

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Combined PCCs
of St Matthew's Harwell with All Saints' Chilton
held on Tuesday 3 November 2015 at 7.30 pm in All Saints' Chilton**

Present

(J) Denotes Joint PCC member. There were thus 8 voting members plus the Rector at this meeting - all resolutions refer to Joint PCC votes

Peter Barclay-Watt	Gordon Gill	Alex Reich (J)
Jean Barton (Chair)	James Hellem*	Pam Rolls (J)
Lizi Bowerman	Tony Hughes (J) **	Frances Taylor
Monika Buxton	Vicky Johnston	Sylvie Thompson****
Hazel Connolly **	Andrew Keene	Christina Wood (J)
Peter Cox (Secretary)	Carol Pigott(J) **	Jane Woolley (J)
Mel Gibson (J)	John Pigott **	The Rector (J)

By Invitation: Peter Shields, Children and Families Worker (CFW)***

* Present from item C6

** Present from Item B1

*** Present to the end of item B1

**** Present to the end of item C6.1

Jean Barton chaired the meeting in place of the Rector as he was expecting to be absent.

A Preliminaries

A1 Opening & Prayer

Jean Barton led the meeting in prayer. She read 2 Timothy ch. 2 v 22-25. She said that these readings were taken from "Readings for Lesser Saints" by Richard Hooker who was born in 1554 and died this day in 1600.

She said that we should rely on the Holy Spirit to guide us and take the Word out and fill us. Paul encouraged Timothy and Titus to go out and feel the breadth and depth of ministry and to grow. We are called to spread the Good News and evangelise and our Church will grow.

A2 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from: Avril Butler, Carina Loble, Hazel King, Helen Brook, Jan Radford (J), Stuart Gibson, Naomi Gibson (J), Liz Morris (J).

A3 Minutes of the September 2015 meeting

The minutes of the CPCC meeting in September 2015 were signed as a correct record.

A4 Actions / Matters arising

Paper B refers - Actions/matters arising from September 2015 meeting (and status where known)
The Paper was read by the Secretary and is reproduced here:

Items carried forward from earlier meetings and or modified at the September Meeting:

Item 4e: DBS Checks for Children's Group Leaders and Safeguarding of Vulnerable Adults

ACTION: Once found (in office) the list will be logged in a secure database and forwarded to Safeguarding Officer.

STATUS: The Rector reports that he and the Church Administrator are planning to modify the structure of the member records in the database to be able to record this information. They have not yet had a chance to look at this, but it is on the agenda, along with other database-related matters. It is in hand.

Item B4 World Mission

ACTION: Rector and Church Administrator to clarify in the Newsletters that the new World Mission Group is in addition to the old Mission Prayer Group which is continuing.

STATUS: The Rector said that this would be included with a World Mission update. It was stated that the words “new” and “old” should not be used.

C 3.2 Safeguarding Good Practice Guides / Safeguarding of Vulnerable Adults

ACTION: Safeguarding Process Flowchart to be produced,

STATUS: In hand.

C 5.1 Progress on Modified Terms of Reference

ACTION: In advance of the next JPC meeting, Rector to talk to the relevant sub-committee chairs and to email JPCC members to ask for any comments on the TORs. Revised TORs on Church Website for CPCC review.

STATUS: Postponed from August to November 2015 meeting, Item on November 2015 agenda

C6 Governance and Reducing the Burden of PCC Meetings

ACTION: Joint Budget proposal

ACTION: Specific responsibilities of Church Post-Holders to be worked on.

There were no further updates or other matters arising.

B Mission Strands

B 1 Children, Youth and Families

Two papers refer:

Paper C: An update on the previous quarter and developments pending for the next quarter.

Paper C Plus: Paper C with notes.

The Children and Families Worker talked through various aspects of the paper, including Sunday provision for children, Fledgelings, Schools and Community events.

The CFW said that the Update for Previous Quarter section in this paper is the previous quarter's plans (as considered at the September meeting) updated with the progress so far. He has added a new Developments pending for Next Quarter section. Items coloured green are completed, yellow items are in progress and red items were not done and carried forward.

