

**Minutes of a Meeting of All Saints, Chilton PCC** held  
at All Saints' Chilton on 15<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm

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St Matthew's, Harwell and All Saints', Chilton PCCs were **present together for Items 1-7**. For the other items, only All Saints', Chilton PCC members were present. (Revd Geoff Maughan (consultant) observed for items 1 – 11).

### **Opening and Prayer**

Jeremy opened the meeting with a responsorial version of part of Psalm 104 which was all about the glory of God, and led the PCC's in prayer.

### **1. Update on the Committee structure and Decision making consultation**

Jeremy had written and circulated a paper giving an update on the project on which our churches were working with Revd Geoff Maughan. The review process was in its closing stages and a report summarising its findings would be issued in the next few weeks. Implementation and training would follow. If further discussion were needed, this would be done through the Standing Committees as there were no full PCC meetings until March 2025.

### **2. Children and Families Worker and engagement of part-time teachers**

Jeremy had written and circulated a paper which outlined three aspects of CFW work:

**Missional Service to the Community** – currently led by Lucy Ryan with her main focus being Fledgelings and some co-ordination of volunteers. Lucy is also training one day a week on a one year Pioneer Mission course run by CMS. Lucy is contracted to the benefice and paid from the current CFW provision. Her place on the CMS course is being funded by the Diocese.

**Primary Schools** – two professional teachers, Hannah Walker and Emily Greig Jenkins will be helping to develop links with our schools along with Jeremy and volunteers. They will be external contractors with the costs funded from existing CFW provision.

**Church Family** – an advert has just been issued, via ECHO, for a CFW Worker to work half time in the Benefice and half time with ECHO focussing on Great Western Park and Valley Park. It is hoped that someone will be appointed to this role by January 2025 on a 3-year basis. If the ECHO corecruitment fails then, from February we will need to regroup and probably rethink the role and how to attract candidates where there is a shortage nationally.

In discussion several PCC members asked questions about the rate of payment for the teachers but Jeremy's reply was that they were below the going rate as had been the payment of our previous CFW's. PCC members asked for more information about Hannah and Emily and Jeremy agreed to write a paper giving background information about them. **Action JP**

One PCC member expressed disappointment that we had paid our CFW's at below the going rate. Jeremy said that the role had been set up about a decade ago and the new advert going out through ECHO stated a going rate of around £28,000 to £32,000 with the actual sum to be agreed with ECHO before the appointment is made. If we are successful in recruiting in early 2025 we will probably exceed available CFW funds so fundraising will be needed. Both churches face deficit budgets so

ongoing funding of a CFW will need to be discussed at the Finance Committees. **Action Finance Committee.**

### 3. World Mission Budget

Helen Brook addressed the meeting, having circulated the proposed missions budgets for both churches. These budgets were slightly lower than last year and prioritised people over organisations. The budgets would be discussed and approved at the individual PCC meetings later.

Helen mentioned that St Matthew's has a fund which can be used for capital projects and the World Mission Group (WGM) suggested that it be used to help build a Leprosy Mission hospital in India. She agreed to go back to the WGM to find more information about this proposal. **Action HB.** Revd Rolls mentioned that The Leprosy Mission no longer accept used postage stamps to help raise funds.

As Helen had mentioned that the Tubakus who serve in Albania had joined a service at St Matthew's via an online link and that a recording had been made for All Saints' Chilton, Revd Rolls asked if this recording could be made available please. Jeremy said he would put a link in the newsletter. Subsequently Revd Rolls contacted Deborah Evans to ask if this could be done. **Action JP/DE.**

### 4. Fundraising

Jane Woolley had prepared a paper on fundraising which had been endorsed by the Churchwardens and Treasurers. Both churches are facing deficit budgets again this year and it was proposed that a Benefice Fundraising Group be established to address this. We would be looking for people with fundraising experience and people with knowledge of who to message and how.

