

Minutes of a Meeting of All Saints' Chilton PCC

Held on Tuesday 5th January 2016 at 7.30 pm at All Saints' Chilton

Present:

Rev Dr Jonathan Mobey (Chair)
Mr James Hellem
Mrs Sylvie Thompson
Mrs Liz Morris
Mr Stuart Gibson
Mrs Carol Pigott (Secretary)

Rev Pam Rolls
Mr Alex Reich
Mrs Hazel King
Mrs Naomi Gibson
Mr John Pigott

1. Opening Prayer

Rev Dr Jonathan Mobey opened the meeting by reading Isaiah chap. 42, from verse 10. This servant song brings to mind Jesus, *the* Servant, bringing in a new creation. Light, justice, healing, and releasing captives.

He continued with a prayer of thankfulness for our past, our current growth, and our future hope.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Rev Jan Radford, Dr Carina Lobley, and Mrs Helen Brook.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted unanimously, and duly signed.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

- (i) Harvest Update. Alex reported that the Village Hall had been booked for Saturday 1st October, and "The Mad Hatters" band had been booked. They have a caller, and will charge a reduced rate as it is a charity function. (Profits to Tear Fund, as usual at Harvest) Alex needed 2 people from each parish to complete his working party to finalize arrangements regarding food, etc., nearer the time. Sylvie volunteered, and Naomi and Carol expressed an interest. Alex would also arrange a request for help to go in the noticesheet.
- (ii) Optional Sidesmen's Fees Update. This decision had been taken at the recent Combined PCC, and included here for record purposes. It was agreed that no vergers' fees should be charged at Chilton for the foreseeable future and that the bells fee be increased to £105 from 2016.
- (iii) Extra PCC to discuss Change in Service Pattern. This would be at 8.00 pm on Tuesday 19th January, at All Saints'. The slightly later time is to facilitate a short SLT meeting first.
- (iv) Christmas Review. Naomi reported that, as always, a lot goes into planning these events, involving many people with their various roles from providing the Christmas trees and setting them up, decorating the church, preparing for services etc. The Toy Service was well attended with numbers slightly up from last year (3 more children and

2 more adults) and Peter providing the talk. The Burbages kindly ferried the toys to the Oxford Women's refuge afterwards.

The 4pm Carol service numbers were also up (with an extra 14 children and 2 adults) making it quite a noisy service with many young children. There were a couple of comments that projecting the whole service detracted from the atmosphere and this could have been confined to the talk only.

The 6.30pm numbers were down a little but it was a lovely atmospheric service. Naomi expressed thanks to John Pigott for his hard work setting up and clearing up afterwards, and for faithfully setting up the light for the chancel window each day of Advent.

The Kerrs had put up the Holy, Holy, Holy banners again, and organised the refreshments well. Naomi had written letters of thanks to them all.

Christmas Eve 10pm service was up on last year (10 more) and Christmas Day was very well attended at 9.30am, with two families seated in the chancel. (21 more, 13 adults and 8 children) The 8am H.C. service had 1 more than the previous year (6 total).

Peter spoke after the school nativity and his talk had been well received.

A good group had sung carols round the village, ending at the Millars (for the 35th year running) and 26 attended carols in the pub. This year Shea had requested Monday rather than Thursday.

The Advent Doors event, initiated by Peter last year, had been appreciated, (and had been set up this year in Harwell also, for the first time).

Thank you letters had been sent to the Garden Centre and Pam & Rosemary for the trees. Hazel had also been thanked for organizing the tower tree once more.

Melanie Shields and Elizabeth Berger had set up, and subsequently dismantled, the tree inside church and had been thanked for decorating it, helped by their children.

5. Committee Reports

(i) Finance.

a) Finance report and Revenue Account. Stuart had done sterling work as ever, and the Rector expressed the grateful appreciation of PCC for all his time-consuming work as treasurer.

Stuart reported that the year had started with us about £770 in the red, but ended about £250 in the black; the other good news was that we had paid our Parish Share in full. However, Charities and Missions had suffered, in order to do this, but £500 had been sent to John Abu Bakker at the end of the year.

The bad news was, that the Path Fund was £8,544.93 in the red, and we could not claim back the VAT, although he had tried several "angles".

The CFW Fund was quite good with donations so far, so that only £750 was needed from the Church Hall Fund to supplement this this year. However, most donations had been one-off sums "up-front", and so a second phase appeal should be started. The Rector would be preaching on the topic of giving in January. There had been donations of £160 to the shed fund, which had been used on the foundations. Another £1,000 would be needed in the near future.

Overall, it had been a very good year, and there would be four weddings this year, augmenting the fees element of the budget.