Update report for Previous Quarter

Sunday Provision

- Things are happening incrementally. Pathfinders had just started at the last meeting; there is a full team of 3 leaders now.
- Youth Fellowship has organic growth and uptake. 8 attend from Holiday Club. There is a new female leader. Attendance has jumped from 3 to 35.

Fledgelings

- A leader has stepped down. The leaders are introducing more Christian content as See and Know at Harwell and Chilton Fields. Parents' comments have been positive and they like the structure and formality. It is simpler as it is the same program for both groups. The work will be developed into the

whole pre-school ministry. It will involve the work of Jane Woolley and others with new and expectant mothers.

Schools

- There was a Harvest event at Harwell Primary School but not Chilton Primary School. There were meetings last week with the two head teachers. There will be regular assemblies and festivals - these will integrate with their curriculum e.g. at Christmas and Easter with the School's creative writing and community sports etc. Education is good for the community and Church and benefits the church and schools. Harwell Primary School has booked prayer spaces again.

Community Events

- Alpha Male – The first meeting was last night. They hoped for 16 to attend but 12 attended, all of whom have booked and paid for 6 weeks, which is encouraging. Two attendees have no church contact and another 4-5 are on the church fringe and attend occasionally.
- Lads and Dads – to encourage dads especially. Those attending saw the film "Spectre" and went to McDonalds. This was organised at short notice to build momentum after the Alpha Male course and. Though texts were sent to the dads, attendance was not what was hoped for. It was suggested that the texts should go to the mums as well in future.
- Harvest – services and schools event were held. There was nothing held for Halloween.

Other Admin and Miscellaneous

- Communications still requires development. The Lads and Dads event was dependant on communication. The CFW currently uses text messaging as the main method with others including Facebook, he will make this more systematic.
- The re order of the Office Space is in hand.

Developments Pending for Next Quarter

A lot has been carried forward.

Sunday Provision

- Christmas events – the schools are involved.
- Youth Fellowship – is going well.

If there are any comments or suggestions please let the CFW know. He thanked the team of people who made all of this happen and the Combined PCC for their support.

Discussion ensued and the CFW answered questions:

Prayer Spaces

These will run independently of Chilton School next year because whilst the feedback was generally good, a couple of school staff and parents objected to having any specific spiritual teaching on the premises As a result the head teacher decided that this would not go ahead next year. Rather than abandon this we will organise and run this without the school at a venue and time to be decided. We could ask the school if they wish to be involved once it is organised. [Post –meeting note: Prayer Spaces is now going ahead at Chilton School]

Advent Doors

Hosts are needed. This was run last year in Chilton and the CFW hopes that people will want to be involved again this year and in Harwell. It is a big investment of time. A couple of meeting attendees volunteered to host.

Communication to the Church Membership

- It was suggested that the CFW should give updates to the wider church membership of all of the Children and Families work that is going on in the Benefice. This could be via occasional updates on the notice board or 5 minute briefings in services. A lot of people are very supportive and contribute to the work who may lose touch with all that is going on.
- The Church administrator said that there were CFW items in the Service sheet most weeks but they are mainly appeals for help.
- It was suggested that as the CFW is nearly half way through his contract, he could email a report to all who are financially supporting the Children and Families work. This could be submitted to the Rector and distributed by the Stewardship Group (which holds the confidential contact details for the supporters).
- It was suggested that the report for 2015 annual calendar year to be presented to the Church annual meeting in March or April could also be used for this purpose.

The CFW agreed that there should be “in house” communication. He occasionally sends an email to those on the Benefice email list. It is ad hoc at the moment and needs to be more systematic.

The CFW concluded by stating that this time last year he presented the proposals for Children and Families Work in the Benefice. It is quite encouraging to see that progress has been made on most of the proposals. A few proposals have fallen away or we have decided not to run them. There was also an evening presentation to the congregation last year in Chilton Village Hall. It would be interesting for them to see the progress since then.

The Chair thanked the CFW. He and this work are in our thoughts and prayers. The CFW asked for prayer for money and people.

