

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

held on Tuesday 3rd July 2012 at 7:45 pm in All Saints', Chilton

Present

Mel Gibson	Scott Cockburn	Philip Garner
Gordon Gill	Kate Evans	Liz Morris
Georgina Greer	Jonathan Mobey	Naomi Gibson
Liz Roberts	Ruth Poole	Stuart Gibson
Tony Hughes	Pam Rolls	Lin Kerr
Jane Woolley	Hazel King	[Monika Buxton was also present as an observer]
Anne Gill	Andrew Hayes	
Peter Barclay-Watt	Carol Pigott	

1. Opening and Prayer

Jonathan Mobey opened the meeting with a reading from Luke 5: 12-16 (Jesus heals a leper). Jonathan focused on the last verse about Jesus making time to withdraw and pray despite the never-ending queues of people wanting to be healed. Jonathan emphasised the importance of listening to God's voice in all our busyness as PCC members. Jonathan then led the PCC in prayer.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:

Harwell: Roz Shipp, Allan Macarthur

Chilton: Alex Reich, John Berry, John Pigott

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the Combined PCC meeting on 6th March 2012 were signed as a correct record, with a handmade correction to Hazel King's surname.

4. Matters arising

1) Progress on appointment of Joint PCC subcommittees

In addition to the Chairs and Vice-chairs named in the relevant paper, Jonathan Mobey relayed that Frances Taylor and Ian Thompson are willing to serve as Vice-chair of the Outreach & Nurture subcommittee and Comms & Ops subcommittee respectively.

Jonathan Mobey stated that at least one of the Chair or Vice-chair of each sub-committee should be on the PCC.

The meeting discussed various possible maximum lengths of term that Chairs and Vice-chairs should serve. The balance of opinion was that there should be some periodic review of Chair and Vice-chair appointments. This will be covered in the draft general terms of reference for all sub-committees.

Resolution	That the proposals in the “Report from Joint PCC meeting 28 June 2012” paper are accepted, with the addition of Frances Taylor and Ian Thompson as Vice-chair of the Outreach & Nurture sub-committee and Comms & Ops sub-committee respectively				
Moved	Jonathan Mobey	Seconded	Jane Woolley	Passed	Passed; abstentions one; objections none

2) Performance of new photocopier

Stuart Gibson reported that, as far as he is aware, there are no issues with the performance of the photocopier. There were a couple of issues with the supply of materials, but those have been satisfactorily resolved.

Kate Evans reported that David Evans had told her that he could no longer find the photocopier usage log book, and that when he had seen the log book previously, it appeared to be incomplete.

Action: Jonathan Mobey to follow up with Church Administrator about the usage log book

3) Convening both Finance Committees to discuss how to grow income

The related paper was noted. Jonathan Mobey invited anyone with any further thoughts or ideas to contact Peter Barclay-Watt.

5. Frequency and format of PCC meetings

Jonathan Mobey summarised the issue being that there are currently only four Combined PCC meetings a year, which means that the agenda tends to be very full, and the meetings very long (they are usually followed by individual PCC meetings). So if you miss one, you can get very out of touch. So Jonathan’s proposal is that there are more frequent meetings and that it is left flexible as to whether these are Combined PCC meetings only, Individual PCC meetings only or both. Specifically, Jonathan proposed eight meetings per year (plus the Annual Meeting) instead of the current six, with no meeting in June, August and December.

Various PCC members expressed views. All of these were in support of more frequent meetings. However, all who spoke were against continuing to have both a Combined meeting and an Individual PCC meeting on the same night.

The issue of whether the individual Church’s PCC meetings would then be scheduled simultaneously or on separate dates was discussed. The advantage of the former would be the opportunity to socialise and pray together at the start, and the reduced number of dates for the clergy to attend.

Action: Jonathan Mobey to meet with the PCC Secretaries to draft a revised meetings schedule, to be sent to Combined PCC members for comment

6. PCC Awayday

Jonathan Mobey reported that two-thirds of PCC members are available to attend the Awayday on 29 September. Jonathan has in mind a 10am – 4pm timeframe, possibly with people bringing a packed lunch. Jonathan will work on the format with a couple of other people. He has some ideas but is open to suggestions. Jonathan also has a potential external facilitator in mind, but would welcome any further suggestions.

