

Minutes of a Meeting of All Saints' Chilton PCC

Held on Tuesday 4th October 2016 at 7.30pm at St Matthew's Harwell

1. Opening Prayer and Combined Discussion

Revd Dr Jonathan Mobey opened the meeting by reading Galatians 6 v.1-10 on the subject of bearing one another's burdens. Jonathan particularly highlighted v9: *"So let us not become tired of doing good; for if we do not give up, the time will come when we will reap the harvest."* Jonathan then led the meeting in prayer.

(i) Benefice financial priorities for 2017

Papers A, D and E-H refer.

Jonathan Mobey explained that each PCC needs to decide what it will contribute towards the £3,500 needed from our Benefice to run a CAP centre in OX11 in 2017, in partnership with other local churches. This is an initiative that we have previously agreed in principle that we would like to support.

Jonathan explained that each PCC needs to make this decision bearing in mind that a 4% Parish Share increase will be due in 2017, equating to £2,785 at a Benefice level (we had previously been expecting a Parish Share increase "holiday" in 2017).

During the ensuing discussion, it was clarified that Benefice expenses (including Parish Share) are normally apportioned two-thirds to St Matthew's and one-third to All Saints'. So if one PCC is unable to meet its share of any Benefice expenses, it affects the Benefice as a whole. In the case of Parish Share obligations, it could also affect the financial viability of the Deanery. In the case of CAP obligations, it could affect the other participating churches or the viability of the OX11 CAP centre.

Jonathan pointed out that it is therefore helpful for the two PCCs to have a joint discussion about financial priorities for 2017. In particular, PCC members should try and come to a common Benefice view on the priority to place on financially supporting a CAP centre in OX11.

In the ensuing discussion it was clarified that:

- St Matthew's operating finances are in a less precarious state than All Saints'. In particular St Matthew's has already received a £1,500 donation specifically for CAP.
- St Matthew's could choose to subsidise All Saints' share of Benefice expenses.
- The Deanery's position is that Parish Share payments must take highest priority i.e. take precedence over mission-giving (of which CAP would be an example).

In relation to CAP, the discussion also clarified that:

- The £3,500 p.a. includes all mandatory expenses i.e. no further unexpected costs are anticipated.
- We would be required to pay our CAP contribution monthly.
- The participating churches can extract themselves from their CAP centre obligations by giving notice to CAP that they intend to close the centre.
(The "CAP Debt Centre Terms of Service" document says 6 months' notice is required to close a centre, and that payments to CAP of at least £100 per month would need to continue for a further 12 months after closure of a centre to cover the cost of ongoing support to centre clients.)
- If we cannot contribute the £3,500 p.a. required, the OX11 CAP centre is unlikely to go ahead.

- As far as we know, the other two OX11 churches are able to find their share of the money.
- There is likely to be pressure to increase our annual contribution in due course – maybe after a year or two. Initially, the Wallingford churches would continue with their current level of financial support for the CAP centre in OX10; the OX11 churches would simply cover the additional costs of running the OX11 centre as a satellite of the OX10 centre. But in the longer term it would be more equitable to share the costs more evenly between the OX11 and OX10 centres, if possible.
- It is possible that other local churches might come on board with the OX11 CAP centre in future and thus help to share the financial burden, but we shouldn't rely on this.
- We could fundraise retrospectively to help cover CAP financial commitments, including amongst the wider community. It was acknowledged that there is widespread agreement in society as a whole that it is in everyone's interest to constructively help people to extract themselves from being in unsustainable debt and to help people to avoid such debt in future. It was also acknowledged that there are many people in our area who might be willing to support a local endeavour such as this. We could also apply for grants.

There was some discussion about whether expenditure on a CAP centre should come out of our World Missions budgets, despite CAP's local focus. Some advocated this suggestion. Others disagreed and felt that we should focus that budget on supporting mission in the developing world, given the relative economic prosperity of even the most disadvantaged members of UK society, and that we have an on-going obligation to our long-term world mission partners.

In the ensuing discussion, there was enthusiasm amongst members of both PCCs for giving the OX11 CAP centre a high financial priority, provided that we can also meet our Parish Share obligations. For example, Jonathan Mobey expressed his sense that God does seem to be leading us towards supporting a CAP centre. For instance, the inter-denominational partnership aspect is very positive thing.

As an indication for the subsequent individual PCC meetings, Jonathan Mobey asked for a non-binding show of hands in favour of the Benefice allocating £3,500 to the CAP project in 2017. The result was 21 in favour, 1 against and 2 abstentions.

(ii) Ministry apprentice/intern

Jonathan Mobey said that there is no progress on appointing an apprentice, and that the advert is still running with an open deadline for applications.

