

MINUTES OF THE ALL SAINTS' PCC MEETING
held remotely via Zoom on Tuesday 1 March 2022 at 7.30 pm

St Matthew's, Harwell and All Saints', Chilton PCCs were present together for Items 1-5b. For the other items, only All Saints' PCC members were present.

1. Opening & Prayer

Jonathan Mobey read John 3: 22-36. In this passage we hear John the Baptist explain his role and relationship with Jesus. We also hear of Jesus baptising people. There is a description of John the Baptist's disciples arguing with a Jew about ritual washing. Such practices and preoccupations are something that can puzzle non-Jews. But there are equivalent peripherals that we can get transfixed by.

Jonathan Mobey led the meeting in prayer.

2. Annual Report sections 1-4

Paper A refers. These sections were approved in principle, for formal confirmation later in the meeting by the individual PCCs.

3. Churchwarden and PCC elections

Jonathan Mobey said that he believed that all four existing churchwardens were willing to stand for re-election.

The PCC secretaries reported that there will be five vacancies for elected PCC members at each of St Matthew's and All Saints' (at All Saints' three of these vacancies are where people's three-year terms are coming to an end but the individuals are willing to stand for re-election). All Saints' also has two unfilled vacancies for elected Deanery Synod representatives.

Gordon Gill commented that it would be helpful to have as many Deanery Synod representatives from the Benefice as possible.

It was agreed that there is plenty of scope to have fresh blood on the PCCs. PCC members were asked to approach church members to stand for election who they thought could make a useful contribution.

4. Interregnum update

Churchwarden Allan Macarthur relayed the following information:

- **Keeping the wheels turning during the vacancy**
 - The churchwardens are making arrangements to ensure that the main management bodies continue to function properly.
 - The churchwardens have in hand arrangements for Jonathan Mobey to hand over all his responsibilities and to ensure that there are no gaps
 - The following decisions have already been made:
 - Leaders & Preachers group – Eliza Wheaton will chair

- Senior Leadership Team – Allan Macarthur will chair
- Individual PCCs – the vice-chairs will chair
- It has not yet been decided who will chair the Combined PCC. It was agreed that the churchwardens should discuss this with the PCC vice-chairs
- **Finding a new Rector**
 - The Diocese has been in touch to arrange an initial meeting between the PCCs and the Patrons. A date, venue and the agenda are under discussion.

Jane Woolley asked if there was any further news about whether we would get an incumbent or a priest-in-charge, and the related matter of whether the Benefice or St Matthew’s might ‘face’ more towards Didcot/Valley Park in future.

Allan Macarthur reported that the churchwardens are arranging to meet with our Diocesan Synod representatives (Gordon Gill and Sid Gale) to discuss how to progress obtaining PCC members’ views on the matter.

Jonathan Mobey relayed that he had had a discussion that morning with David Tyler from the Diocese. David had been as reassuring as he could be – saying that he could not see a good reason **not** to replace Jonathan like for like on the grounds that the current Benefice arrangement works well and we pay our Parish Share in full.

5. Financing the Church Administrator post

Paper J refers. After some discussion, a straw poll of PCC members indicated that all were in favour of this proposal. However, underwriting the cost has to be formally taken by the individual PCCs. So formal voting on a resolution was delayed until later in the meeting (see item 11).

5b. The Ukraine crisis

Tony Hughes was given permission by the Chair to raise an item of other business relevant to both PCCs. The upshot was that it was agreed that Tony would provide some wording for a church news bulletin email explaining that his friend’s son in Poland is taking in Ukrainian refugees and asking people who would like to support this financially to contact Tony to make the arrangements.

All Saints’ PCC only (from 8.30pm with Jonathan Mobey in the Chair)

Present:

Rev Jonathan Mobey	Rev Pam Rolls
Mrs Judith Russell (Churchwarden)	Mrs Yvonne Sanderson (Churchwarden)
Mrs Naomi Gibson (Secretary)	Mr Stuart Gibson (Treasurer)
Mr John Pigott	Mr Alex Reich

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Mrs Hazel Benton (Vice-chair) and Dr Phil Corbishley. Unfortunately, Dr Pat Moseley was not in attendance due to not receiving the email about moving the meeting from All Saints’ to being on Zoom.

2. Decisions requested of Standing Committee between Meetings

The Standing Committee unanimously agreed to appointing Mrs Naomi Gibson as PCC Secretary and co-opted her onto the PCC at the beginning of February.

3. Minutes of the meeting on 2nd November 2021

The minutes of the meeting on 2nd November 2021 were unanimously accepted as a true record and would be printed off and signed. **Action:NLG/JLM**

4. Matters Arising

• Boundary Wall (Status)

As reported at the last meeting, Jonathan had emailed Darren Oliver, at the Diocesan Registry, to seek advice about approaching the neighbours and had received no reply and has subsequently sent a follow up email with no response. Jonathan suggested that he would contact the neighbours again before he leaves at the end of the month. Pam reiterated that the information was the same as stated in the letter sent before the pandemic and the surveyors report that she found from Reading suggested the wall belongs to the Rectory.

Action: JLM

• Church Access Ramp

(At the time of distributing the agenda paper M, which covers this item, had not been submitted for circulation, it was decided to cover the Project Prompter at this point of the meeting)

Judith reported that the trial had received positive feedback and the project was at the point of receiving architectural advice from the Diocese and investigating possible manufacturers.

The PCC agreed that the next stage of Andrew's outline should be carried out.

