# Minutes of a Meeting of the Combined PCCs of St Matthew's Harwell with All Saints' Chilton held remotely via Zoom on Tuesday 5th October 2021 at 7.30 pm

# Present

# (J) Denotes Joint PCC member. There were thus 9 voting members including the Rector at this meeting - all resolutions refer to Joint PCC votes

Jean Barton
Peter Cox
Tony Hughes (J)
Rebecca Lewis
Allan Macarthur (J)

Patrick Moseley Alex Reich Jan Radford (J) Pam Rolls (J) Judith Russell (J) Yvonne Sanderson (J) Eliza Wheaton (J) Jane Woolley (J) The Rector (J, Chair)

By Invitation:

Sarah Barrett, Children and Families Worker, for items A1, A2, C3.1, B 1.1, and part of C 4.2. Melanie Shields, Children and Families Worker, for items A1, A2, C3.1 and B 1.1. Judy Gold, Deputy Safeguarding Officer for items A1, A2, C3.1 and B 1.1.

The items are listed here in agenda order, but were taken in the order listed in item A 1.2.

# A Preliminaries

# A 1 Opening & Prayer

The Rector read Acts chapter 26 verses 24 to 32.

The Rector said that this was the lectionary reading for today. He said that the reading starts part way through a conversation in an unfolding story. Paul witnesses in chains and may expect to bring Festus to faith.

The Rector led the meeting in prayer.

#### A 1.1 Reading of Papers

The Rector said that we would assume that everyone has had a chance to read the papers, so they will not be read out. Any comments or a discussion of points arising from the papers were welcome. A number of papers required decisions to be made.

#### A 1.2 Order of Items

The Rector proposed that the agenda items are taken in this order:

- 1) Key items, and those that involve particular attendees, so that those attendees can leave at the appropriate point: A1, A2, C3.1, B1.1, B5.1, C4.2 and A5.
- 2) Any other items requiring decisions: A3, A4, B2.1a, B2.3a, B3, B2.2, C4.2, C4.1, C4.3 and C5.1
- 3) Items with papers with updates for information or noting only: B0, B1.2, B2.1b, B2.3.2, B2.3.3, C1, C3.2, C4.1, C4.4, C5.2 and C6.
- 4) Items with no papers or decisions: B2.1c, B2.4, B4 and C2.

#### No Objections.

# A 2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from: Hazel Benton (J), Sid Gale, Stuart Gibson (J), Gordon Gill, Phill Johnston (J), Carol Pigott and John Pigott.

Phil Corbishley and Michelle Walker were absent.

Helen Brook had also been invited as a member of the SLT, but was absent.

# A 3 Minutes of Previous Meetings

Paper J refers: July 2021 Combined PCC Meeting Minutes for approval.

The Secretary said that there was one correction:

#### Item B 5.1 Proposal 3

Add extra bullet point after discussion bullet point 2

- This service is being offered as a replacement for the Sunday 8am Holy Communion
- Older people tend to have their main meal at lunchtime and so an 11am service might clash with that.

There were no further corrections. The minutes were approved.

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

The Secretary said that the minutes of the August 2021 Extraordinary Combined PCC Meeting were not quite ready to circulate as there was a question over numbers voting for the proposals, though the proposals were carried.

# A4 Actions / Matters arising

Paper D refers. The matters arising are:

## STATUS OF ACTIONS AND MATTERS ARISING AS OF October 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: In hand.

Status October 2021 – see World Mission Group Item

## FROM THE JULY 2019 MEETING:

#### 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:** In hand.

Status October 2021 – see World Mission Group Item

#### FROM THE JANUARY 2020 MEETING:

#### ITEM C 2.1 Fundraising strategy

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

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.

**Update July 2021:** Rector wrote to Chilton members, and letter to Harwell members was drafted but not sent due to improved financial picture; suggest to place on agenda of St M's PCC as to whether this letter should be sent.

Status: Passed to Harwell PCC

COMPLETE

## FROM THE MAY 2021 MEETING:

## ITEM C 3.2 Appointment of a New Safeguarding Officer

Action: Jonathan to instigate discussion at SLT of possible candidates for Safeguarding Officer and pastoral care lead in Harwell

Status: Potential candidates for Safeguarding Officer identified and being approached

**Update at July meeting:** The Rector said that he had approached someone about being Safeguarding Officer, but they had declined. The search continues.

