

MINUTES OF THE ALL SAINTS' PCC MEETING

held at St Matthew's Harwell on Tuesday 1 November 2022 at 7.30 pm

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

Items were taken in the order on the agenda.

1. Opening & Prayer

Pam Rolls read from Ephesians 2: 15-23. Pam remarked that we who believe can know that we have God's hope and that everything is under the rule of Christ.

Pam Rolls led the meeting in prayer.

2. Rector appointment process - update

Paper L refers. There were only two applicants. Both have been invited for interview. Allan Macarthur commented that the diocese thought that the small number of applicants is probably due to there having been a relatively high number of vacancies recently in our area. We will only appoint if the panel feels the person is right. If the panel decides not to appoint, the outcome will be communicated to PCC members and congregations the following day. If the panel does decide to appoint, the announcement will be made once the appointed person's own congregation has been informed. The candidates will be told that the previous Rector, Jonathan Mobey, is remaining in Harwell village.

3. Funding the Church Administrator post

Proposed text of fundraising appeal email

Paper A refers. Allan Macarthur explained that the group looking at this had decided not to use the more formal approach of a hand delivered letter. Instead, the communication would be via email and via hard copies of the email available in church.

Notwithstanding the fact that the wording would need to be adjusted if the PCCs subsequently do **not** agree to underwrite the cost of the Administrator post, PCC members approved unanimously the proposed email text subject to the following minor adjustments:

- Fifth bullet point: amend "*..plug the hole..*" to "*..meet the gap..*"
- In the fourth paragraph: amend "*To fully plug the gap that we have in funding..*" to "*To fully meet our funding commitments for this post..*"

Request for underwriting by PCCs of the cost of the Administrator post to be extended to 31 Dec 2023

Paper B explains the rationale for extending the underwriting to the end of 2023 to give the current Administrator more certainty and a new Rector more time to review the shape of this post.

There was an indicative straw poll on the extension of the underwriting. None was against; Four members of All Saints' PCC abstained. The remaining PCC members voted in favour.

The underwriting decision itself is for the individual PCCs – see item 14.

It was noted that if one PCC did not agree to underwrite the cost then the fundraising email would still go out but the wording in the second bullet point would need to be altered.

4. CAP Debt Centre request for additional funding for 2023

Paper C refers – requesting an additional £1k from our Benefice due to exceptional pressures on Debt Centre clients and staff. There are seven churches (of which we are two) who collaborate to fund the Centre and to provide trustees.

Tony Hughes asked whether additional churches in the area had been approached to see if they might contribute financially. Naomi Gibson said that the CAP model is predicated on participating churches providing a trustee and befrienders, not just money. As such, it is a long-term aim to expand the number of churches involved but this was unlikely to happen during 2023.

The decision about providing the additional funding is for the individual PCCs – see item 16.

5. Communications – replacing the Broadsheet with a section in Harwell News and Chilton Chronicle

Paper D refers. The Parish Councils have been approached and are happy to oblige.

Chilton Chronicle is delivered in hard copy to each household whereas the distribution of Harwell News is mainly via email and a website, supplemented with some hard copies. Therefore, Chilton Chronicle would need the Benefice to bear the extra printing costs involved. We would still deliver a Church Christmas card and Easter card to each household.

There would be an announcement when the publications first include Church News to explain what is happening. There was a discussion about how long the trial should be before it is reviewed.

Several PCC members pointed out that this approach of inserting church news into the secular parish newsletter was common practice in many places.

PCC members unanimously agreed to trial a Church News section in the Harwell News and the Chilton Chronicle from January 2023 and to review the situation after 12 months.

All Saints' PCC only

Present:

Rev Pam Rolls
Yvonne Sanderson (Churchwarden)
Stuart Gibson (Treasurer)
Steve Hale
Pat Moseley
Alex Reich

Hazel Benton (Vice Chair)
Naomi Gibson (Secretary)
Debra Dewhurst
Liz Morris
John Pigott

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Rev Jan Radford and Judith Russell (Churchwarden).
Hazel Benton chaired the meeting.

Hazel suggested that the two decisions that need to be voted on from the Joint section of the meeting be dealt with first.

- **Underwriting the cost of Church Administrator post by the PCC to be extended to 31 December 2023**

At the previous part of the meeting, four members of our PCC abstained in the straw poll. The meeting asked for the reasons behind this. It was emphasised that it was no reflection on Deborah and the amazing work she does serving the Benefice. It was explained that previously Jonathan had funded a portion of the Administrator's hours as he wanted extra help due to his other commitments. It was this portion of the Administrator's salary that we

were being asked to be underwritten. Stuart was not confident that the PCC had the funds to guarantee this as All Saints' is in a different financial situation to St Matthew's. This is due to the falling numbers, partly due to the pandemic and through death, so has a smaller pool of people to draw on. It was agreed unanimously that Deborah's role is very important and that we value the work she does and the skills she offers but we could not guarantee something which we could not fulfill. A few were also keen that the role was reviewed when the new rector was in place to determine the hours and the requirements of the Benefice. It was hoped that the appeal would be well supported and that we could be more confident that we could support the Administrator role. It was decided to take the vote after the finance report when we had a clearer idea of the financial situation.

