Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Combined PCCs of St. Matthew's Harwell and All Saints' Chilton

held on Tuesday 6th March 2012 at 7:45 pm in St Matthew's Church, Harwell

Present

Jonathan Mobey (Chairman)

Harwell

Sid Gale Roz Shipp
Gordon Gill Jane Woolley

Georgina Greer Mel Gibson (Secretary)

Tony Hughes

Elizabeth Roberts

Chilton

Pam RollsStuart GibsonCarol PigottAvril ButlerHazel KingRuth PooleNaomi GibsonJohn PigottLiz Morris

1. Reflections

The Rector, Jonathan Mobey opened the meeting with reference to reflections. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting would be coming soon; a time of looking back and looking forward of both beginnings and endings, Alpha and Omega. There is an overlap of ages within the church. There then followed a prayer.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Scott Cockburn, Nicholas Milrose, Sarah Milrose, Allan Macarthur, Kate Evans, Jonathan Wood, John Berry, Alex Reich, Andrew Hayes.

3. Website

The new website was now live and contained rotas and a diary transferred over from Google. The launch of the new website would be this coming Sunday and Liz Roberts had drafted a leaflet. The New Website Committee would be meeting on Friday 9th March before the launch to get everything ready. There was training to plan, computers would be required for IT training and it may be possible to let people practice accessing the website before the APCMs on the 16th and18th April, although Broadband would be required.

4. Lankelly Chase

There has been another expression of interest in using the building and therefore there has been no outcome yet. Therefore there was nothing more to report. If we are accepted as the chosen user we will be allowed to use Lankelly Chase on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday between 9.00am and 5.00pm. It would be a 2 month rolling contract and the cost would be £8.00/ day for heating and no charge for storage. There would be no key issued with the contract and the building would be opened up for us.

5. JPCC Subcommittees

This item will be left until after the APCMs when the new PCCs will have been appointed.

6. Photocopier

The new photocopier will be delivered this week, either Wednesday or Thursday. It was planned to set it up for trials in the vestry, but because of security it will be set up in the office. There will be a 2 weeks cooling off period, but it has been paid for at £3300. The donations received so far are about half the cost. Carolyn will evaluate the photocopier and it will be used as much as possible over the next 2 weeks including colour printing. Stuart Gibson and the committee will monitor the photocopier over the next 2 weeks and Jonathan Mobey proposed a vote of thanks for all the work that Stuart Gibson and the committee had done.

7. Giving/Stewardship

There was a problem balancing the books this financial year and one strategy would be to increase legacies and standing orders. It was proposed to pool the expertise between the 2 churches and have a new group to look at it. The diocese were holding a number of Legacy Presentations during March and April run by Robin Brunner Ellis, the Christian Giving and Funding Advisor and Alison Knight, Christian Aid's Regional Legacy Officer. Jonathan Mobey said that we should send somebody to one of the meetings, but Naomi Gibson said that there would be local presentations and we should wait for these to save a lot of travelling.

8. Sermon Series June to August

There has been a meeting of the Preaching Team who preach and it has been decided to follow Genesis in the morning services and Galatians in the evening service from Easter to Trinity Sunday (13 weeks). It was proposed to make supporting material available to House Groups. Genesis will cover Creation and Evolution and an idea from Jonathan Mobey was to get a speaker from Oxford to talk on the Universe and The Big Bang. Ruth Poole thought that it would be a good idea to include children as they learn about the Universe at school. Tony Hughes said that he had a DVD about Genesis which people could borrow if they wished.

9. Harwell Feast

There was a discussion about holding a "Songs of Praise" at the Harwell Feast on the 26th May 2012. We would require a marquee and during the Feast it would be used for the Craft Exhibition. Would we want the "Songs of Praise" the night before the Feast; during the feast or in the evening? The Scouts were holding a Barn Dance on the evening before the Feast (25th May) It was decided that we would not hold a "Songs of Praise" this year at the Harwell Feast because of the practical difficulties. Chilton said that they may be able to hold a "Songs of Praise" at their Jubilee Weekend on the following weekend. It was a good idea to hold a "Songs of Praise" as it brought people into the praise environment and promoted outreach.

The Jubilee weekend was also discussed: Harwell have not got any plans to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, which is on the next weekend following the Harwell Feast. Chilton are celebrating and Liz Morris gave a preview of what had been arranged so far. There would

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be a Sunday lunch in the village hall and then people can go home to watch celebrations on the television or in other surrounding villages. On Monday, there will be a village fete with cream teas in the church. There will be stalls, 3 or 4 bands and a treasure hunt. It was suggested that there could be a Songs of Praise after lunch on the Sunday in Chilton. Harwell would be most welcome to attend the Chilton celebrations.

10. Gluten Free Bread

We have at present no alternatives to normal bread at Communion and there had been requests from some members of the congregation to have gluten free bread. It was decided to make gluten- free bread available at Communion and encourage requests for it before the service was decided to put a notice about its availability in the notice sheet and also in the Broadsheet.. There was a discussion on only supplying gluten free bread but this was decided as not necessary.

11. Same Sex Marriage

Gordon Gill gave a report on the Government proposals tomake marriage available to same sex couples. "The Coalition for Marriage" (C4M) is an umbrella group of individuals and organisations in the UK that support traditional marriage and oppose any plans to redefine it. The Coalition is backed by politicians, lawyers, academics and religious leaders. It reaches out to people of all faiths and none, who believe that marriage is the most successful partnership in history and should not be redefined. C4M have launched an on line petition to support the legal definition of marriage which is the voluntary union for life of one man and one woman to the exclusion of all others. It was decided to put a clearly worded notice in the Notice sheet and on the Website to draw people's attention to what the Government is planning and to the on line petition.

12. Close

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

Signed	Chairman	Date
Signed	Secretary	Date