Update October 2021: "Appointment of a new safeguarding officer" listed under the Safeguarding Agenda item

#### FROM THE JULY 2021 MEETING:

## ITEM A 5.2 PCC and CPCC Meeting Schedule 2022

Action: Jane Woolley to arrange sub-committee meeting. Status: Meeting held August 2021 and paper prepared for October 2021 CPCC meeting. COMPLETE

# ITEM B 5.1 Fresh Expressions and Communication plan for the service pattern and rationale agreed at June Extraordinary Combined PCC meeting

Action: Allan McArthur to provide statistics for online services. Status: Statistics in paper for August 2021 Extraordinary PCC Meeting COMPLETE

There were no comments on the matters arising.

# A 5 Annual Schedule Items

The annual schedule items on the agenda are item C2 and the following item:

#### A 5.1 Annual Agenda Setting – APCM, PCC and CPCC Meeting Schedule 2022

Paper A refers: Sub Committee Process, Proposal for meeting pattern, dates and locations of meetings, Proposed Schedule for 2022, Main themes in PCC members Comments and Proposed tightening up of the conduct of meetings.

Jane Woolley said that decisions were required as follows:

## Meeting Dates

Straw poll – unanimous. By Implication:

Resolution	The Proposed Meeting Schedule in Paper A is adopted.				
Proposed	Jane Woolley	Seconded		Passed by the JPCC	9 for, none against.

#### Mix of Zoom and Face to Face Meetings

Comments were:

- This is to be reviewed in June 2022.
- A 'hybrid' meeting of Zoom and face to face is technically very difficult.
- The sub-group had decided against hybrid meetings.

The Rector said that the schedule stated which meetings are to be on Zoom and face to face, so a vote was not needed.

## Conduct Pledges

Comments included:

- There was some discussion of time for prayer at the start of meetings. The proposed 15 minutes was acceptable. This could be discussed further at the awayday.
- Prayer is an important part of the meetings.
- If papers are circulated early, we will also be able to think about the issues and pray before the meetings.
- The Rector said that there are a few proposals for him to look at.
- If all of proposals are agreed, there will be a significant improvement.
- Some items require the PCC's views or preferences, but do not need a decision at that meeting, so they should also be raised at the start of meetings.

## There was a general sense of support for the proposals in Appendix 2 of Paper 2.

# A6 Other Joint Issues

There were none.

# **B** Mission Strands

# B 0 2020 Vision

## B 0.1 Discerning a Vision and Priorities and Lead Academy Update

Update in Paper O – Current focus is on re-establishing services post-lockdowns, reviewing structure of and support for homegroups and pastoral care, and developments in CFW post. Option of Away Day in the new year to do more strategic work.

#### Awayday

The Rector suggested that there could be an Away Day in January or February. This had been useful in the past. Discussion ensued:

- There was some agreement that there should be an Away Day.
- The Rector suggested that it is held at the Centre for Reflection at Aston Tirrold on a Saturday. He will check availability.
- A few possible topics for discussion were considered including a Strengths, Weaknesses Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis to consider what we are doing well, what we can do in addition, and what we can change.
- We did the parish toolkit at a previous Away Day. This fed into the application for funding for the Didcot Youthwork Trust.
- An awayday should be more spiritual, prayerful and an opportunity to get to know each other better. A SWOT analysis would be difficult to do.
- A SWOT analysis had been used at a recent meeting but there were too many people and not enough time. A small group would be better and a useful thing to do. Opportunities and strengths may be where God is leading.
- Pat Moseley volunteered to run a small group to consider topics. Any other volunteers would be welcome.

The Rector thanked all for the support for doing this and Pat Moseley for volunteering.

#### ACTION Rector to check availability for the Centre for Reflection

# **B1** Children, Youth and Families

## B 1.1 Update and Plans

Paper E refers: CFW Report June to September 2021: Activities including: Weekly Sunday Interactive and Pebbles Family Services, Fledgelings, Holiday Club and Reflective Spaces. Also, Actions to consider.

There was one question:

It was good to see the opportunities at Harwell School for Reflective Spaces, what are the possibilities at *Chilton School?* Sarah Barrett said that this would be considered, they were building a relationship with Harwell School and would talk to Chilton School to possibly have reflective spaces or a few classes next Summer.