Jonathan also clarified that the intention is to continue to run the advert until Christmas and to review the situation again at that point. Jonathan said that he was pessimistic about finding a suitable appointee unless we take a radically different approach to publicising the post.

In response to a question from Gordon Gill, Carina Lobley (All Saints' PCC) said that the Science & Faith project could re-allocate the £3k for staff costs in the grant we received to other aspects of the project e.g. physical resources. Carina also said that we would need to return any unspent portion of the grant.

The PCCs then separated, to continue individually

2. All Saints' PCC

Present:

Rev Dr Jonathan Mobey (Chair part-time)
Mrs Sylvie Thompson
Dr Carina Lobleby
Mrs Naomi Gibson
Mrs Liz Morris (Chair part-time)
Mr Phil Corbishley

Rev Pam Rolls
Mr Steve Hale (Part-time)
Mr Stuart Gibson
Mr John Pigott
Mrs Helen Brook
Mrs Carol Pigott (secretary)

Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Mrs Hazel King, Mr Alex Reich, and Rev Jan Radford.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

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

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Helen Brook commented on item 6 (d) of the minutes, that in fact some parents do like "Family-type" services, and asked for children's participation in services to be placed on the next agenda.

Action: Secretary

5. Committee Reports

(i) Finance

Stuart had produced the revenue accounts for the ¾ year to the end of September, and financial report.

We had accepted a £9,000 deficit budget for 2016. There might be a slight improvement, but we would still need to cut costs by about £4,000 to break even for the year. (In addition to approx. £7,000 shortfall on the path). In 2015, we had been £1,000 short in our Missions giving.

The discussions of the Combined PCCs, at the start of this meeting, had been on Parish Share, and CAP Debt Centre. The discussion continued, regarding the impact on All Saints', and the following points were made:

- Parish Share
- Jonathan stated that we have already agreed to pay the Parish Share in full for 2016
- Stuart explained that we need to pay this by the end of November, for the Deanery to receive the rebate
- For 2017, Chilton's share of the CAP Centre would be approx. £1,200, and Parish Share would rise by 4% to £22,880.
- However, the benefice would receive £1,000 from the Deanery towards funding the Children's and Families Worker (i.e. £300 for Chilton's share)
- There would also be no quinquennial in 2017, equating to £2,000 less for which to budget.
- Carina asked about communication. Are individuals aware how much per head our expenditure amounts to? She was also concerned for 2018
- Carina also wondered if the village could be asked to support the church building by a "Friends of All Saints'" initiative

- Missions Giving
- Liz asked if we could pay Missions at the end of the year, reducing them proportionately if necessary, in order to cover the Share
- Pam and Helen were concerned that people give to church, expecting a proportion to go to Missions, and would not be happy to see this had not been done
- Stuart suggested an alternative would be for people to give to a “Missions” fund, and “Church” fund separately
- Stuart would send to Missions in Dec, as available
- CAP Debt Centre
- Liz asked if the CAP Centre could be regarded as missions giving
- Stuart replied that it would be better to ask people to support that as a separate project, with us fund-raising for it, and asking St Matthew’s to underwrite the project
- Jonathan said we need to look at a 3-year commitment to the CAP Centre, which would be £10,000 total from the benefice.
- Pam expressed her strong objection to taking on new projects, and dropping old ones in the event of a shortfall in funding
- Hazel (by email) had expressed her opinion, that we could not afford to support the CAP Centre at the present time

(Steve Hale left the meeting at this point.)

The meeting voted on the following proposals:

All Saints’ are committed to the CAP Centre, and will aim to support with manpower and finances; but need St Matthew’s to underwrite their financial obligation, in the event that there is a shortfall.

Proposed Carina Lobley, seconded Carol Pigott, carried 9 votes in favour, and 1 against.

(The Rector left the meeting at this point.)

We aim to pay 100% of the Parish Share this year, and will endeavor to pay in full in 2017

Proposed Stuart Gibson, seconded Carol Pigott, carried 9 votes in favour, and 1 abstention

Stuart Gibson and Helen Brook would discuss the Missions Allocation at the end of the year, and report back to PCC.

Proposed Carina Lobley, seconded Liz Morris, carried unanimously

(ii) Fabric

Andrew Hayes had circulated his usual comprehensive reports on the Fabric situation. (Tasks accomplished, and work to be done, etc.) Philip Waddy, church architect, had conducted the Quinquennial Survey, and this report was awaited.

The West Wall situation had been passed to the Standing Committee to deal with, at the last meeting. They would take action after the Quinquennial Report had been received.

Action: Secretary

Liz was worried about the chestnut tree in the churchyard, which appeared to be dying. Fabric committee needed to be made aware.

