May

General giving

Audiences: Congregations of both parishes

Timing: Incorporate gentle references into services. Presentation by Treasurers in run up to Annual Meetings. Review in the autumn

Status: Revised plans; Giving Day proposed 25 October 2020

Update: Giving Day was held; plans now in progress to write to church members directly

FROM JULY 2020 JOINT PCC MEETING:

No formal actions listed.

Gathered Worship Services

Action: PCC Resolution needed? *

Status: To be investigated and if necessary, brought to JPCC

Update: February 2021: Added to February 2021 agenda.

*Clarification at the meeting: A resolution may be required to change the schedule of gathered services

FROM OCTOBER 2020 COMBINED PCC MEETING

ITEM A 5.2 Annual Agenda Setting and Meeting Dates.

Action: Jane Woolley to compose a schedule for the Joint section of the November Individual PCC meetings.

Status: Done

ITEM C 3.2 Safeguarding Policy and C3.3 Social Media Policy

Action: Churchwardens to sign policy.
Rector to send a copy to the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer.
Copy to be displayed in Church Porches

Status: Copy now signed by CWs and Rector and passed to Deborah Evans for forwarding to Diocese and displaying in porches

ITEM C 6.2 Environment – Energy Supplier and Single Use Plastic

Action: Alex Reich to liaise with Helen Brook

Status: Remove from outstanding actions list

A 5 Annual Schedule Items

There were no annual schedule items on the agenda.

A6 Other Joint Issues

There were none.

B Mission Strands

B 0 2020 Vision

Discerning a Mission and Priorities

B 0.1 Lead Academy Update

The Rector said that this is a repeating item on the agenda. It is a process that the representatives from the benefice are going through – see previous CPCC minutes for details. It has stalled recently due to the pandemic. It is important now to consolidate what we are doing and think and pray about what we will do once we start to come out of lockdown.

The Senior Leadership Team is considering various options – separate prayer meetings or prayer at the beginning of meetings in a similar way to this meeting. He asked what the meeting thought of the latter option. The following views were expressed:

- A good idea but keep the schedule tight with the business items of the meeting.
- Prayer is crucial – we should be aware of God's presence with us as a group. If we do not have a time of prayer there will be no time to listen to Him.
- The Rector said that at the beginning of meetings a good length of time should be allotted to prayer.
- There was a lot of agreement to the Rector's suggestion.

The Rector said that there have been a couple of Saturday morning prayer meetings and there is a good rota of leaders too. There are good ideas to discuss, some to consider for the future, some to implement now.

B 1 Children, Youth and Families

B 1.1 Update and Plans

Paper E refers: End of year report on activities including Sunday Groups, Pebbles Family Service, Fledgelings, Holiday Club, Schools, Y Club, Advent including Advent Windows, Christmas tree decorating and Crib services. Additional activities including Light party, Easter Trail and the weekly Praise Party. Also, Actions for 2021.

Sarah Barret, Children and Families Worker said that activities had moved between in-person and Zoom.

Hazel Benton, Chair of the Employment Group, said that both Melanie Shields and Sarah Barrett had been working hard on these activities and others not included in the report. They deserved our thanks.

There was general agreement to this and approval of the work carried out.

Sarah Barrett thanked the PCCs for their support.

The Rector said that he was very encouraged by the general sweep of activities and the CFWs' positive "can-do" attitude. Families in both the church and wider community appreciate what they do. A lot of people are affected by the work the CFWs are doing in many different ways. It is a very good comprehensive report.

B 1.2 Children and Families Workers' Employment and Greater Didcot Christian Children and Youthwork Trust and Youth / Secondary Schools Work

The Rector said that a group of four local churches have been discussing the establishment of a Youth and Children's Work Trust. The churches are this benefice, Ridgeway Community, Didcot Baptist and Great Western Park Churches, with blessing from the other ministers of the Churches Together in Didcot and District group. Gordon Gill is also involved at a meeting of the proto trustees.