# B 1.2 Greater Didcot Youthwork Trust and Youth / Secondary Schools Work

Paper O refers: Update on Youthwork Trust: Staff employment from November, Drop-in café to launch soon, Youthwork Trust Youth workers to visit, work continues on policy and website, priority to secure further funding (Gordon Gill leading), possible further funding for another youth worker.

There were no comments or questions.

# **B 2** Evangelism and Discipleship of Adults

## B 2.1a Home Groups

Paper F Refers: Overall statistics of groups, attendees and status of each group and topics studied.

Jean Barton, home groups leader, added that she hoped and prayed that a particular group could restart and a new leader found.

There was some discussion of the age groups attending, and evolution of a home group.

## B 2.1b Central Courses e.g. Bible, Lent and Advent

Paper O refers: Consider possibility of weekday evening Advent course ('Advent Central').

The Rector added that the Advent Central course had been well-received before. There was some agreement; it could be run at St Matthew's to enable social distancing. The Rector will advance plans.

## ACTION: Rector to plan Advent Central

#### **B 2.1c Alpha and Christianity Explored**

Update from Paper O: See Baptisms item re '3-2-1' Course; possibility of follow-on course, e.g. Alpha, if there is interest for participants – this could be opened up more widely.

#### **B 2.2 Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals**

#### Baptisms

Paper N refers: Baptisms report for Summer 2021 – four have taken place and three are planned. Some parents are attending a 3-session "3-2-1" course exploring the basics of Christianity on Zoom.

The Rector added that we don't advertise this, people approach us, though we are proactive once approached.

#### Weddings

Paper L refers: four weddings have been celebrated, one in Chilton and three in Harwell.

#### Funerals

Paper L refers: Funerals have been held for three parishioners (two from Harwell and one from Chilton) and there has been one interment of ashes in Harwell Cemetery and one in the churchyard at All Saints'.

## B 2.3 Responding to Financial Need

## B 2.3a CAP Money Courses

Paper H refers: CAP money courses run, cancelled, and planned.

There were no comments.

## B 2.3.2 CAP Centre and B 2.3.3 Didcot Emergency Foodbank

Update from Paper O:

- Work of both CAP Centre and the Foodbank continues.
- Recent support for Foodbank from our churches includes Harvest Collection; thanks to Judith Russell for delivering the food to Didcot Baptist Church where the Foodbank is based

There were no questions or comments.

## **B 2.4 Social and Community**

Yvonne Sanderson reported that activities are happening - the Church Picnic, and the Harvest Lunch organised by Jane Woolley was really wonderful with about 60 or 70 people attending. People are also interacting at a smaller level.

# **B3** Pastoral Care

Paper L refers: The paper conveyed thanks to all who carry out Pastoral Care, and covered recruitment of a new leader for Harwell and of more carers, visiting and staying in touch, home communions, weddings, funerals and bereavement care and Generation Gold 'Summer-in-a box' and plans for November.

Pam Rolls highlighted the urgent need for more visitors and someone to lead the Harwell team. Discussion ensued:

- This is a repeating item at CPCC meetings despite being prioritised already, no one has been found.
- The Rector said that there are a lot of items needing attention at the moment and he asked for thoughts and prayers on this.
- Pam Rolls said that there could be more discussion by the Senior Leadership Team. There are other vacancies across the parishes including Safeguarding Officer and a Secretary for Chilton PCC. It could be highlighted in the weekly Rector's email.
- The Rector said that he had asked for volunteers to help run services and do readings. One person has come forward to read.

Over 60 People are due to attend the Generation Gold Harvest Celebration in November.

The Rector thanked Pam Rolls for her leadership of the Pastoral Care and to both Pam and Jan Radford for their leadership of Generation Gold.

# **B4** World Mission

Yvonne Sanderson reported that she had compiled a proposal for the World Mission Giving budget, which will be sent to the Rector and PCC secretaries. This will be considered at the joint part of the November Individual PCC meetings.

## ACTION: Individual PCC Secretaries to add to Agenda.

# **B 5** Worship Services

## B 5.1 Fresh Expressions and Review Criteria for the service pattern.

These Papers refer:

Paper I: Review and Evaluation of Services – Ideas: From the SLT: General Points, Aims of the Services, Considerations, Processes – Ideas for Discussion by the CPCC and Proposed Questionnaire / feedback form.

Paper K: Attendance Statistics for September.