Action: John Pigott

6. Harvest and Barn Dance feedback

The Barn Dance had been excellent, and many thanks were due to Alex and Sylvie, who had organised the event, and cooked all the food. Sylvie's daughters Laura and Rachel had also assisted; Laura in setting up the hall and kitchen, and Rachel with baking (6 cakes), and serving. The band (Shady Grove) and caller had been very good, and had also enjoyed the atmosphere themselves. They had also charged a very much reduced fee, as it was a charity event. 98 tickets had been sold, and the 9 band members made over 100 in total.

Alex had also raised money by organizing a quiz, based on the "geography" of Chilton, which was won by Brian Morris.

As usual, about half the ticket sales happened during the week before the dance.

Profits (for Tear Fund) amounted to over £411.

Sadly, £80 taken for the 8 tickets sold at the Rose and Crown, had been taken from behind the bar.

Harvest Sunday service had been very well attended, with Chilton School also participating. Hazel had sent feedback, that the service had been excellent, although she (and Liz), would have liked there to have been more fruit in the church decorations.

Disposal of the perishable produce had been a problem, with the service being after the Barn Dance. Also, there had been no mention in the Broadsheet, of the plan to have this produce available in church, for parishioners to come and take what they wanted, leaving donations for Tear Fund in the wall safe. John would move the produce from the altar rail to a pew by the door, to be more visible, and put a notice on the lychgate.

Immediately after the service, a member of the congregation had asked Carol if there was to be a lunch on the Monday. Ideas for next year included having a manned stall on the Sunday afternoon, and having a Barn Dance on the following Saturday. Whatever we do would need plenty of publicity.

(Carina Lobley left the meeting at this point)

7. Christmas Preparations

Naomi reported that these were in hand. Hazel had offered to approach the Garden Centre about the provision of a tree for the tower. PCC appreciated this offer.

Phil asked if there were plans to observe Advent. Pam thought Jean Barton might have materials for the home groups.

It was thought that Peter Shields would be enlisting help to organise Advent Doors again.

Carol reminded PCC that she would be away for Christingle (in February) but that she had asked Debra Dewhurst to organise them.

8. Future Dates

Tuesday 1st Nov Combined PCC at All Saints'

Saturday 5th Nov Churchyard Working Party

Sunday 4th Dec Toy Service

Sunday 18th Dec Carol Services

(PCC and other dates for 2017 added, below, for completeness)

9. Any Other Business

(i) Bier

Stuart reported that Bill Eaton needed the bier to be removed from his barn. It could be housed by a parishioner, or offered to the Vale and Downland Museum, in Wantage. There might be room for it temporarily in our new shed.

Action: Stuart Gibson and John Pigott

(ii) Request from VHMC

Stuart had received a plea from the Village Hall Management Committee. Acoustic tiles are needed for the Community Room on Chilton Field, (used by Fledgelings) and so hirers were being asked to sponsor tiles, at £22.00 per tile.

Stuart would look into providing the sponsorship for 5 tiles.

10. Closing Prayer

Rev Pam Rolls closed the meeting with prayer, at 10.10 p.m.

Date of next meetings;

Tuesday 1st Nov, Combined PCC at All Saints'

Tuesday 3rd Jan 2017 Individual PCC at All Saints'

.....(Chairman)

PCC and Annual Meeting dates 2017

Date	Time	Meeting of	Venue
Tues 3 Jan 2017	7.30pm	All Saints' PCC	All Saints' Chilton
Tues 10 Jan 2017	7.30pm	St Matthew's PCC	St Matthew's Harwell
Tues 7 Feb 2017	7. 30pm	Combined PCC	St Matthew's, Harwell
Tues 7 Mar 2017	7. 30pm	Individual PCCs	St Matthew's, Harwell
Sun 23 April 2017	10.20am	All Saints' APCM	All Saints', Chilton
Sun 30 April 2017	11.50am	St Matthew's APCM	St Matthew's, Harwell
Tues 2 May 2017	7. 30pm	All Saints' PCC	All Saints', Chilton
Tues 9 May 2017	7. 30pm	St Matthew's PCC	St Matthew's, Harwell
Tues 6 June 2017	7. 30pm	Combined PCC	All Saints', Chilton
Tues 4 July 2017	7. 30pm	Individual PCCs	All Saints', Chilton
AUG – NO MTG	-	-	-
Tues 5 Sept 2017	7. 30pm	Combined PCC	St Matthew's, Harwell
Tues 3 Oct 2017	7. 30pm	Individual PCCs	St Matthew's, Harwell
Tues 7 Nov 2017	7. 30pm	Combined PCC	All Saints', Chilton
DEC – NO MTG	-	-	-

Lent starts on Wed 1 March

Mothering Sunday = 4th Sunday in Lent = 26 March

Palm Sunday is 9 April

Easter Sunday is 16 April 2017

School Easter holidays are 10-21 April (inclusive)

Carol Pigott
Secretary