The PCC's agreed unanimously that a Benefice Fundraising Group should be formed. Further discussion would be needed at the Finance Committee meetings to kick off this project soon. **Action Finance Committees.** It was noted that we could consult the Deanery and the Diocese about people or organisations with expertise in this area.

### 5. 2025 Meeting dates

The dates of 2025 meetings had been circulated by Naomi and Elizabeth.

### 6. Intergenerational Services

On behalf of the recently formed Children and Young People Steering Group (CYPS), Sarah Mawle presented a paper which proposed that we reduce the number of Intergenerational Services from one a month in both churches to six per year, alternating between churches. There were a number of reasons for making this request, including the fact that there is resistance from children who do not want to attend these services, there is already all age worship provision at the Interactive Service each month, and the current model disrupts the children's groups that meet in Harwell as they only meet twice a month. The children thrive in these groups and are showing signs of spiritual growth.

In discussion a number of points were made:

- a. There is little provision for children's work in Chilton apart from the Interactive Service and the current Intergenerational services. The Chilton congregation is mostly made up of older people and this needs to be addressed. Sarah said that the CYPS would welcome working on an initiative to improve the situation over the longer term.

The Harwell families who attend the Interactive service in Chilton Village Hall miss the communion service at Harwell that morning. By reducing the number of Intergenerational Services there could be an opportunity to address this on another Sunday.

- b. Parents see their responsibility for nurturing their children's faith in the best possible way as very important.
- c. We do miss having a Children and Families Worker!
- d. Who is on the CYPS? A paper is coming shortly which will include the names of the Group members. **Action JP.**
- e. One person urged that we embrace the Chilton Interactive Service on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month with All Saints' congregation seeing themselves as co-hosts.
- f. Jan urged that we 'sing a new song' which had recently come to her mind after reading Psalms 96 and 98. We would have a chance to embrace something different and exciting.
- g. In thinking about how to keep children and young people growing in their faith, Jeremy mentioned that he had recently spoken to Yvonne Morris (Children's Adviser for the Diocese) and asked her to provide us with a workshop next year to consider this in more depth.

The PCC's voted almost unanimously to accept the CYPS paper - with two abstentions.

## 7. Any Other Business

There was none.

The PCC's then separated for their individual meetings.

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## Meeting of All Saints' Chilton PCC

**Present:** Revd Jeremy Parsons (Chairman)

Liz Morris

Pat Moseley

Revd Jan Radford (joined online)

Alex Reich

Judith Russell (joined online)

Revd Pam Rolls (Acting Secretary)

## 8. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Hazel Benton, Debra Dewhurst, Naomi and Stuart Gibson and John Pigott.

## 9. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2024 were accepted and signed by Jeremy.

## 10. Decisions requested of Standing Committee between meetings

A decision had been made earlier this year that Christmas gifts should be sent this year to injured Ukrainian Servicemen via an organisation with whom Yvonne Sanderson was in contact. Last year we had sent toys, through the same organisation, to children in Ukraine as the Oxford Women's Refuge had said they no longer had a need for the toys.

The Standing Committee had felt unhappy that the decision had been made without wider consultation.

Several PCC members also expressed disappointment about the lack of consultation and with the choice that had been made to give to Ukraine again when there were many parts of the world we could support, and many organisations in this country we could help. Hazel Benton had said that she knew of other organisations who would take toys. It was agreed that supporting a Toy Service would be reviewed again next year.

## 11. Other Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting

Alex had circulated a paper reporting on the recent initiative to consciously invite people to the September Interactive Service and follow it up with a bring and share lunch. Although there wasn't a great response, Pat had met one family who had responded to an invitation, which was encouraging. It was acknowledged that making personal invitations was key and we could follow up on this with future Intergenerational Services.

Alex had also reported on the recent cream team held on the afternoon of Harvest Sunday. There had been great teamwork and a real buzz in the atmosphere. The cream teas had been attended by almost 70 people – people were queuing to enter the church which was wonderful to see. There wasn't much opportunity to ask people what they would like from their local church as the helpers were so busy but it seemed that the turnout and the community spirit which was evident spoke for itself that there is a desire for people to come together at such events. Alex thanked Naomi and Hazel and their team for doing such a great job.

