

## **MINUTES OF THE ALL SAINTS' PCC MEETING**

### **held remotely via zoom on Tuesday 7 March 2023 at 7.30 pm**

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St Matthew's, Harwell and All Saints', Chilton PCCs were present together for Items 1-4. 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 asked that we all continued to pray for wisdom for all those involved in the interview process the following day and read from the letter of James. Pam remarked that we are all tired and have gone through a time of trial during the interregnum, but God will use that hard work for His glory and help us to develop perseverance and grow into a mature faith. She reminded us to trust in God who has everything under control.

Pam Rolls led the meeting in prayer.

#### **2. Update on appointment process for a new Rector.**

Allan Macarthur commented that three candidates were being interviewed on 8<sup>th</sup> March and all the arrangements had been made for the service at All Saints, interviews in the church hall, lunch in St Matthew's and visits to Chilton Primary School and the Rectory.

Hazel Benton asked about the proposed gift to the Rector to help with the re-decoration of the Rectory. Allan reported that it would be a joint gift from both parishes to be discussed in the individual PCC meetings. There has already been general cleaning including the carpets but due to work carried out by the Diocese, there needs to be initial work done to repair holes in the walls etc. before painting can happen, so more skilled people need to be involved than a working party.

#### **3. Extra Support for the C& FW**

Paper A 1 refers- temporary support for Sarah Barrett in the run up to Holiday Club. Vicky Johnston has been suggested to provide this help. It was proposed that the Joint PCC (Combined Standing Committees) are delegated to make the finer decisions as it needs to be moved forward quickly as assistance needs to start as soon as possible.

A straw poll of the PCCs indicated that all were in favour of this proposal.

#### **4. Annual Report – Sections 1-4**

Paper A2 refers. These sections were approved in principle, for formal confirmation later in the meeting by the individual PCCs.

### **All Saints' PCC only**

#### **Present:**

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

Rev Jan Radford  
Judith Russell (Churchwarden)  
Stuart Gibson (Treasurer)  
Steve Hale  
Pat Moseley  
Alex Reich

### 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Yvonne Sanderson (Churchwarden).  
Hazel Benton chaired the meeting.

### 2. Decisions requested of Standing Committee between Meetings

- **Pay rise approval for C&FW & administrator**

A 10% increase, in line with December 's Consumer Price Index (CPI), was agreed for the C&FW and also for the administrator.

- **Request to assist with funding for a victim of domestic abuse**

A member of Harwell church asked for donations towards the storing cost for a Polish lady's possessions whilst housed in a refuge. Other churches have also been approached. It was decided that we could not support this as not the appropriate use of church funds in view of the already great demands on the church funds, and may also open the floodgates for other requests.

### 3. Minutes of the meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022

The minutes of the meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022 were unanimously accepted as a true record and will be signed.

### 4. Matters Arising- None

## ANNUAL MEETING PREPARATION (Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2023 at 10.30am after the morning service)

### 5. 2022 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. It was agreed that Judith Russell would sign the accounts as churchwarden in the absence of a Rector.

### 6. 2022 Finance Reports

Paper D (section 5) refers.

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

***The Accounts and Finance report for 2022 were approved unanimously.***

### 7. 2022 Fabric Report

Paper D (section 6) refers. Judith produced this report on behalf of the Fabric Committee.

Hazel thanked the Fabric Committee for all their hard work and Judith for leading the group and producing the reports.

***The Fabric report for 2022 was approved unanimously.***

### 8. Presentation of the Logbook, Terrier & Inventory

The Churchwardens confirmed that the 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. 2022 Annual Report

The Benefice part (sections 1-4) were approved in principle at the Combined meeting.

Parish Specific sections 5-6 & appendices were approved.

***It was unanimously agreed to approve the annual report 2022.***

Debra Dewhurst has kindly agreed to format the report for circulation to the parishes before the APCM. The accounts will be added to the document. The report will be uploaded to the website and hard copies will be available in the church.

The chair thanked Naomi for producing the report.

#### **10. Annual Meeting Agenda & Minutes of 2022 meeting**

***The agenda and 2022 minutes were approved unanimously.***

(There may be an additional item on the agenda about a new Rector if appointed)

Paper G refers to the PCC membership. Stuart Gibson, Alex Reich and John Pigott are at the end of their three year term. Alex and Stuart agreed to stand again. (John confirmed that he will stand again after the meeting).

There are vacancies for two members of the Deanery Synod. The PCC were encouraged to prayerfully consider who may like to stand and ask them.

