

**Minutes of a Meeting of the
Combined PCCs for Harwell and Chilton**

held on Tuesday 23rd September 2008 at 7.45pm in St Matthew's Church Harwell

Present

Chris Stott (Chair)

Harwell

Kate Evans	Tony Hughes	Frances Taylor
Sid Gale	Tim Roberts	Jane Woolley
Georgina Greer	Martin Speed (Co-opted Secretary) - minutes	
Clive House		

Chilton

John Berry	Hazel King	Jeff Nesbitt
Stuart Gibson	Linda Lambon	Avril Butler (Co-opted Secretary)
Naomi Gibson	Liz Morris	

1. Opening

Chris opened the meeting with a reading from Philippians 4 (sharing his reflections on the themes of celebrating, being gracious and gentle, and being prayerful) and then led the meeting in prayer.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Andrew Hayes, Allan Macarthur, Vicky Macarthur, Carol Pigott, John Pigott, Pam Rolls, and Steve Tunstall.

3. Opportunity to raise issues regarding present and future of the Church of England

Chris reported that he had invited the Archdeacon, Norman Russell, to address the PCCs on this topic, but Norman had another engagement. It was agreed that Chris would invite Norman to the next meeting. Chris then asked whether anyone had an issue they wished to raise at this meeting.

One PCC member asked to what extent the problems represented 'media spin' and Chris observed that the report of the Lambeth Conference from Gordon Gill portrayed a much calmer and united picture than was presented in the media.

The question of whether there was a real threat of fragmentation was raised. Chris expressed concern about this and identified arguments between and within lobby groups and views from a small number of Churches as being particular threats.

Sid said that he will be attending a consultation organised by the Church of England's Evangelical Council (CEEC) on these issues on 15th of November. This then raised the

question of what the CEEC was. Chris broadly described it as an organisation bringing together strands in the 'low church' – with a focus on issues such as the primacy of scripture, and personal conversion.

4. Update on 'Living Faith' Project

Naomi reported that there would be a 'Living Faith' training day that would follow on from the recent 'Living Faith' day. This would consist of eight representatives from our two churches receiving training to help them in designing an evangelical event to take place around the time of Mothers' day.

5. Network course

Kate reported that a 'network course' would be run in February. This course is designed to help people identify what their greatest gifts or strengths were and therefore to help them see what roles they could best undertake to support the church. Materials for the course were available from previous course, but the latest version of the course may be purchased if there are sufficient people interested. Kate was asked whether it was possible to do the course for a second time if people had been on it before – and she said that this was possible and that it could identify that someone's 'top' gifts had changed.

6. Mission and Evangelism course

Chris reported that the Diocese was to run a mission and evangelism course as part of the training programme that Pam was undertaking. There was an opportunity for four people to attend with Pam free of charge (or for more to attend for a fee.) Chris explained that an attraction of this course was that it will be very local – it will be using our hall.

Chris asked that the Budget proposals for 2009 should take funding for people to attend this course into account.

7. Alpha update

Chris reported that following the taster evening a group of nine people were starting the Alpha course 'proper'.