Hazel King asked Jonathan Mobey to clarify the intended outcomes of the Awayday so that ideas for content can be made accordingly. Jonathan agreed to do this.

Action: Jonathan Mobey to circulate the intended outcomes of the Awayday to PCC members

7. Summer Holiday Club

Jonathan confirmed that the Club is going ahead, but that Sid & Alison Gale would be helpers rather than organisers this year. The confirmed dates are 20-24 August, at Harwell School. Jonathan has been given the theme material by Alison Gale and would welcome any offers of volunteer help.

Jonathan was asked by PCC members to consider whether Chilton School could be the venue another year. He was also asked to consider lowering the age limit (last year, attendees had to have completed Year 1 of school).

8. Reflective prayer space

The related paper was noted.

The possibility of holding a similar event at Harwell School was discussed. Jonathan Mobey reported that he did invite Harwell's Head Teacher/other staff to visit, but they were unable to do so. Pam Rolls reported that she has heard that Harwell School's RE coordinator is planning to visit the one at Drayton school.

Peter Barclay-Watt reminded PCC members of the Barnabas Day held a year or two ago at Harwell School, with the £275 cost funded by 'restricted' giving through St Matthew's, as another option to bear in mind.

9. New Communities – Chilton Field

Lin Kerr was congratulated on the splendid "welcome" pamphlet she has designed, some copies of which were circulated during the meeting. This was based on a former leaflet, to which Hazel King (amongst others) had input.

Philip Garner reported that the plan is to print copies of the leaflet and then to knock on doors and take the opportunity to personally welcome newcomers (whether in Chilton Field or in the main village) and hand the leaflet over. Apparently there are about ten houses occupied in Chilton Field already.

Action: Jonathan Mobey and Liz Roberts to liaise about putting the leaflet on the Church website

Hazel King proposed that another "Welcome to Chilton" BBQ would be a good idea. Ruth Poole concurred, and would be willing to co-ordinate the arrangements for this event, and suggested September.

Action: Philip Garner, Hazel King and Ruth Poole to agree a way forward on holding a BBQ

10. Deanery Synod report

Naomi Gibson gave a verbal report. There have been various meetings, and two drafts of the Deanery Mission & Pastoral Plan have been produced. The Plan has to show ways in which the Church is going to grow and how a clergy post will be lost. Churches/Benefices which do not contribute a Parish Share of £50k+ and have a Sunday congregation of 150+ are at risk. The Didcot churches fail these criteria but are in an area which is expecting high population growth. A Legacy Workshop will be run, date to be confirmed. Gordon Gill (St Matthew's) is a nominee for Lay Chair of the Deanery Synod.

11. Updated list of existing and new Communion Assistants

This item was referred to the individual PCC meetings.

12. Harvest Preparations

Traditionally, we have celebrated Harvest in the first week in October.

There was a discussion about the beneficiaries of the monetary and the food donations.

Resolution	That the monetary donations at Harvest from both Churches should go to Tearfund				
Proposed	Jonathan Mobey	Seconded	Jane Woolley	Result	Passed unanimously

Liz Roberts and Tony Hughes were in favour of donated food going to Didcot Foodbank. Hazel King said that she would like to find out more about Didcot Foodbank first. It was agreed to defer the decision about the beneficiary(s) of the donated food until the September meeting.

Action: individual PCC members to investigate Didcot Emergency Foodbank with a view to making this the beneficiary of this year's non-perishable harvest produce

13. Advent/Christmas pattern of services

It is Chilton's turn to have the "best" Carol service date this year (16th December). The date for Harwell's Carol services would then be 9th December. This was felt to be on the early side. Alternative arrangements to avoid this were discussed, with no firm conclusion.

Action: Jonathan Mobey to consider the suggestions made for the Harwell Carol Service and make a decision. September Combined PCC to agree carol singing dates.

It was agreed that Christingle services would be held on the fourth Sunday in January (27th January).

14. Any other business

The 'OlymPicnic' 1 July

Jonathan Mobey thanked all those involved, and said it had been a great, fun day. Others commented that it seemed to have gone very well.