In response to questions, the increase of £1,000 to the Youth budget was mainly due to the hire of the Community Room for Fledgelings. This had not been budgeted for in 2015, as it was a new venture, initiated by the CFW. There had

been donations from those attending Fledgelings, amounting to approximately £500.

Pavilion had been paid in full for the path using the Legacy Fund in addition to the donations received. The aim was to reimburse this by the end of 2016 by fund-raising efforts. Pavilion had impressed Stuart, in the way they had done more work than had been strictly quoted for. For future major expenses, the Historic Churches Trust should be approached for grants. They typically give 10% of costs, if approached before work commences.

Office costs were increased, mainly due to the one-off cost of up-grading the website to be mobile-friendly.

- b) Budget. The budget for 2016 shows marked increases for Church Insurance and Fabric. Ecclesiastical Insurance had not visited for several years. They did visit recently, and stated that we were under-insured. For this reason, the budget shows an increase from £750 to Stuart's estimate of £1,500. However, he has since received their quote of £854, due in September 2016.

The Fabric Committee had submitted a detailed budget, including the Quinquennial Inspection, and this is therefore more realistic than previous years' estimates.

Currently, Gift Aid may be reclaimed on £5,000 of loose plated giving, but this limit is to be removed in 2016.

The proposed budget currently stood at a deficit of about £9,000. However, a paper had been circulated, proposing our Missions Giving be reduced from 15% to 10%, which would free up about £1,500. PCC could discuss this paper at this meeting, or accept the deficit budget as it stood, and review it later in the year.

It was proposed by Stuart, and accepted unanimously, that the deficit budget be accepted, and reviewed at the July PCC meeting.

The Missions Giving Proposal will be tabled for discussion at the July meeting, if necessary.

(ii) Fabric.

- a) Path, up-date. Alex reported that the path had been completed, and further work (tidying edges, etc.) would be undertaken by members of the fabric committee. Also see Finance (a) above.
- b) Shed/Sorting Church Rooms. The shed should be erected during the week beginning 11th January, and Naomi would then be able to liaise with Peter to re-organise the church rooms. A cupboard in the lower room would be desirable to keep it tidy. Naomi would then take the annual inventory.
- c) Heating (watching brief). This had been a very mild winter so far, and the heaters had been functioning well.

6. Reservation of Grave Space

Rev Pam Rolls had received a request from Mr Michael and Mrs Nichola Gosney of 10 Beaufort Close, Didcot, to reserve a grave space next to the grave of Nichola's stepfather, Mr Donald LeClair, in the west side of the churchyard. The PCC discussed the request and agreed that the Rector and

Churchwardens should proceed with petitioning the Chancellor of the Diocese for permission to reserve the grave space.

Proposed by Rev Pam Rolls
Seconded by Mrs Hazel King
Carried unanimously.

While discussing this, John Pigott informed PCC that his son would be arranging for copies of the churchyard plan to be made, and would also produce an electronic version. It was agreed that it would be useful to put this onto the church website.

7. Future Dates

PCC agreed that the APCM should be held on Sunday 17th April 2016, at 10.20 am.
It was also agreed that the Holy Communion Service should be moved from 17th to the 24th April.
It was noted that this move would need plenty of publicity.

8. Any Other Business

- (i) Rota. As PCC had yet to discuss changes to service patterns, Naomi suggested she produce a rota following the current pattern of services, running to the end of April, to cover Easter Services.
- (ii) Queen's Birthday Pam had received notification from the Bishop (and Liz from the Lord Lieutenant) that the Queen's 90th birthday would be celebrated over the weekend of 11th and 12th June. We should decide how we should celebrate, and liaise with the Parish Council, and Harwell. Carol would ask Peter Cox to put this item on the Agenda for the next Combined PCC.
- (iii) Fund-raising Garage Sales. Carol suggested garage sales as a means of de-cluttering homes, and also fund-raising. She would be happy to choose a date (in May) and organise publicity, if several other people were interested in holding their own garage sales on the same date. Some might like to donate some of their profits to a good cause.
- (iv) Noticeboard. Carol also wondered if our noticeboard (that had been on the wall of the old shop) could be erected by the Humfrey Stevenson gate. After discussion, it was agreed that a suitable place, if permissible, would be adjacent to the Parish noticeboard, by the pump. Liz was asked to make an initial investigation, regarding planning.

9. Closing Prayer

The Rector closed the meeting with prayer at 9.50 pm.

Date of next meetings

Extra PCC on Tuesday 19th Jan at 8.00 pm

Combined PCC on Tuesday 2nd Feb at St Matthew's, at 7.30 pm.

.....Chairman

Carol Pigott (Secretary)