- **Request for increased funding for the CAP Debt Centre** – At a recent Trustee meeting all partner churches were asked to increase their contribution by a £1,000. This would be for the Benefice, so the increase amounted to £333 for Chilton bringing the annual donation to £2,000 for 2023. It was decided to also postpone the decision until after the finance report.

2. Minutes of the meeting on 6th September 2022

The minutes of the meeting on 6th September 2022 were unanimously accepted as a true record and signed.

3. Decisions requested of Standing Committee between Meetings- None

4. Matters Arising

- **CAP Debt Centre request to be on Charity Market calendar** – Following the success of the Charity Market in August raising £903 for the local CAP Debt Centre, Naomi has asked Judy Goodall if the charity can be added to their annual calendar of charities that they support. She has agreed and the Debt Centre is penciled in for 12th August 2023.
- **VHMC Church Representative Update** – Liz reported that unfortunately Andy Wells has stepped down from the VHMC due to increased commitments with scouts. Debra who has recently joined the committee agreed to represent the church.

5. World Mission Budget – Paper E

Yvonne and the World Mission Committee had prepared a paper which had been presented at the October meeting for decision at this meeting. Alex asked that Christianity Solidarity Worldwide be considered for future years' funding, Yvonne will feed this back to Helen Brook. The other charities were discussed.

Hazel suggested that the donation to John Abu Bakker be rounded down to £500 from £524. This was agreed unanimously.

The approval of the All Saints' World Mission expenditure, with the slight adjustment of £24, was proposed by Yvonne and seconded by Pam. It was agreed unanimously.

6. Finance Reports

Stuart reported that income was running to budget currently and expenditure was below budget but there were always many items of expenditure at the end of the year including the World Mission donations and Joint Benefice costs so it is uncertain whether we will end the year without a deficit.

Stuart suggested that the roof repairs be taken from a legacy fund for roof repairs and the Children and Family costs be paid from the Church Hall fund. It was suggested that the Evergreens fund be used to remove the debt on the path project as it is a tangible item that the money can be used for rather than going into the General Fund. This was agreed.

Stuart was concerned that we could not meet our full Parish Share commitment this year. There was discussion that we should be entitled to a discount of maybe 10% during an interregnum. Stuart agreed to contact the Diocese to ask about this. **Action:SFG**

Despite having a reasonable fuel cost contract at the moment, it was suggested that we start cutting back our consumption and encourage people to wrap up warm for services. John will investigate adjusting the time the heating comes on to help reduce cost.

Voting deferred from earlier in the meeting: -

- **Underwriting the cost by PCC of the Administrator post to be extended to 31 December 2023**

The votes were cast as follows: 4 were for, 3 against and 5 abstained.

The PCC were unanimous that they wanted to support this but because of the present position of our finance we endeavour to do what we can, and it is no reflection on the holder of the post.

- **Additional funding of £333 to the CAP Debt Centre making annual contribution to £2000**

The PCC unanimously agree to undertake to support CAP and pay what we can afford.

We noted that the Benefice provide a service to all the local partner churches in providing CAP Money Courses.

7. Fabric Committee Report

Judith circulated a report in advance of the meeting.

The PCC wished to pass on their thanks to the Fabric Committee and congratulate them on the Quinquennial inspection which was very complimentary about the care of the building.

The investigation into the ramp was ongoing with consultation with the Diocesan Advisory Committee.

Yvonne mentioned that Judith had written to West House about the fence but has received no reply.

8. Health & Safety

Nothing to report.

9. Services and Seasonal

Harvest

It was agreed that it was well attended service with very generous gifts for the Food Bank.

(It was mentioned that Jan Radford should enter her ankle injury when she tripped on the chancel step into the accident book)

Christmas Preparations

Hazel has organised the tree for on top of the tower from the Garden Centre. Alex kindly agreed to collect this. Steve will organise for it to go on the tower with Tom and Tim.

Pam is providing the inside tree for the children to decorate on Saturday 26th November.

Naomi will do the advent wreath ready for Advent Sunday on 27th November.

Pat asked Liz to kindly add an entry into the Chilton Chronicle about people bringing poinsettias to All Saints' for the 11th December as last year, to honour people who are still with us and those who have died. These will be donated to local care homes after Christmas.

There will be a wedding on 21st December and the bride will be providing a wreath for the church door.

Debra reported that the Living Advent Calendar will happen again this year.

John is organizing the candles for the carol services.

It was asked that members of PCC provide a dozen mince pies for the evening carol service.

Action:all

10. Future Dates

Noted. Liz is kindly including the Oasis café date in the Chilton Chronicle.

11. Any other business

Stuart asked that the fees for the organist and ringing be reviewed at the next meeting. He was asked to produce a proposal for this.

Action:SG & NG

The meeting closed at 10.00pm in prayer and the sharing of the Grace.

Naomi Gibson

PCC Secretary

Signed by

Date