

MINUTES OF THE ALL SAINTS' PCC MEETING

held at All Saints', Chilton on Tuesday 6 September 2022 at 7.30 pm

St Matthew's, Harwell and All Saints', Chilton PCCs were present together for Items 1-3. For the other items, only All Saints' members were present.

Items were taken in the order on the agenda.

1. Opening & Prayer

Pam Rolls read from 1 Peter 2: 1-10. She reminded us that we are built on Christ the Cornerstone and we are living stones of the Church called to be aligned to what Christ wants us to do, and to be alert listening to Him.

Pam Rolls led the meeting in prayer.

2. Sunday morning services at Harwell

Paper A was circulated before the meeting. Allan Macarthur reported that the SLT had reviewed the new service pattern as was agreed when it was introduced earlier in the year. No major changes would be made until the new Rector is in post but it was recognised that the split start time of the Harwell service was difficult to manage. Following input from the leaders and preachers, it was suggested that the Harwell main Sunday service would be a single service starting at 10.30am. It was recognised that there was a need for clear communication of what is happening on each Sunday through the month. The staffing of this change would not impact greatly on the current commitments. It was agreed to leave the timing of the implementation of this change to the SLT.

The following proposal required a decision in principle at the Combined PCC with any local issues covered by the Harwell PCC in their individual meeting:-

That we move to a single morning service at Harwell starting at 10:30. The pattern will continue to be to offer a formal Holy Communion service on the 2nd Sundays with other services mainly still starting with informal worship and moving to a more formal 2nd part of the service though this will still be accessible in terms of songs/hymns, liturgy etc. However, the leaders and preachers would have more flexibility over how much time was taken up by either informal or formal worship depending on the week, event and requirements of the congregation. So, the 10.30/11am split would be softer and more flexible instead of a fixed time.

Straw Poll Result - It was agreed unanimously by the thirteen PCC members present. There were 6 members of the Joint PCC present.

3. Proposed new Parish Share formula for 2023

Paper B refers. To introduce this item Liz Roberts read out a statement from Gordon Gill, Wallingford Deanery Synod Lay Chair, following a recent meeting of the Deanery Synod Standing Committee to discuss the new Parish Share formula in advance of the next Deanery Synod meeting.

"He is in favour of the new formula (Appendix 2). The Standing Committee agreed that the review was measured and well considered, whilst acknowledging that some parishes will see an increase in parish share and others will see a reduction. They will however listen to views at the next Deanery Synod.

He reported that the Deanery will not be able to pay its parish share in 2022 or 2023. Gordon has already spoken to Bishop Gavin about this, as has the Area Dean. The significant under payers are the churches in Didcot who individually have challenges.

Andy Lord as Area Dean, and Gordon as Lay Chair, with support of the Standing Committee, have submitted a follow up report to the Diocese looking at various models of ministry across a growing Greater Didcot with a request for central funding from Glebe and Common Development. This could change significantly how the Deanery meets its future cost of ministry through parish share. If their report and recommendations are accepted, one outcome might be additional help for our new Rector for ministry in Valley Park with costs borne by the Diocese of Oxford."

Following this statement Stuart Gibson commented that he was in favour of Appendix 4 which was a 2% increase over the 2022 calculated share. This reduced the increase for the struggling Didcot churches who would have a significant increased amount to pay with the new formula allocation. This option would also reduce the overall Deanery deficit by half.

There was a general sense that the other churches and Benefices in the Deanery should help those who are struggling to a greater extent to meet the parish share.

Discussion followed and the following feedback will be sent to the Deanery Synod Secretary in advance of the meeting on 20th September for the Synod members and treasurers. It is hoped that Stuart Gibson and Phill Johnson can represent us at this meeting.

1. The Benefice would like to allocate the division of the Parish Share internally as it has done for numerous years. We would prefer a lump sum allocation for the Benefice as we historically split 2/3^{rds} 1/3rd which has a different outcome to the formula applied to the individual parishes.
2. The PCCs are in favour of Appendix 4 as it would reduce the deficit.
3. Slide 16 of the presentation suggested a 10% reduction for each month of those in a vacancy. What decision was made about this?
4. How can we collaboratively help struggling parishes to pay their share?

All Saints' PCC only

Present:

Judith Russell (Churchwarden)
Naomi Gibson (Secretary)
Debra Dewhurst
Liz Morris
Alex Reich

Rev Pam Rolls
Stuart Gibson (Treasurer)
Steve Hale
John Pigott

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Hazel Benton (Vice-chair), Pat Moseley, Jan Radford and Yvonne Sanderson (Churchwarden). Judith Russell chaired the meeting.

2. Minutes of the meeting on 7th June 2022

The minutes of the meeting on 7th June 2022 were unanimously accepted as a true record and signed.

3. Decisions requested of Standing Committee between Meetings- None

4. Matters Arising

Update on people for tasks- Liz Morris reported that Andy Wells has agreed to represent All Saints' on the Village Hall Management Committee. The PCC are very grateful to Andy for taking on this role.

5. Fundraising for Church Administrator Salary, CAP Commitment and Children and Families Work

- **CAP Commitment**

The Charity Market Stall last month raised £903 for the Local CAP Debt Centre. Stuart suggested that this be rounded up to £1,000 which would cover half of the expected annual contribution. This was unanimously agreed. Naomi will ask Judy Goodall if the CAP Charity can have an annual slot in the Charity Market calendar. **Action:NG**

- **Church Administrator Salary**

It was agreed that due to the mounting cost of living that everyone is facing that it would not be a good time to launch an appeal to fund Deborah's salary. The new card machine has an area where people can donate towards this and a few donations have already been received. It is hoped that the General Fund will cover this valuable work.

- **Children and Families Work**

Stuart reported that any shortfall could be covered from the Church Hall Fund using the dividends and interest that the investment generates without touching the capital.

6. Finance Reports

There were no comments about the reports circulated. Stuart reported that the electricity costs would not increase until July next year due to the existing contract not expiring until then.

7. Fabric Committee Report

Judith circulated a report in advance of the meeting.

Pam asked about access to the church through the porch for electric wheelchairs which was highlighted by the Diocese when approving the ramp. Judith reported that the Diocese had suggested digging out the porch and lowering the level to slope into the church. There was concern about rainwater entering the church. Phillip Waddy had suggested sloping the resin path to ease access and adding a drain across the join to prevent water entering the church. Both suggestions will be evaluated.

8. Health & Safety

Nothing to report.

9. Services and Seasonal

Wearing of face masks in church services

It was agreed that people could wear face masks at their discretion. This will be revisited over the winter months if covid numbers increase significantly. The existing supply of mask will be left out for people until the supply runs out.

Harvest

This is on Sunday 25th September and is a family service. Harwell are hosting a picnic after their service to which everyone is welcome. There will be the usual collection of items for the Didcot Foodbank.

Collectin Card Reader

It was asked that Stuart provides some instructions to use the new card reader. **Action:SG**

Stuart will introduce this method of donating money to the Chilton Interactive service congregation on the second Sunday of the month and link it to the village hall wifi.

10. Future Dates

Noted.

11. Any other business

Nothing to report.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm in prayer and the sharing of the Grace.

Naomi Gibson
PCC Secretary

Signed by

Date