B 2 Evangelism and Discipleship of Adults

B 2.1 Home Groups

Jean Barton reported:

She has recommended the book “My Beloved Son” by Bishop Michael Baughen for Advent. It has daily studies and readings and weekly sessions for small groups.

B 2.2 Marriage Course

Jean Barton reported and answered questions:

Four couples attended and the course was very well received. They are due to marry next year. Invitations were also sent other couples due to marry. There are no courses scheduled yet for next year.

B 2.3 Alpha Course

The Rector reported and answered questions:

A new format and condensed Alpha course called “Alpha Male” is under way as reported by the CFW. He is encouraged by this to run another type of Alpha course next term.

The previous Alpha course was not quite finished during term time so a sub-set of the attendees finished it during August.

B 2.4 Responding to Poverty

B 2.4.1 Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Money Courses

Paper L refers: Report on the courses run so far, follow up and training of coaches.

Carol Pigott reported and answered questions: Three people from the churches signed up to the first course as guinea pigs and the second course had one person from church and two who don't attend church, all got a lot from it.

The courses are over 3 weeks with a two week gap for the participants to carry out the homework, followed by a final review session. The final review session for the previous course is run in the 2 week gap of the next course. There will be more courses on dates to be announced and a review session for the last course.

The Chair thanked all who participated and ran the courses. It is good to hear people find it helpful.

B 2.4.2 Community Bank

Paper D refers: Launch, bank operations, and services available.

The Rector reported that the bank has been launched. Committee members should note the third paragraph inviting organisations to save with the bank. He suggested that the parishes could invest in the bank – something for the PCC Treasurers to consider.

Lizi Bowerman said that individuals and youngsters could also invest in the bank. Savings for the under 16s is a good idea; you can't start saving too soon.

Discussion ensued and Lizi Bowerman answered questions

- It was suggested that our and other parishes' CAP Money courses could be promoted through the Community Bank web site as the clientele for the bank may be interested in the CAP Money courses and the Food Bank. Lizi Bowerman said that this is possible.
- It was also suggested that the CAP Money courses are promoted at the Job Centre.
- It was asked if the Community Bank was accessible online only or if there was a postal option. Lizi Bowerman said that it could be accessed via SOHA or CAB. St. Matthews could become an access point but it would need volunteers to man it.

B 2.4.3 CAP Debt Help Centre

The Rector reported that discussions are still ongoing to bring a centre to this end of the Deanery.

B 2.4.4 Didcot Emergency Food Bank

No report.

B 3 Pastoral Care

Paper E refers: Update on visiting teams, Generation Gold and leader's courses.

Pam Rolls highlighted some aspects of the report:

Visiting Teams

The teams need to recruit more pastoral care team members as some have had to stop recently. A joint meeting of the two teams will be held to see how the work will move forward. It was good to see that two new team members were recruited.

Generation Gold

The next Service will be on 14th December in St. Matthew's Church. Fliers will be produced.

Befriending Death Course

Pam Rolls and Vicky Johnston attended this course. It included supporting people who have been bereaved or are dying and how to make them aware of God's love for them. Anyone interested should talk to Pam Rolls.

Pam Rolls concluded by thanking all for their prayers.

The Chair thanked Pam Rolls for her work, and asked for prayer for the team, it is not easy to cover two parishes.

B 4 World Mission

Paper F refers: Recent focus on missions and ideas of how to communicate missionary partners and possible visit of Christine Perkins.

The Chair thanked Helen Brook for her report – the committee notes the aims of publicising the mission partners. Discussion ensued:

- It was good to see the calendar for the monthly mission focus.
- This was drawn up a couple of years ago by the previous group and has featured in the Broadsheet and notice sheets.
- One of the mission partner speakers gave a good talk to the Scramblers children's group. If the speaker is amenable they could talk to the children's groups and Youth Fellowship as well as the adult groups.

B 5 Worship Services

B 5.1 Possible Change to Services at All Saint's

The Rector reported:

Two focus groups have been held at All Saint's. A notice has been published in the Broadsheet inviting the wider community to feed in to the decision making process. There are further opportunities for input at the

charity market and online. Once completed the All Saints' PCC will hold an extraordinary meeting in January to discuss the matter further.