The plan is for the Trust to employ staff - two youth workers who are currently working part-time for Didcot Baptist and Ridgeway Churches would move to full time work for the Trust – and our two CFWs would also move to be employed by the Trust. This would make little difference to how the CFWs work now, though this may develop in future. There will be opportunities to share good practice and resources across the Trust's churches. The Youth workers will work more broadly across the local area, reflecting the way that young people move around, relate and go to school. Primary- and preschool-age children (who the CFWs work with) are more locally based.

The churches have applied for a grant from the Diocesan Development Fund to cover the additional costs beyond that which the partner churches have currently committed. The application has been positively received, and the decision is expected in March. In the meantime, the Rector is working on the legal aspects and regulations. A number of people are also involved and providing advice and support. The aim is to establish the trust on 1st April.

The Rector answered questions:

What are our chances of the application being successful?

The Rector said that there were positive indications from the Diocese: We applied for the maximum funding and the Diocesan committee has suggested half of that. The Rector has agreed, we could make adjustments accordingly. This implies that they are taking us seriously, though there are other projects being considered and there is a fixed fund available of £3m over 3 years.

Gordon Gill agreed and said that it was a question of how much funding they will make available. He, the Rector and some others have had discussions with a funding panel sub-committee including a Youth and Families Work specialist. We are looking at bringing young people to Christ rather than to church. One possibility would be to have younger children coming to the parish church and youth having their own Youth Church, similar to University Christian Unions. There is a lot of good favour towards the idea of the Trust across the wider Didcot area.

The Rector agreed and said that there is wide support across Didcot and the local community – it is very widely owned.

Gordon Gill and the Rector said that the assistant Archdeacon is very supportive and helpful.

Is the funding for two youth workers for two years?

The Rector said that the partner churches have already committed the “match funding” for their youth and children and families workers. We are able to do more together and with the extra funds from the Diocese, plus additional fundraising in due course. Two full-time youth workers for five years will require extra fundraising.

Hazel Benton asked if Sarah Barrett and Melanie Shields were happy with this proposal. She had asked before but was concerned to check regularly.

Melanie Shields said that this won't particularly affect them so they are not particularly concerned. They don't want to work in different churches, but this is not the intent of the proposal. It is quite exciting. Sharing resources opens up bigger opportunities to do larger events.

Sarah Barrett said that at last year's CAP meeting it was good to be part of something bigger than the week-to-week Chilton and Harwell activities. It would be good to have opportunities to bring all the children together a few times a year.

Melanie Shields added that it is good for children to see that the Christian community is bigger than the local church so when they go to secondary school there will be other Christians there.

Hazel Benton said that it is very important that we know that the CFWs are happy with the changes. She will continue to ask.

B 2 Evangelism and Discipleship of Adults

B 2.1 Home Groups and Lent Central.

Home Groups

Paper K refers: Summary of which groups are meeting and materials studied for Avest and Lent.

Jean Barton, Home Group Co-ordinator, said that she was not at the previous Combined PCC meeting as she was helping with the Christianity Explored group that evening. Currently five home groups are meeting, and usually one more. Two groups are not meeting due to Covid, but the leaders of these groups are keeping in touch with their members. Including these, 60 people are engaged with home groups. It is very good that many people are attending, including half of the people at this meeting. One or two groups have 15 or 16 members. All of this is quite exciting, there is a lot going on that is not widely known.

We should thank God for this and pray that a few more join in.

Jane Woolley said that if people can't meet using Zoom, there is a teleconferencing system using phone chat which people may find easier.

Jean Barton said that at the October 2020 meeting it was suggested that there is a danger that people could rely on their home group not the Church. She does not see this happening in our churches. She doesn't think that members see their group detracting from the whole church community belonging to one another and all of the Christians in the area. They are looking forward to gathering together in church and supporting one another and worshipping God.

Lent Central was discussed under item B 2.4

B 2.3 Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

The Rector reported:

There had been no Baptisms or weddings recently due to the pandemic. A queue is building up. The Rector has been discussing with couples the reading of Banns for weddings planned at other churches.