There was discussion of the statistics in Paper K: The Rector confirmed that there had been one 10:30am service at Chilton and the 10am and 11.00am Service at Harwell were every Sunday. It was quite encouraging: 240 people attended at least one service, about a fifth children and the rest adults. For one service "133 and 117 unique attendees" meant that 17 had been to more than one service.

The Rector said that we need to agree the process proposed in Paper I including: a register of attendees, the questionnaire and feedback. Discussion ensued:

## **General Points**

- There was some agreement that the questionnaire looks good.
- There were suggestions of minor changes to the questionnaire. The Rector said that this was not the final version.
- The service leaders should ask for verbal comments as some people may not fill in the forms. The Rector said that he had received comments when he asked. We should collect anecdotal feedback.
- We should try to collect names with the comments, as the same person could make the same comment to different leaders.

## Methodology

- The statistics can be assembled and counted on a continuous rolling basis and reviewed at any time. The questionnaire could be completed when desired or at a particular point in time. If you gather responses on a rolling basis it reduces objectivity and like for like – one person could complete it after only one week or after six weeks. Results would be influenced by how it is fielded and how the results are analysed.
- The Rector said that SLT was proposing that the questionnaire would be available all the time on paper and electronically. There could be focussed occasions where people are encouraged to fill it in before they leave their seats after a service, but this could be pushy or imposing and lead to over representation of a particular service.
- There is usually a length of time with a specific end date for surveys and filling in questionnaires, after which the results are compiled. Hopefully everyone will have had the chance to respond. There was some agreement to this approach.
- If you issue it every few weeks, people may change their mind and the results become confusing, uninformative and difficult to analyse.
- This is difficult to do with a small number of people, most market research is done with a large of people.
- Some people attend more than one type of service, so could fill a questionnaire in for each service they attend. There is a space on the questionnaire for service date and time, and the age of the contributor to give context.
- The congregation, and visitors, should always have opportunities to give their opinions in a variety of ways. As part of this, the questionnaire could be available continuously. There was some agreement to this, but there should be an end date for this exercise.
- The Rector said that there will be collecting boxes in both churches.
- There could be a link in the weekly email newsletter and it could be on the website.
- The Rector had already distributed an interim version of the questionnaire at a service and got a handful back. A revised version of the questionnaire in paper I could be available the coming Sunday.

#### Duration and End Date

The Rector said that it will take time to gather responses and analyse the results. They could be considered at the next scheduled PCC meetings or an extraordinary CPCC meeting. Discussion included:

- There are a number of special services in the next few months including Remembrance, Carols and Christmas services. The Rector said that it would be good to get feedback from these services and the regular services.
- There was some agreement that the end date should be after Christmas.

- A pilot version of the questionnaire could be tested over the next few weeks to check for flaws or misunderstandings. The Rector agreed.
- The Rector suggested that the October SLT and November PCC meetings could look at the results so far, with a push in November and December.
- People should be informed that there is an end-point so they have time to go to different services.
- It should be made clear that changes will be made. The Rector said that comments are being noted and changes are being made already.

The Rector summarised by proposing that there would be a pilot of the questionnaire over the next two weeks including at Pebbles Family Service. The October SLT and November PCC meetings would look at the results so far. A revised questionnaire could be issued if necessary. The final deadline would be at the end of December. The Preachers, Leaders and Churchwardens would also gather feedback.

## There was a general sense of agreement.

# C 1 Communications and Operations

## C 1.1 Update and Plans and C1.2 General Data Protection Regulations

Update from Paper O:

- Work on maintaining and updating membership database is ongoing
- Stalled work on Data Protection policy needs to be re-started; a possible volunteer to help with this has been identified

There were no comments or questions.

# C 2 Stewardship and Finances

## C 2.1 Update and Plans and Benefice (Parish) Share

The Benefice (Parish) share will be considered at the joint part of the November Individual PCC meetings.

#### ACTION: Individual PCC Secretaries to add to Agenda.

# C 3 Safeguarding

## C 3.1 Update and Plans

Paper B refers: DBS checks for Holiday Club, Pastoral Care Team, shorter renewal time for some DBS checks and the Safeguarding Dashboard.