C Facilitation and Partnership

C 1 Communications and Operations

C 1.1 Progress Report

Paper G refers: Communications Report September 2015 including progress since the last meeting.

Vicky Johnston highlighted some points in the report:

Young People Broadsheet Editing

At the Broadsheet delivers' meeting it was suggested that a group of young people could have training to put an edition of the broadsheet together. It would be good to go on their CVs. Liz Roberts recommended a trainer who can give two days training at half term for £500. The children attending could pay £20 each. The Children and Families Worker has stated that there are about 12 children in year 9 to 11 so there would be a balance of £300 to come from the PCCs. (See more on this subject under the discussion/questions section below.)

Mobile Friendly Web Site

This new version of the web site has been launched, mentioned in the Broadsheet and notice sheets.

New Communities Forum

At the forum it was explained that the church is very important and good at building communities and it is important for churches to have a presence in them. This will take some planning as there are a lot of "welcomes" in the future.

Mission Statement

The Communications team is looking at how to communicate the mission statement. It could be set up as branding so that it follows through all communications.

Discussion ensued and Vicky Johnston answered questions:

- The Harwell Welcome Leaflet is ready. The Rector said that he had taken all of the available copies for visits to Talbot Close.
- It was suggested that a slip is put in for the Broadsheet deliverers that the packs are available and where to get more copies.
- The Chilton Welcome Pack was updated for the Chilton Fields development. It was suggested that additional literature be produced that is aimed at young families. The Rector said that the leaflets are up to date now though things change.
- It was stated that it is a good idea to involve young people in the Broadsheet. Vicky Johnston said that the CFW is happy with this.
- There was discussion about funding for the Broadsheet editing course and it was suggested that there should be a minimum number on the course for it to run so that the parishes are not paying more than £300. It was suggested that the minimum number is 10 attendees. People should commit early. Vicky Johnston agreed. There were no objections to this.
- The Christmas Cards for delivery to all houses in the Benefice are now being designed. There will be a different design for each parish.
- The Rector said that Vicky Johnston has recently moved house to live in Harwell.

The Chair thanked Vicky Johnston for her work. She said that she will have been in the role for a year in January.

C 2 Stewardship and Finances

C 2.1 and C 2.2 Stewardship Report and CFW Funding

Paper H refers: Stewardship committee meeting to be held in November considering the impact of Parish share changes and loss of regular donors not being made up.

Peter Barclay-Watt reported:

The finances are in quite a challenging position. The current situation for Harwell is a projected deficit of £6,000 to £7,000 at the end of the year. Some regular donors have had changes in circumstances such as moving away and they are no longer donating. They have not yet been replaced.

Also the level of the parish share for the next three years was considered at the Deanery Standing Committee Meeting last night. It was agreed that the Benefice would cover the direct clergy costs and Diocesan 'support' and 'Church for the Future' costs according to a formula that attempts to estimate ability to pay using electoral roll, average service attendance and affluence of the area..

The Deanery figures for parish share are £67,600 in 2015, £69,628 for 2016, £72,000 in 2017 and £75,000 in 2018. Peter Barclay-Watt (who attended as a guest) and Gordon Gill abstained as we can't agree to meet a 4% increase in two years though we want to play our part. If we fall below meeting our share we are deemed to be failing but we are heavily subsidising other parishes in the Deanery.

The Deanery is aware of the funding of the Children and Families worker being part of mission. It is challenging as Peter Shields is one and a half years through his contract and a review is due in less than two years time and there are other projects to fund. How do we communicate this to the congregations without appearing to be always asking for money?