There have been a number of funerals recently and there are a couple next week. Numbers attending are limited due to the pandemic regulations. They have been held at the Crematoria, in the churches and All Saints' churchyard in the summer, and taken by Pam Rolls and the Rector.

B 2.4 Alpha and Christianity Explored

The Rector reported that an Alpha and a Christianity Explored course have taken place, the same group of people did both courses and are now doing a prayer course with a couple of other people attending. The prayer course is being led by Lucy Bailey, Jean Barton and Judy Burbage. Jean Barton said that it is very exciting to see people growing and sharing together, there are 11 people attending, plus the leaders. The Rector agreed that it was good to see people progressing from course to course.

Gordon Gill asked about the Church of England's "Come and See" course which is good for explorers of our faith. The Rector said that he was looking into what this involves and how best to use it. There was a short discussion about how this could be run.

Lent Central

The Rector said that it is probably not right to run Lent Central this year as other courses are being run, including the Prayer course, and the home groups are also accessing Lent resources - though he would like to gather larger numbers in groups as had been done in better circumstances.

We could also consider running something after Easter or Pentecost such as the Bible Society's 7-week Bible Series program which gives an overview of the whole Bible. It has resources for church services and small groups. He will discuss this with the Senior Leadership Team.

B 2.4 Responding to Financial Need

B 2.4.1 Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Money Courses

Paper F refers: Report on courses run, plans and CAP trainers.

Sid Gale referred the meeting to the report.

B 2.4.2 CAP Centre

The Rector reported that Centre is busy, but the pandemic restrictions mean that contact is by phone and online and there are a number of clients who find it much easier to work face to face. There are some clients in the two villages but obviously their identity is confidential.

B 2.4.3 Didcot Emergency Foodbank

The Rector said that he will forward the report from the coordinator shortly.

It is a very encouraging and amazing ministry, though the situation of the individuals that need it is very discouraging. There is a lot of food poverty about. The food bank has done a great job and is well supported by the churches and wider community.

B 2.5 Social and Community

The Rector said that he would like events to resume as soon as we can. Possibly including a barn dance in the Autumn.

Yvonne Sanderson asked that any ideas for Zoom events should be passed to her.

B 3 Pastoral Care

Paper B refers: recruitment of more carers, visiting and staying in touch, home communions, Funerals and Bereavement care and Generation Gold Advent and Easter-in-a box.

Pam Rolls highlighted these points from the report:

Visiting

Pastoral Care has taken on a very different format, phone calls, emails and limited visits on the doorstep when this was allowed.

Recruitment

When we are back to normal, it would be good to expand the Harwell team of home visitors – you can read a lot more about how people are feeling face to face.

Generation Gold

Pam Rolls and Jan Radford have been creative with this – creating “in-a-box” services to give to people in the different seasons e.g. Advent-in-a-box, which was much appreciated and she thanked the people who delivered the boxes. They are working on “Easter-in-a-box” with an Easter message included. They hope that people are encouraged by this.

It was exciting to see covid vaccinations of people in their 70s and 80s. They are saying that this is very good, which she passed on to a GP.

Jean Barton said that huge thanks should go to Pam Rolls and Jan Radford for their work. Pam said that thanks should also go to all of the Pastoral carers.

Hazel Benton added her thanks and said that when delivering the Generation Gold boxes, she could see how much people appreciated the boxes and the phone calls.

The Rector said that he knows that a lot of informal pastoral care goes on, including by people at this meeting, God sees what people do. Thank you to all who carry this out.

B 4 World Mission

Peter Cox, Combined PCC secretary, apologised that he had not chased up a report on this.

The Rector said that there were a couple of outstanding World Mission action items in Matters Arising – emergency relief and the Albania Project.

Yvonne Sanderson asked that anyone interested in joining the group to get in touch as there are only 4 members now.

The Rector said that it would be good to give this more profile, and possibly a relaunch once we are meeting in person again.

B 5 Worship Services

B 5.1 Fresh Expressions

The Rector said that there is no formal report on Worship Services, though a lot of fresh expressions services are going on.

