

Minutes of a Meeting of All Saints' Chilton PCC
Held on Tuesday 1 September 2020 at 7.30pm remotely via Zoom conference facility

Present (from All Saints' Chilton):

Jonathan Mobey
Hazel Benton (Chair)
Phil Corbishley
Stuart Gibson
Alex Reich
Pam Rolls
Yvonne Sanderson
John Pigott
Judith Russell
Christopher Pollard (Secretary)

St Matthew's, Harwell and All Saints', Chilton PCCs were present together for items 1-7. For the other items, only All Saints' PCC members were present.

Joint items with St Matthew's PCC

1) Opening & prayer

The Rector (Jonathan Mobey) read Romans 12: 9-21. Some themes which are particularly relevant at this time jump out in this passage:

- We are called to share together in life's highs and lows
- We are called to be one body, living life together
- We are encouraged to provide for the needs of others and we should be hospitable
- We are called to rejoice in hope, to be patient in suffering. Patience is a key issue at this time of so much uncertainty
- We should persevere in prayer, always

Jonathan then led the meeting in prayer.

2) Update on arrangements due/due to Covid-19 pandemic (Paper A)

Current arrangements

Paper A refers, and further detail was added during the course of the meeting.

"Routine" provision at the moment consists of:

- Weekly pre-recorded services comprising an introduction and blessing by service leader, song videos, reading(s), sermon and prayers; hosted on YouTube and linked to via the church website and publicised on local Facebook pages
- Weekly Sunday 6pm gathered services alternating between Harwell and Chilton (Evening Prayer/Night Prayer). These have had a steady number of attendees – around 20 per week at St Matthew's and around 15 per week at All Saints'.
- Monthly Zoom 'Pebbles Family Service' and regular Zoom children's Sunday groups (Chilton/Harwell combined) and Pathfinders

- All Saints' and St Matthew's are now open daily 12-7pm
- Pastoral care has continued through home groups and on an individual basis; Fledgelings WhatsApp groups and blog

The following "special events" have taken place recently:

- Holiday Club was run in Harwell Church Hall over three consecutive weeks across July and August with three bubbles of 15 primary school aged children. This was well received. There were encouraging spiritual conversations with some children. There were no logistical or Covid19 security issues
- A cream tea was delivered to Generation Gold members on 20 and 21 August, consisting of c.60 deliveries across the two parishes with a message on the theme of "The feeding of the five thousand". A couple of months prior to this, we delivered tea bags to the same group with a message about still meeting together in spirit. A PCC member reported receiving positive feedback about the cream teas, and noted the particular opportunity for pastoral care in the conversations that were had during their delivery to people's homes.

PCC members raised the following further points, which were then picked up again under Item 3 on plans/options for autumn 2020 and beyond:

- Could we do more to advertise the 6pm services? Jonathan Mobey said that he had been thinking about whether we should deliver the Ridgeway Broadsheet again in order to reach a wider group. It was noted that many Broadsheet deliverers are in the older age range and might be more cautious about the risk of catching Covid19 when out and about. So we might need to broaden the group of deliverers.
- Is it now time to think about introducing morning services as well as evening?

3) Plans/options for service, autumn 2020 and beyond (Paper A)

Paper A refers.

Sunday services

Social distancing and restricted numbers with limitations on communal singing is likely to continue for some time, and many of our congregations will not feel comfortable gathering in church. Online services have picked up people beyond our regular congregations. Each 'mode' has pros and cons, e.g. relationship and interaction of physical gatherings versus convenience and ease of access/anonymity of online.

So how can we take the best of each mode with a variety of service offerings and/or mixed mode/hybrid services?

(Hereafter the term "hybrid" is used to mean a church service which is also simultaneously broadcast live online/livestreamed).

Paper A proposed the following:

- September: continue as currently i.e. alternating weekly evening services in each church, weekly pre-recorded online services, and monthly interactive (Zoom) family services and children's groups
- October: Work towards hosting hybrid morning services in St Matthew's with accompanying children's groups in the Church Hall and in the downstairs and upstairs meeting rooms; continued evening service provision
- November onwards: As October, and consider hybrid Sunday morning services in Chilton too

Tony Hughes asked if the proposal is that the hybrid services would replace the current online service or be in addition to it? Jonathan Mobey clarified that the proposal is that hybrid services would replace the current online services. However, hybrid services would be recorded and be accessible online after the event. Hybrid services could also contain some pre-recorded elements. There can be no congregational singing in church at the moment so we would continue to play YouTube song videos as now.

Allan Macarthur was asked to comment on some of the technical aspects of a hybrid service.