Judy Gold highlighted the following from her report and answered questions:

- She has had agreement to have a combined Safeguarding Dashboard for Harwell and Chilton. She will now start setting it up with the Rector's help.
- Enhanced DBS checks need renewing every 3 years from January 2022 (this was every 5 years), which will need more time and effort.
- The spreadsheet needs updating there are names to delete. Jane Woolley has agreed to help with this. The Rector said that he will ensure his own details are up to date.
- There will be a small charge to the Benefice for each DBS check.
- The Rector said that there is a shortlist for Safeguarding Officer role.

The Rector thanked Judy Gold for her work

#### C 3.2 Appointment of a New Safeguarding Officer

Update from Paper O: No recent progress made; list of possible candidates identified – Rector to approach.

No questions or comments.

# C 4 Staffing and Leadership

## C 4.1 Update and Plans

Update from Paper O: Recent/current PTO ('permission to officiate') applications/renewals done/underway for Jean and Peter Barton, Brendan Bailey, Meg Kirby (new to the area).

No questions or comments.

## C 4.3 Employment Committee

Paper G refers: Updates from Employment Group – Children and Families Workers, Greater Didcot Youthwork Trust and Personal working alone alarms.

The Rector said that the personal alarms item did not need discussion. No questions or comments.

## C 4.2 Resignation of Children and Families Worker

Paper M refers: Includes statement by CFW, the current situation and options to consider.

## C 4.2.1 Current Situation

Melanie Shields has handed in her notice as Children and Families Worker and will finish at the end of October. The Rector and Melainie Shields are both happy with the wording of the statement in the paper. He offered Melanie Shields the opportunity to be present at this part of the meeting, which she declined. Sarah Barrett was present for the first part of this item.

He asked if there were any questions or comments on the first part of the paper.

- There was agreement that it is very sad to see Melanie Shields leave. The Rector said that both she and Sarah Barrett are fantastic CFWs.
- The Rector said that he and Melanie Sheilds had a long conversation and she is settled and at peace with her decision to leave.
- There was a brief discussion of Melanie Shield's statement and reasons for departure.
- The Rector said that the church can discuss matters that the Church of England has expressed opinions about and subjects in the public eye. He has personal views on various subjects, but often takes a publicly neutral stance and is not willing to make public statements. There was some agreement with this.
- The Rector said that we will continue to care for the family.

PCC Members said that, in general, we need to try and listen respectfully and learn from each other when we disagree. We should focus on what we have in common as there is more that we unite on. We need to be hospitable, work together and love each other. The Covid pandemic is making people anxious and tired, which does not help. We need to guard our minds and hearts.

The Rector agreed and said that we need to "strive for the unity of the Spirit" as stated in the Holy Communion liturgy. We unite because we are one body in Christ and we should accept diversity in secondary issues.

## C 4.2.2 Future of CFW Employment

The options for CFW Employment from paper M are:

- 1. We seek to fill the vacancy (20h/week), like-for-like
- 2. We do not fill the vacancy, make a saving on salaries, and potentially scale-back our Children and Families' Work activities.
- 3. We consider other options in conjunction with the Youthwork Trust (to whom employment of our CFWs was planned to transfer soon anyway), e.g. employing a full-time CFW, 20h/week of which funded by our churches and focussed on work in our benefice.

The Rector said that option 3 could be a full-time person that worked part time here and part time somewhere else.

#### 2021-10-05 Combined PCCs – approved minutes

Sarah Barrett answered questions:

- She is happy to continue working 20 hours per week. Option two would leave her working on her own: Up to now, she and Melanie Shields have doubled up on some activities – they both attend Fledgelings and family services. She could do this on her own, but it would be harder and some quality may go -Sundays especially would be hard. It would be exciting if another job-share CFW was recruited.
- Option 3 could be exciting. She is good with toddlers and children and less experienced with youth. It would be good to get someone with more youth experience to complement her own skills.

Sarah Barrett left the meeting at this point.

The Rector said that we need to get a sense of the Combined PCCs preferred option, or come up with a further option, bearing in mind what Sarah Barrett had said. Then a sub-group could be formed to take this forward. Discussion ensued:

### Option 1

• It would be better to have two CFWs as they can bounce ideas off each other and work together, and we would get more than twice the effort.