B 5.2 Resolution to Move Services On-Line

Paper I refers: Background and required wording of the resolution

The Rector explained that the Diocese had drawn attention to this legal point: As we have not held in-person services for a period of time we need to pass a resolution to formalise this. The wording of the resolution is specified by the Diocese but the end-date is up to us, and we can extend it as required. He suggested that the resolution ends on 31st March. Discussion ensued:

- The wording should say that “...there is no church *building* in the benefice..”
No Objections.
- The Rector said that the first major service after 31st March would be Easter. Some parishes are continuing to hold in-person services and there is permission in law to do so.
- The next Combined PCC meeting is in May so the resolution would stop before we could extend it, if that was needed. The Rector said that the Standing Committee of the PCCs could approve an extension by email.

No Objections.

2021-02-02 Combined PCCs – approved minutes

- The Rector said that the bigger decision was when and how we should be holding worship services in our church buildings. The Senior Leadership Team including the churchwardens (effectively the operational committee) are considering the options for in-person services in the church buildings in current circumstances, with regard to health and safety, due process and good order.

The Rector said that in law and PCC rules the PCC must approve any change in the pattern of services. He proposed the resolution:

Resolution	The Rector and the Joint Parochial Church Council of the Benefice of St Matthew’s Harwell with All Saints’ Chilton acting jointly authorise dispensing with the reading of Morning and Evening Prayer as required by Canon B 11 and the celebration of the Holy Communion as required by Canon B 14 on the following occasions: between 1st January and 31st March. The reason for the dispensation is that in the light of the Government’s guidance on preventing the spread of Coronavirus, there is no church building in the benefice which can be used safely for public worship on those occasions.				
Proposed	Rector	Seconded	-	Passed by the JPCC	Unanimously.

The Rector said that the big issue is what pattern of services is introduced when they restart – do we continue with the pattern as it was or do something completely new, or in-between? He asked that we pray about this.

B 5.3 Worship Services to Date

The Rector asked for comments on the services held recently which includes Advent.

- The Christmas Services were good including the Carol services.
- The Rector said that he had received a favourable comment about the outdoor carol service that whilst long it was good to be out in the churchyard. We could do something similar for future Remembrance Sundays. We are learning a lot, in this period of enforced restrictions which we could continue or adapt after the restrictions end.
- Last Sunday’s service was very enjoyable, including Eliza Wheaton’s sermon. A PCC member had linked to it on Facebook and others outside the parish had enjoyed it too. There was some agreement to this.

C 1 Communications and Operations

C 1.1 Change in Church Administrator.

Deborah Evans has been working as Church Administrator during Vicky Johnston’s maternity leave. As Vicky decided not to return to work here after maternity leave, it was decided to offer Deborah the job.

Deborah Evans was delighted to be offered the job and is settling in well. She is very enthusiastic. She is also working a few hours per week for Great Western Park Church as well as 20 hours per week for Harwell and Chilton. The nature of the work is a bit different to what was envisaged a year ago. There are a lot of communication activities going on including the Christmas and Easter cards.

Deborah could be asked to submit a Communications and Operations report for future Combined PCC meetings.

See also item C4.

C 1.2 General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The Rector said that work on this is ongoing. It is a significant piece of work. All staff are aware of GDPR and principles concerning data retention, communications and so on.

Gordon Gill said that parishes have fallen foul of GDPR when live streaming services as attendees had not given permission for broadcast or recording. It is possible that the location of a vulnerable person may be broadcast in error. The Rector said that our streamed services only involve a small number of people in an enclosed environment not a public place so the main issue is consent.

C 1.3 Data Protection Policy

The PCCs are responsible for the safe and legal management of data we hold covered by GDPR and we also need a Data Protection Policy which is being worked on. The Rector started work on this with Chris Pollard, who has legal experience in this area. It is a complicated piece of work; Chris has been unavailable and Covid has delayed completion. They will pick up work on this once Chris is available again and the impact of the pandemic has decreased.