Judith is willing to stand another year as churchwarden. Judith reported that Yvonne Sanderson has come to the end of her term as churchwarden after six years and Pam Rolls, Jan Radford, and the churchwardens have approached a few people to consider taking on this role.

#### **11. Finance report including 2023 budget**

Paper H refers. Stuart explained that the budget for 2023 is currently running at a deficit of £12,000. He highlighted that the budget showed a reduction in Charities and Mission giving to 10% from 15%. The cost of electricity will be tripling when the current contract comes to an end in July. The Fabric and Churchyard expenditure is expected to be quite high. It is hoped that fees from services such as funerals and weddings will generate some income.

Stuart has taken the CollectTin to the interactive service and will continue to do this to give those that attend that service an opportunity to give to the work of the church.

It was suggested that Stuart give a presentation to the congregation about the state of the finances at a Sunday morning service. A date for this will be arranged. **Action: PMR & SG**

***The budget for 2023 was unanimously approved.***

- **Review of fees for organist and bellringing.**

Stuart proposed that the fees for the organist rise from £65 to £100 (£80 for organist and £20 for church) and the bellringing fees rise from £140 to £175 (£25 per rope and £25 for the bellringing fund). This was in line with neighbouring counties' charges.

***This was agreed unanimously.***

Pam mentioned that the choir charges £50 to sing at services if requested and this charge would stay the same.

- **AV Upgrade proposal (From February meeting)**

Paper I refers. Allan Macarthur has put forward a proposal for St Matthew's and has suggested that All Saints' has a similar specification for ease of producing and consistency of delivering services across the benefice.

There was much discussion and opposing views as to the necessity.

Steve Hale and Debra Dewhurst were concerned about the extravagance of such an upgrade in the light of our current financial struggles. Stuart reassured them that there was a fund that could be used to pay for this.

Jan Radford and Pam Rolls were in agreement that the upgrades were necessary to provide a reliable resource that could deliver the sermons that they spend a lot of time producing and quite often cannot be run on the current system. This causes unnecessary stress to the leaders and preachers and distracts from their message. Also, Deborah Evans has to adapt the videos for our old technology which still may not work. Sarah Barrett is also frustrated that the technology is limiting and not what is expected in this

technological world. John Pigott would like a system to play CDs easily as they are asked for frequently at funerals.

Taking into account all these views, it was decided that a small group would look at Allan's proposal and investigate what Chilton actually needs. Stuart Gibson, Steve Hale and John Pigott agreed to do this and report back to the PCC.

## 12. Fabric Report

Paper J refers.

Judith Russell circulated a paper about the access ramp for All Saints' following the feedback about the temporary ramp. Although this has produced positive feedback, the DAC are concerned about its length and would require a longer ramp to follow disabled access recommendations. Judith outlined the possible solutions in her report which also included adjusting the porch floor to allow a gradual incline towards the church door. Discussions followed and the necessity for this was realised as the back entrance through the kitchen is not considered ideal by the DAC as it is a fire hazard.

John suggested that we look at the cost of modifying the path to eliminate the step up into the porch. He agreed to contact the company who originally installed the path. **Action:JP**

It was proposed that a group look at an outline plan and a fully costed proposal and then investigate grants for changes to accommodate disabled access. This was unanimously agreed.

## 13. Future Dates

These were noted. Pam informed the PCC that the SLT were considering have a combined morning service in the Harwell Feast marquee on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May. (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month)

Naomi asked for someone to do the minutes on 6<sup>th</sup> June and Liz Morris would consider it and will let Naomi know.

## 14. Any other business

- **Gift for Rector**

Paper K refers. Due to the work that the Diocese have done at the Rectory there is a lot of remedial work to be done before decoration can take place. Also carpets need replacing and white goods purchased. The new Rector will get a small allowance from the Diocese so it was thought that the parishes could offer money to help. Stuart suggested that we reduce our Parish Share contribution as a proportion of this is supposed to be used to maintain properties. Pam Rolls agreed to this proposal.

It was proposed to gift up to £1,000 taken from the Parish Share to the new Rector.

10 voted in favour and 2 abstained.

- **Consideration of named person for Social Media Policy and a person responsible for ensuring the Benefice Data Protection (GDPR) compliance**

The PCC were asked to prayerfully consider who in our congregation could take on these roles.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm with the sharing of the Grace.

**Naomi Gibson**  
**PCC Secretary**

**Signed by**

**Date**