## 12. PCC Away Day – Building and Growing our Church

This is to be held on Saturday 9 November, 10am to 2pm in Chilton Village Hall. Jeremy was still trying to find a facilitator **Ongoing Action JP.**

Jeremy reported that Lucy Ryan would attend and speak. The PCC should ask others to join the meeting in an 'open time' and let Deborah Evans know who they are. Jeremy would assemble a programme. **Action JP.**

Judith asked if a member of the Children and Young Peoples Steering Group could be invited. **Action JP.**

In looking at the subject, we would be highlighting intentions rather than going into great detail.

There would be a bring and share lunch in the middle of the day. **Action PCC members.**

## 13. Finance Report

The PCC unanimously approved the World Missions Group's proposals for Missions Giving.

Following earlier discussion about fundraising it was clear that we need to identify people to serve on the Benefice Fundraising Group. Judith would speak to Stuart about convening a meeting of the Finance Committee soon. **Action JR/SG.**

Stuart's report and financial accounts were received. Alex asked about the Parish Share as he was concerned that we might not pay in full this year. Stuart had warned of a potential deficit of £10,000 this year so payment of the Parish Share in full would be a challenge but it is the PCC's intention to pay in full.

#### **14. Fabric Report**

Judith's report had been circulated and reflected a lot of hard work by a number of people.

In the discussion that followed, several points were made.

- a. Regarding audio visuals, Stuart had received a quote from a company who could instal new projectors, associated cabling etc and he would be following this up when back from holiday. **Action SG.** Judith asked people to forward comments about the angling of the pews in the South Aisle so that people sitting there could see projection above and to the left of the piano.
- b. Judith had moved the churchyard working party to the afternoon of 16 November so that it didn't clash with Oasis Café.
- c. Damage had been sustained to the Chilton Field notice board. Judith would enquire about a repair. **Action JR.**

#### **15. Net Zero Church Update**

There was no update available.

#### **16. Health and Safety Update**

There was no update available

#### **17. Services and Seasonal**

##### **Remembrance Sunday**

The service would take place at 9.30am as normal. An Act of Remembrance would take place in the early part of the service and there would be a second short Act of Remembrance in the churchyard at 11am as has happened in recent years. The Scout Troop would be invited to attend. **Action PR.**

There needed to be clarification of what was happening regarding a children's activity in the Village Hall. **Action PR to clarify with Jeremy and Deborah Evans.**

##### **Preparations for Christmas**

**Decide where Christmas gifts should g by discussion with PCC at October meeting.**

- a. Living Advent Calendar. Alex would ask Debra if she could organise this. **Action AR.**

- b. Carol Service Dates. Family Carols on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 4pm. Carols by Candlelight on Sunday 22 December at 6.30pm.
- c. Refreshments at Carol services. **Action AR to ask the Kerrs if they can make and serve mulled wine for the evening service. PCC members were asked to contribute a dozen mince pies each please.**
- d. Advent Wreath. Naomi to kindly make.
- e. Christmas Trees and decoration. Alex would liaise with Hazel about the tree for the tower and Judith would liaise with Tim and Tom about erecting the tree. **Actions AR and JR.**  
  
Pam would provide the tree for the niche and contact Deborah Evans to see if Lucy Ryan would lead a decorating activity again this year. **Action PR.**
- f. Decorating the church with flowers would take place in the week before Carols by Candlelight.
- g. Carol singing. The Rose and Crown is currently closed so there will not be carol singing there this year.
- h. Crib Service Tuesday 24 December at 3.30pm. Jeremy said this would take place with no prior rehearsal.
- i. Poinsettias. It was agreed that we would not ask for these this year.
- j. Sherry and Shortbread on Christmas Day. Naomi had agreed to provide these.
- k. Lighting the East Window. John would kindly organise this.

#### **18. Any Other Business**

There was none.

The meeting closed with prayer at 9.40pm.