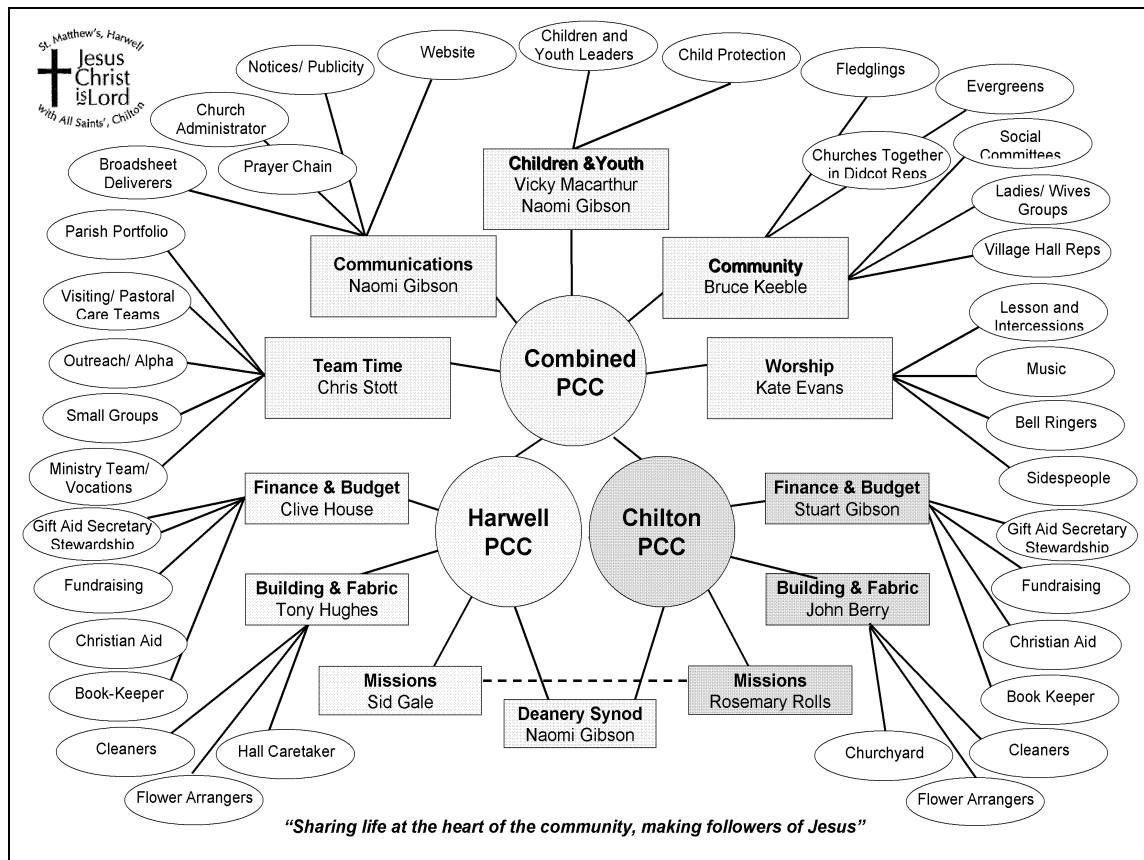
8. Organisational structure

Chris invited the PCCs to consider the structure diagram (figure 1 below) that had been circulated earlier in the year.

Chris suggested there could be a number of possible benefits from looking at this issue including:

- It may provide a better overview of what is currently going on
- It may help to identify what issues the two PCCs could address best together
- It may provide a model for the oversight of activities
- It may provide a mechanism for providing better support for those who undertake activities linked to the church
- It may be a way to improve accountability

Figure one: organizational structure diagram



Chris invited comments and suggestions.

In brief, the following points were raised (though not necessarily agreed with by all members):

- Fairtrade and Christian Aid did not seem incorporated appropriately
- The link between cleaners and flower arrangers with the Buildings committee in Harwell did not reflect the current situation and may not represent an appropriate linkage.
- The role of Church wardens was not reflected in the diagram
- An organisational chart of this type could have a negative impact and needed to be handled sensitively
- Kate was working on a Church directory that would 'put the names' into the broad structure the diagram represented. (The view was put forward that an interactive graphic of the type that could appear on the website - in which elements could be expanded or collapsed – would be a good vehicle for representing the complexity of the structure if names were put into it.)
- The view was put forward that It was not clear who the diagram would be beneficial for and that it could be counter-productive to provide it to the congregation generally.
 - On the negative side it was seen as too complex and suggesting that there were not enough people for the roles shown

- On the positive side it was seen as possibly helping people feel more appreciated and valued (though there were differing opinions over whether this was an issue at present and whether an organisational structure would help.)
- The view was put forward that the Rector should be central and that everything ought to be linked into his role. However an alternative viewpoint was also expressed – that the diagram showed how impossible it was for the rector to be the main organisational link to so many activities and groups
- The view was expressed that the diagram didn't represent either the current situation or the ideal.
- It was seen by some as too committee orientated
- One view was that a more appropriate organisational structure would have the rector and church wardens as the 'centre' and everything else in a supporting role to them. It was suggested that they were the only officers with statutory responsibility for the church.
- It was suggested that Pam Rolls and Steve Ward should be prominent in the structure
- The issue of 'reporting' was raised. The structure had the potential to ensure the PCC had broad oversight of all the work of the church without needing to deal with everything in detail.

The PCC members agreed on the following as the next steps:

- Work should be done to map the current situation
- More thought should be given to the best structure
- A way should then be found to move from one to the other.
- Kate's church directory ought to be integral to this process
- A summary of the objective should be to 'improve trusteeship'

Action: *Chris to progress work on mapping the current situation.*

9. Future dates

October 2 nd	Harwell School Harvest festival in St Matthews
October 5 th	Harvest thanksgiving services in both churches
October 18 th	Church working party
October 19 th	Confirmation service with the Bishop of Reading in Harwell
October 25 th	Evergreens sale in Harwell (2pm village hall)
October 26 th	Bible Sunday
November 30 th	Toy Services in the morning 4pm Bereavement service in Chilton
November 8 th	Chilton Evergreens sale

December 14 th	Carol services in both Churches
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10. Close

The meeting closed at 9:00 pm to be followed by individual PCC meetings.

11. Next Meeting

The next combined PCC meeting will take place on Tuesday 4th November 2008 at All Saints Chilton at 7:45.

(To be signed as a true record by the individual PCCs at their next meeting.)

..... Chairman

..... Secretary