Discussion ensued and the Rector, Peter Barclay-Watt and Gordon Gill answered questions:

- Implementation of the new parish share is on hold as it needs unanimous agreement. There is unanimous agreement apart from our Parishes.
- Our share is going up by 8.6% to 2018. Other local parishes are paying e.g. £15,000 less and others £39,000 less.
- The proposed parish share is the absolute minimum. The Deanery is effectively charging £95 per person on the electoral role.
- The basis of covering costs has been dropped.
- The share includes Direct Clergy costs – 54% including salary, training etc. The rest is support costs and Church of the Future. These last two are calculated on ability to pay.
- It was suggested that if the formula includes electoral role and if some churches are playing a game with the numbers then the formula should be reviewed. There is nothing worse than a formula being abused and exploited to some parishes' benefit when honest parishes are being penalised.
- There are a lot of issues around how to count an average Sunday attendance. Do you count people who go to three services on a Sunday three times? Some only count them once.
- There are problems where a parish has a high electoral role but low attendance and vice versa. It depends on the culture in the parish so there are variations.
- The formula is based on October attendance and highs and lows are discounted.
- Seven options were considered at last night's meeting. The Deanery will stick to the Diocesan formula, there are some problems with how it is applied but it will be consistent.
- The finance committees of Harwell and Chilton have not yet considered this but will at their November meetings.
- There is no consideration at the moment of reducing the number of stipendiary posts in the Deanery.
- It was stated that it was very correct for the two representatives to abstain.

The Chair asked if there were any objections to the representatives continuing to abstain.

No objections.

The Rector said that it is useful to have some direction from the Combined PCCs on this matter. The Chair said that she considers that the meeting supports this.

It was asked if we could propose an alternative to abstaining or if abstaining halts the process completely. Gordon Gill said that the Archdeacon has to be informed that the target will not be met. The 3% rebate (£8,000) will be lost. The number of stipendiary posts in the Deanery will be considered with a view to getting a sustainable financial situation. There will be another Deanery Synod this month. We had no representatives at the previous two meetings hence they attended the latest meeting.

The Rector said that it is important that our point of view on how much we can afford is considered but we are part of the Deanery and inter church relationships are also important and we may lose out too. We could refuse to agree but it will have consequences. The Deanery is expected to work as a unit. If one or two stipendiary posts are lost then it will have an impact in this Benefice.

2015-11-03 Combined PCCs – approved minutes

Gordon Gill suggested that the Rector may be asked to take on a third parish if stipendiary posts are lost. The boundaries are under review now and he described the possible changes. Nationally 25% of parish churches have less than 10 people attending. Some churches which are only open four times a year and for funerals could close. Do we look at this? Look at the age of the congregations; this could apply to quite a few of the local churches. If the churches close we lose their parish share. A lot of parishes decide to swap their missionary giving to mission in the Deanery i.e. put it towards their parish share to ensure we have clergy working in the Deanery. Our costs are increasing and money is already tight. The Rector said that we grow our income by growing the church.

The Chair thanked Peter Barclay-Watt for his report. She said that it needs 200 people to give £6,000 which is £30 per person per year or less than an extra £1 per week.

Peter Barclay-Watt said that an aging congregation may be considered a problem. However in the newspapers it is stated that pensionable households have a higher disposable income than working people after housing. So an aging congregation doesn't mean we can't increase our income.

The Chair said that the same applies for the CFW finances. The Rector agreed that it would be good to have a focus on this in January as it is the half way point.

C 2.3 Review of Non Statutory Fees for Chilton

Paper I refers: Background and reasoning for change in vergers and bell ringing fees in Chilton, and numbers of weddings and funerals held in each parish 2013 to date.

Pam Rolls and Carol Pigott introduced this matter. Pam Rolls outlined the background, proposal and main arguments as detailed in the paper.

Discussion ensued and Pam Rolls answered questions:

- Chilton PCC has agreed to this proposal but Non Statutory Fees are reviewed by the CPCC so the matter has been referred to the CPCC.
- If the fees are not taken by the vergers can the gift aid also be claimed?
- The Chilton PCC feels that the verger fee is not an optional extra as you have to have one verger. The parish is getting a lot from the statutory fees. Chilton PCC is aware the St. Matthew's vergers donate their fees.
- The Parish will lose out financially (assuming that vergers donate their fees to the church).
- A Chilton PCC Member said that there was a Joint PCC vote at the June 2015 Combined PCC but there were not many Chilton PCC members there. Quite a lot of the Chilton vergers are happy to be unpaid. In Harwell if it is the same people all the time then possibly they should be paid. They then tend to donate their fee to the church.
- This was voted on at the Combined PCC meetings but financial matters have not been delegated from the PCCs to the CPCC so the CPCC are not in a position to disagree with the proposal. Any vote will just be a straw poll.
- The Rector said that the Combined PCC does not have any financial powers as none have been delegated. This and other matters are considered at Benefice level as a lot of what we do is done as a Benefice. A few Chilton couples have married in St. Matthew's church. He wanted the weddings page to be clear and an agreement across the Benefice but he is open for the two churches to be different. If circumstances change we may need to review this again but he is happy for this.
- The two churches charge different fees for other items.
- It would be good to have co-ordination across the churches but if this is what Chilton PCC wants to do it is solely Chilton PCC's business.
- The Rector said that it will be a bit more complicated for the funeral directors but if the vergers are happy he agrees.
- There is more organising to do including chairs and car parking to set up for a wedding in St. Matthew's church than All Saints' church. The Rector said that it takes around 4 hours of verger's time for a wedding and 2 to 3 hours for a funeral.
- The Rector said that the funeral directors will benefit (by keeping the fee) if the funeral is pre-paid.

The Chair said that she is hearing that it is Chilton PCC's responsibility to decide and asked if all present were in agreement with this.

There was a general consensus of agreement.

C 3 Safeguarding

Paper J refers: Updates on good practice guides, social media policy, training materials and monitoring return.

The Rector reported:

The paper is for information only. The Safeguarding Officer Avril Butler is consulting with the Children and Families worker to compose the required social media policy. Formal approval will be required once it is ready. Avril Butler is in correspondence with Jane Woolley on the monitoring return on compliance with the Diocesan safeguarding policy.

The Rector and Chair thanked Avril Butler for her work.

C 4 Staffing and Leadership

The Rector reported:

Philip Garner, who has previously been on the Chilton PCC and sometimes preaches, has recently given up employment and is currently undertaking a South Central Ministry Training course. He is self funding.. He is keen to develop a ministry e.g. Alpha male. He is gifted in home visiting and lots of other ways. He could be a great asset and can give quite a lot of time to us. The Rector approves of this and is keen to make use of this time. He has no formal position but is active in a number of areas.

C 5 Terms of Reference of Sub Committees

C 5.1 Progress on Modified Terms of Reference

The Rector reported:

This is to approve the new terms of reference. It is just a formality. The changes were discussed when the new Senior Leadership Team was established and the concept of sleeping CPCC sub committees were introduced (in which case the subcommittee was effectively comprised of just the ministry leader of the area). Also Outreach and Nurture was divided into Pastoral Care and Evangelism and Discipleship. The changes to the wording of the terms of reference for each area cover these changes.

<p>RESOLUTION: Accept the modified Terms of Reference of Sub Groups.</p>

<p>PROPOSED: RECTOR</p>

<p>CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY</p>

C 6 Wider Church

C 6.1 Deanery and Great Western Park

The Rector reported:

Rev. Mark Bodeker is now established as Community Minister to GWP as well as working at All Saints' Didcot. He has established a number of events and groups with a view to starting a "Fresh Expressions" church at the University Technical College (UTC) on Sunday evening and a Children's service.

Gordon Gill said that 70 adults and 30 children attended a "Messy Church" style Harvest service on Great Western Park. 700 children and helpers attended the Holiday club. Some of the volunteers came from other churches including ours. There may be a cafe church too. There is an appetite for a fresh expressions church. Rev. Bodeker has held three assemblies in the UTC.

The Rector continued that until now Rev. Bodeker's focus has been in the parish of All Saints' Didcot, where he is serving his curacy, and where most of the growth in GWP has occurred. Now there is GWP growth in Harwell Parish, Rev. Bodeker has formally asked for the Rector's blessing on the worship services to be held in Harwell Parish (i.e. at the UTC), which the Rector has given. Rev Bodeker has funding to the end of his Curacy. Bishop Colin thinks he can find extra funding after this but it is not guaranteed. This may become a permanent post with the church paying its way eventually.