C 2 Stewardship and Finances

C 2.1 Update and Plans

The Rector reported that the end of year figures had been produced for Chilton and he had the sense that all commitments would be honoured. Harwell also has a deficit for the year and is using reserves. Both churches are fundraising:

All Saints' fundraising

The Rector and the All Saints' standing committee have discussed a letter to send to around 70 households in the parish connected to the church, regular at services or church-run groups or thought to be supportive. It explains the situation and encourages people to give more if they can. It has just been finalised and will go out in the next few days.

St Matthew's Fundraising

A similar letter is proposed to go out from St. Matthews to similar households. The Rector has discussed this with Nick Clarke, Church bookkeeper. A draft has been produced for the St. Matthew's Standing Committee. He asked for comments and a St. Matthew's PCC member said that it was a good idea.

No Objections

The Rector said that the All Saints' deficit is about £20,000 and the St. Matthew's deficit is about £10,000. We may need to find other sources of income though we don't necessarily know how much - All Saints' was thought to be in a bad position last year, but money did come in. It is good to be proactive. St. Matthew's finances will take a big hit from replacing the church roofing.

C 3 Safeguarding

Paper C refers, written by Judith Gold, Deputy Safeguarding Officer: Tribute to Mel Gibson, Safeguarding Officer, progress slowed on ID checks due to pandemic restrictions, resulting update required to Spreadsheet of volunteers and recent change in national requirements for identity checks due to pandemic.

C 3.1 Update and Plans - Safeguarding Policy and C3.3 Social Media Policy

The Rector said that Mel Gibson, the Safeguarding Officer, had sadly passed away in November.

This happened after the last PCC meeting so the Safeguarding and Social Media policies state Mel Gibson is in post, with Judith Gold as Deputy

The Rector said that Judith Gold was willing to continue as Deputy. Deborah Evans, the new Church Administrator has some experience and interest in Safeguarding so can provide some support.

It was stated that Deborah Evans, Judith Gold, The Rector and Jane Woolley were all involved in developing and updating the volunteer spreadsheet which records who is volunteering with children and vulnerable adults, DBS checks and Safeguarding training.

Jane Woolley said that we also need to ensure we use Safer Recruiting especially for those working with vulnerable adults and involved in Pastoral Care. The Church of England is very exercised about this issue at the moment. The supervision and support of volunteers is also important along with the management structure generally. If we cannot manage volunteers properly then we should not do the activities. Safeguarding is not just DBS checks.

The Rector agreed that DSB checks are just the basics, and said that it is easy to do one area really well then find you are not doing another very well. This year the “Articles of Enquiry” * are entirely focussed on Safeguarding.

* The Articles are an annual set of questions from the Diocese to all parishes and answered by the churchwardens.

C 3.2 Appointment of a New Safeguarding Officer

The Rector said that this is an important task. Judith Gold is happy to continue as Deputy Safeguarding Officer and is looking after this for now. So, we need a lead for this area:

The Safeguarding Officer works for the PCCs and reports to them, to ensure we are compliant with all legal requirements and follow best practice. They should be trustworthy, reliable, and able to cope with a fair amount of information and changing guidelines. The work is mostly from home, though they will need to meet volunteers to check identities. There could be further tasks as required. It could suit someone who is less mobile.

The Rector asked that anyone interested in this role should contact him.

C 3.3 Data Protection Policy

See item C 1.

C 4 Staffing and Leadership

C 4.1 Update and Plans and C 4.2 Employment Committee

Paper J refers: The Employment Committee has not met. Hazel Benton as Chair has liaised with Jonathan and Stuart Gibson regarding employment tasks as required.

Hazel Benton read the report, highlighting the tasks concerned:

- Vicky Johnston has finished working for us as Church Administrator and Deborah Evans has moved from maternity cover to a permanent member of staff and agreed a new contract.
- Extension of Sarah Barrett’s and Melanie Shields’ CFW contracts which finished at the end of 2020, to cover the time between then and the start of the Youthwork Trust.
- Adjustment of the salaries of the CFWs against the December CPI as agreed by the Combined PCCs a couple of years ago.