• Card Reader

It was agreed that plastic payment was the way forward but due to the profile of the congregation it was decided that Chilton would continue to monitor Harwell's experience before investing in a machine. Consideration needs to be given to where it is sited, how it is managed and charged and whether it is portable so it can be used for services in Chilton Village Hall. Stuart asked for it to be kept on the agenda for future meetings. **Action: NLG**

• Vacant Positions

- **Chair of Fabric Committee** – The PCC were very grateful to Judith for agreeing to take on this role on a temporary basis after the annual meeting until a replacement had been found.

- **Health and Safety Representative** – A possible candidate was identified, and it was agreed to approach this person after the annual meeting.

• Noticeboard Update

It was agreed that the noticeboard by the Lychgate would not be updated due to all the changes to personnel at present. Deborah has kindly produced a set of posters covering all the types of services which can be regularly changed to inform passersby.

Phil Garner has been asked to maintain and update the Chilton Field Noticeboard. Deborah is also aware of its existence for advertising events.

ANNUAL MEETING PREPARATION (Sunday 1st May 2022 after the morning service)

5. 2021 Accounts

Paper C was circulated before the meeting. Stuart reported that the accounts had not yet been examined and he would follow this up with our Independent Examiner, Jane Moreton.

Stuart reported there was an excess of income over expenditure for the year of £3,743, with Parish Share and Charities and Missions Fund being met, although the Children and Families Workers fund was short by £150, and the shortfall paid from the General Fund.

6. 2021 Finance Report (Paper D)

Stuart was thanked for all his hard work in producing the reports.

The Accounts and Finance report for 2021 were approved unanimously.

7. 2021 Fabric Report

Jonathan expressed the gratitude of the PCC to Andrew Hayes for producing the detailed Annual Fabric report, along with all the other Fabric reports.

Stuart questioned if the donation from the Women's Group for the access ramp had been paid to the Church as he had not received it and therefore suggested that the wording of the report referencing this be changed from "donation" to "pledge."

Action: JLM

Stuart will investigate this with Andrew.

Action: SFG

The Fabric report for 2021 was approved unanimously.

8. Presentation of Logbook, Terrier & Inventory

The Churchwardens confirmed that Logbook was the Fabric Snapshot prepared for each PCC meeting and filed for reference. The Terrier was kept in the church safe and will be available at APCM along with the Inventory which is updated annually.

9. 2021 Annual Report

The Benefice part (Section 1-4) was approved at the Combined meeting.

Parish Specific part (Section 5-6 & appendices)

Carol Pigott is preparing the Electoral Roll Report to be included in the Annual Report, Appendix 2. The electoral roll number for 2021 was 68. She is also working on the Church Electoral Roll revision for 2022.

Naomi has circulated the PCC Membership for 2021 to the PCC and this will be included in the Annual Report, Appendix 3.

10. Annual Meeting Agenda & Minutes of 2021 meeting

The agenda and 2021 minutes were approved unanimously.

11. Finance Report including 2022 Budget

Stuart highlighted his concerns for funding in 2022 in various areas as the current budget gives a deficit of £8,700 with a guesstimate of £3,000 for both Fabric and Joint Benefice costs. However, the Fabric Budget request (Paper K) has a figure of £8,528 due in part to expensive items like the Quinquennial and French Drain work on the south side of the building. This would give a deficit of over £10,000.

Other areas where appeals or fundraising need to be explored is for Children and Families Workers, CAP donation and funding for the Administrator. It was suggested that the wider community may wish to give to these causes.

Stuart asked if a Joint Budget has been set. Jonathan will investigate.

Action: JLM

Funding for the Church Administrator post

During the meeting the formal voting for the funding of the Church Administrator was overlooked (Item 5 of the Combined meeting). The resolution was therefore sent via email to the PCC Members for a decision.

Resolution: *To underwrite the cost of the Church Administrator post for 12 months from 1 April 2022 to a total of £4,000 but with the expectation that as much as possible of the sum required would be raised via an appeal.*

This was passed unanimously.

12. Fabric Committee Report

- One-Off Tasks, Fabric “Snapshot”, Repeating Tasks – For Information

- **Fabric Budget Request**

Stuart suggested that Judith and the Fabric Committee keep him informed of any expense as funds are tight as we do not currently have the money to fund all the projects. He suggested he would investigate using some other funds to cover some of the costs.

- **Project Prompter (Paper M)** - See Matters Arising

13. Future Dates (Detailed on the agenda)

Pam will confirm the date of the Stone Service which she assumes will be Saturday June 4th.

Action: PMR

A date is not known for Christian Aid Sale. Judy Goodall will be asked.

Action: PMR

There will be a Church Cleaning Day in April which the churchwardens hope will be well supported.

14. Any Other Business

The Churchwardens wished to have a flagpole at All Saints’. It was suggested that this be asked about at the Quinquennial inspection. A possible position would be the opposite side of the tower to the weathervane. Otherwise, a flagpole in the ground could be considered.

The meeting closed at 9.27pm with the sharing of the Grace.

Future Dates

Wednesday 2 March – Lent begins (Ash Wednesday)

Saturday 26 March – leaving event for Jonathan

Sunday 27 March – Mothering Sunday

Tuesday 5 April – Combined PCC meeting

Sunday 10 April – Palm Sunday

Sunday 17 April – Easter Sunday

Sunday 1 May – Annual meeting

Saturday 14 May – Christian Aid Plant Sale 9am – 12 noon on Crafts End Green

Friday 3 June – Queen’s Platinum Jubilee

Saturday 4 June – Service at the Stone 5.30pm

Saturday 4 June – Harwell Feast

Tuesday 7 June – Individual PCC meeting

Naomi Gibson

PCC Secretary