C 6.2 Deanery Synod Update and Deanery and Parish Share 2016

See also the update on Parish Share in item C 2.1

Gordon Gill reported:

The Synod is in the process of getting the parish boundary changes agreed. They are different to the civic boundaries. As it stands, many of the houses around the proposed North Drive development will be in East Hendred Parish. The proposal has been passed to the Archbishop's Mission and Pastoral Committee. There is a review of Ladygrove Church becoming a parish in its own right. At the moment it is essentially a Baptist Church funded by the Church of England.

The Rector reported that Abingdon Deanery will have the Milton Heights development and it is currently planned that 2 ½ clergy will drop to 1 ½. It is an area of expanding population. And there is the Didcot Power Station site to establish and part of Valley Park too. Gordon Gill said that there will be a meeting with Abingdon Deanery to agree new boundaries.

The Chair said that how the boundaries relate to the new developments is very complicated. It is a matter of getting the balance right. She thanked Gordon Gill and the Rector for their report.

C7 Any Other Business**C7.1 Harvest 2016 and Benefice Barn Dance and Harwell Harvest Lunch**

Alex Reich introduced this proposal:

It has been suggested that a barn dance is held as part of the Harvest celebrations. It would be held at the Chilton Village hall with a Ceilidh band and food from local caterers. Tickets would be less than £10. It would be a community event with a retro factor and popular appeal. It fits with Harvest and is not unheard of in previous years on the Harvest Sunday evening but it could be held at a different time, possibly Harvest Saturday.

As it is a larger event it needs planning and it would be good to start to get it organised. If there is agreement the organisation can start. One issue is whether it would exclude the traditional lunch in the Harwell which is on the Monday. Discussion ensued:

- It was stated that Monica Buxton has stepped down from organising the Harvest lunch.
- Alex Reich said that the band would cost from £275 from £400 and the hall would cost £18 per hour so 80 to 100 tickets would need to be sold.
- The main hall is limited to 100 tickets else all have to be seated. You can't have a dance in two halls. If you have the smaller hall the capacity is 150.
- A barn dance has been held some years ago and was successful.
- Alex Reich said that any volunteers to lead the organising group and help would be appreciated.
- A Harwell PCC member said that if we are discussing a combined event we need to decide tonight if there will be a barn dance and if the Harwell Village hall is to be booked for a Harvest Lunch, though this is less pressing.
- The Rector suggested that the Harwell Harvest Lunch is left in abeyance for a year as it is not known what state the village hall will be in due to the rebuilding works then review it. If we are investing time and effort in a community event we should pool resources to run the barn dance.
- The food could be bring-your-own or catering.
- The Harwell Harvest Lunch is attended by an older generation who won't go to a barn dance.
- The Rector suggested that we could serve the Generation Gold and Evergreens attendees with Harvest Lunch similar to the Evergreens Christmas Lunch.
- About 40 attended the Harwell Harvest Lunch this year. This number would fit in the Harwell Church Hall.
- We could liaise with the Harwell Village Club (RBL) catering team to provide lunch. If we don't have the manpower we could use their services.

RESOLUTION: The Benefice will hold a Harvest Barn Dance

PROPOSED: MEL GIBSON

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Alex Reich proposed that the date is Saturday 1st October, to be confirmed.

No Objections.

Jane Woolley proposed that the decision on whether to hold a Harvest Lunch in Harwell is held over until January and that this is communicated to the Village Hall Committee.

No Objections.

C7.2 Production of “Godspell” in St. Matthew’s Church

Gordon Gill raised the issue of the apparent need by the team for this production to use the St Matthew’s Church Hall for rehearsals in January and February.

The Rector said that the production team has **not** requested use of the Church Hall, as far as he knew.

The performances will be held in St Matthew’s Church on Saturday 9th April, two weeks after Easter. The PCC has agreed to this, subject to practical and theological considerations.

Gordon Gill said that the team is proposing to rehearse in the Church Hall on one occasion that he knows of due to a clash with the “Hands Free” service in St Matthew’s Church on Sunday afternoons. The Rector said that the Hands Free services are under review, and that there might therefore be no such clash.

The Chair closed the meeting with prayer and the Grace at 9:26pm.

Date of next meeting: 2nd February 2016 at St. Matthew’s, Harwell