Hazel Benton added that it is the responsibility of the Employment Group encourage, advise and to make sure these tasks are done, not to carry out the work.

C 4.3 Change in Church Administrator

A couple of PCC members asked about publicising this more widely as some people were not aware of the change. The Rector said apologised for the omission. Deborah’s permanent contract had started two days ago, and he would mention it in this week’s Rector’s letter.

Action: Rector to make announcement of change of Church Administrator in Rector’s Letter

Jean Barton said that we should formally thank Vicky Johnston for her work – she has done an amazing job. A smaller group could organise this and she could contact the Home Group Leaders.

The Rector said that he has written personally and on behalf of the PCCs, to thank Vicky for work over the last 6 years. Vicky and family are continuing to live in the village. He said that organising a gift as a thank you could be appropriate.

Pam Rolls said that we should thank Hazel Benton and the Employment group for their work.

C 4.3 Permission to Assist at Communion

The Rector said that this item has rolled over from previous meetings. It is not something we need to address at the moment, and we are busy with other tasks. He proposed that this item rolls over again to the next meeting.

No Objections

Pam Rolls stated that the last communion services were Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. There was a brief discussion of possible future arrangements for Holy Communion.

C 5 Wider Church

C 5.1 Deanery and Diocesan Synod

These papers refer:

Paper D Diocesan Synod November 2020 Summary - available on Diocese of Oxford website

Paper G Deanery Synod Report – meeting on November 24th 2020

Sid Gale and Gordon Gill represent the benefice on the Deanery and Diocesan synods. Gordon Gill is also on the Diocesan Buildings and Management Committee.

Gordon Gill and the Rector said that at Deanery Synod Rev. Matt Hogg of St. Albans Fulham gave a talk on Developing Church Online - via the whole range of apps and social media, there are different levels and roles. It can be very effective in outreach, discipleship and building community. There is a link to the talk in the report.

New Bishop and Associate Archdeacon of Dorchester

Gordon Gill reported that Gavin Collins will be the new Bishop of Dorchester, and that Rev Canon David Tyler has been appointed Associate Archdeacon of Dorchester There will be a service to welcome Bishop Gavin on 28th February at Dorchester Abbey. It is open to all, probably by Zoom and possibly with a limited number of people attending in person.

We look forward to meeting them both.

Flourishing Together in Church Leadership

Jane Woolley said that she has received this publication from the Diocese, it is aimed at making sure Rectors, church wardens, PCC members and others do not get overstretched. Others present had copies and recommended it. It is also on the Diocese website.

C 5.2 Great Western Park and Valley Park

The Rector reported that the new curate, Sasha Braun, has been appointed. Bishop Colin arranged the funding and housing before he left. The role will focus on the newest developments in the area including Valley Park. The start date for Valley Park is still uncertain. The Bishop's Advisor on Didcot Garden Town and Sasha's Training Incumbent is the Vicar of All Saint's Didcot, so Sasha will be linked to that parish even though the Valley Park development is in Harwell parish. The Rector said that he hoped for a good fruitful relationship especially as the area is so close.

C6 Any Other Business

C 6.1 Thanks for Christmas Gifts

Peter Cox, Combined PCC Secretary reported that letters of thanks had been received from Joan Impey, Jan Radford, Alex Reich and Pam Rolls. Eliza Wheaton and Jean Barton also thanked the PCCs for their gifts.

C 6.2 Dates of Annual Parochial Church Meetings (APCMs)

Gordon Gill said that notification was expected shortly from Diocesan Secretary Mark Humphries that APCMs can be delayed beyond the current deadline (which the Rector specified is before May 1st).

The Rector thanked the Combined PCC Secretary for his work.

The Rector closed the meeting with the Lord’s Prayer at 9:16 pm.

Dates of next meetings:

Individual PCCs: 2nd March 2021 online

APCMs: Dates in April – to be announced

Combined PCC: 4th May 2021 online

CHAIR

SECRETARY

DATE

DATE