# Option 2

- It would be unreasonable to ask Sarah Barrett to work every Sunday year-round.
- The Rector said that no treasurers were present, so we should note that there would be a financial advantage in option 2. Chilton is currently using the Church Hall Fund to pay its contribution to the Children's work.
- The Rector said that option 2 is the default position but this is a lot of work for one person.
- The CFWs already work more than their contacted hours. Much of their work is unseen such as relationship building. This could be lost, and the visible work (such as Fledgelings and family services) would decline as a result. The finance is important, and we must be responsible, but it would be sad to see a step back.

## Option 3

- This should be considered as Sarah has indicated her interest. Option 1 would be the fall-back position.
- This could work well.
- The Rector said that this would need agreement from the Youthwork Trustees as they are expecting Melanie Shields to continue.
- We should thank Sarah Barrett for her willingness to continue on her own, which should be temporary for possibly the next three months, so we have time to find the best way forward and not rush the decision. If this option does not work, we can go back to option 1.

The Rector summarised by proposing that we accept Sarah Barrett's offer to continue in post, and we will explore options 1 and 3 and discuss with the Youthwork Trustees, then proceed as appropriate. He asked that any further thoughts or ideas are passed to him by the start of November, and any possible candidates.

## No Objections.

There were further comments and questions:

- The Rector said that this would take some months to recruit a new CFW. It would be optimistic to get someone by January. Easter was more realistic.
- Given this, we need to start the process as soon as possible. It is inevitable that Sarah has to work alone for a while, and good that she is willing to continue, but we must ensure that there is a procedure happening from now and there is no delay while the PCCs are deciding what to do.
- We need to think about how to support Sarah while she is working on her own and make adjustments to the activities as required.
- The Rector said that support for Sarah is important, and he will do more children's work, as he did before the CFWs started.
- There was discussion of Holiday Club. It was suggested that a single one-week Holiday Club could be run if needed.
- There was a volunteer to help with Fledgelings.

The Rector asked for thoughts and prayers for the situation and people involved. We should be alert for gossip and speak peace rather than put our side.

## C 4.4 Permission to Assist at Communion

#### Update from Paper O:

To be deferred as not currently needed given the current 'Covid-safe' mode of distribution ("intinction"); suggest removal from agenda.

#### There was a general sense of agreement.

# C 5 Wider Church

## C 5.1 Deanery and Diocesan Synod

Paper C refers: Diocesan Annual Review May 2021 No comments or questions.

## C 5.2 Great Western Park and Valley Park

Paper O refers: Update on Curate for Valley Park.

The Rector added that Sasha Reeves (the curate) should be more visible in the community and parishes this year. She is appointed to lead outreach in Valley Park (once building starts), which will be in Harwell Parish. The curacy will last for three to four years, there are no plans yet for after that.

# C6 Any Other Business

## C 6.1 Living in Love and Faith.

Update from Paper O:

- Material for this national initiative looking at marriage, gender, and identity, is available and training being
  provided by the Diocese on its use. Jan Radford has been asked and agreed to be an 'Advocate' for
  LLF.
- The proposal is for our churches to engage with this material in January/February, with a view to then feeding into the national discernment process; details to be determined views welcome.

Jan Radford added that she hopes we engage with this after Christmas, and have discussions without falling out or having too many disagreements, and understand each other's point of view. There is a form for feedback to the General Synod. We can discuss these wider issues in society which are quite tricky for a lot of us.

We will be using the excellent material around conversations, hearing other people's stories and understanding their point of view without trying to change people's deeply held beliefs. It is more relevant to those who can't come through the door of our church. She has agreed to Bishop Gavin's request for her to be the advocate for Dorchester.

The Rector said that there are various options for using the material, such as Sunday Services, a Central course, Home Groups, just the PCCs or small groups. He asked for thoughts and prayers about what is right for us. It should not become the only thing that we do for the Spring term as it is a controversial subject. He wants us to engage with the material, but it is less clear how.

Jan Radford said that the material has been produced centrally by lay people, clergy, bishops and experts in a variety of subjects. It covers reflection and learning together as well as listening to different life experiences. The Pastoral Principles Course (which is not part of LLF) can help us learn to create a safe space for communication, learning and discussing together. The Rector said that we could pick this up later.

The Rector thanked the Secretary for his work, and thanked all present for their contributions to a helpful, constructive meeting.

#### The Rector closed the meeting with the Grace at 9:34 pm.

Dates of next meetings:

Individual PCCs: 2nd November 2021 online

Combined PCC: 1st February 2022 online

CHAIR

SECRETARY

DATE

DATE