Extensive discussion on the pros and cons of hybrid services then ensued. In summary:

Pros:

- Interaction with the live audience present in church. The service leader does not get any feedback about how engaged people are during a purely online service
- Provides an opportunity for those unable to attend church to still feel connected to the live services and provides a greater feeling of normality

Cons:

- Difficulties with filming a live service such that those online can really engage with it i.e. see what's going on properly and see the service leader's face properly. Gordon Gill said that the advice he had at the Deaneries Conference was to keep online and live services separate for this reason.
- Service leaders need to be aware of the online audience, which will include those who are less familiar with standard patterns of church worship. The service leader would need to signpost particularly clearly for this online audience. Some might be good at this, some not so good.
- Possible problems with internet reliability during services
- There is limited benefit whilst church attendance is restricted to such small numbers

The following amended proposal was then agreed:

- Until further notice: Continue with the current recorded online services
- October: Trial a hybrid 6pm service at St Matthew's with the online audience by invitation only. As already planned, each church's Annual Meeting will also be held as a hybrid event.
- October/November: Hold a monthly morning service plus children's groups in St Matthew's. This would not be a hybrid service – at least until we have reflected on the trial of hybrid 6pm services

Post-meeting note: *a couple of different whole-family options are actually being trialled from September, initially with a number of invited families meeting in St Matthew's churchyard, and latterly with families meeting inside the church*

Remembrance Sunday arrangements

A proposal for this will be drawn up in due course.

Christmas arrangements

Paper A listed some possible options:

- Travelling carol services, e.g. musicians on a tractor trailer. The idea would be to make a joyful noise e.g. playing carols as it goes round the streets
- Communion services with recorded music and/or small choir on Christmas Night, and on Christmas Morning, e.g. 8am Harwell, 9.30am Chilton
- Pre-recorded or hybrid services on Christmas Morning

Jonathan Mobey clarified that a 'travelling carol service' would be different to the 'travelling crib' event held in Chilton last year. The travelling crib involved a relatively large number of people congregating at a series of village locations. That might well fall foul of the rules about how many people from different households can gather outside together and create some social distancing challenges.

Paper A also raised the issue of whether we should have a toy collection this year, and could that be combined with travelling carol services.

Jonathan Mobey invited comments and questions. The following points were raised:

- There are some practical challenges with the travelling carol service idea e.g. what if the weather is poor; some roads are too narrow for a tractor
- Christmas Night services tend to attract some who we never see at other services. We might need to reduce the number of pre-bookable spaces and allow some 'turn up and go' spaces for people who are unaware of the pre-booking system
- It should be possible to organise a Covid19 secure collection and delivery of toy donations even if there is no Toy Service. Places at women's refuges are still very much in demand - calls to domestic violence helplines have increased significantly during lockdown.

Action: Jonathan Mobey to liaise with the Church Administrator to organise:

- A Ridgeway Broadsheet in October/November – which will help to make the availability of 6pm Sunday services more widely known
- A Christmas card in December – to clarify Christmas services arrangements

Action: Jane Woolley to contact Oxford Women's Refuge to ask if they can accept donated toys this year

4) Small groups (Paper A)

Paper A refers.

Most home groups have kept in touch with one another informally, e.g. by phone, and some have met via Zoom; one has just started to meet socially-distanced in person in St Matthew's. We have run a successful Zoom-based evening Alpha Course, and plan to follow it up with a Zoom-based evening Christianity Explored Course (September to November); this could be opened up to a larger group, and/or we could run a different Zoom-based course/meeting on a weekday evening.

Small groups could meet, socially-distanced, in the churches/Church Hall if they feel it is not feasible to meet via Zoom. Rebecca Lewis relayed that it was difficult to interpret the guidance about the circumstances in which small groups could use the church building to meet. Rebecca emphasised that groups should only use the church building as a last resort.

5) Christian youth work in greater Didcot area (Paper A)

Paper A refers.

Agreement has been reached by four Partner Churches (Didcot Baptist, Ridgeway Community, Great Western Park, and ours) to explore setting up an independent youthwork trust with the ability to employ workers and co-ordinate the work of making disciples of children and young people across the Greater Didcot area.

Each of the churches has funds allocated to these activities and workers, some of whom are available to work for more hours than the current funds permit. Match-funding from the Diocesan Development Fund (DDF) and other funds in due course could enable an expansion of the existing work to beyond the Partner Churches into the local schools and community. The next application deadline for the DDF is 30 September and this is in hand.

Our commitment would be to employ our Children & Families Workers (C&FWs) by the Trust and channel our funding through it; this needn't affect their current pattern of work but would open up new collaborative possibilities. This new arrangement (and establishment of the Trust) could correspond with the renewal of the CFW contracts in January.

Jonathan Mobey and Hazel Benton have discussed this with the C&FWs. They said at that point that they would be happy to continue in their current role and to be employed via the Trust. However, Jonathan needs to double check this is still the case.

Jonathan Mobey invited comments and questions. The following points were raised:

Q: What is the process for making a decision about employing the C&FW via the Trust?

A: The plan would be to establish the Trust by 1 January 2021. From that point onwards it could employ people. We would move the C&FW to the Trust at that point. Their current contracts end on 31 December 2020. It would make sense for the new contracts to be with the Trust. The PCCs would formally make this decision, and they would need to do so by November/December.

Q: Would we be able to pay the C&FW via the Trust if the money for this comes from restricted giving that has been given on the basis that we are the C&FW's employer?

A: We would need to ask donors if they are happy to continue and we would need to explain that the funds would be passed on to the Trust but that the end purpose is the same.

Q: How can we reassure people that the C&FW will continue to do the same work as now and under our direction?

A: Keeping the current job description is one safeguard. Another is that we have to use donations for their intended purpose. Our ultimate safeguard is that we can stop paying into the Trust if things don't work as we expected.

- Another point of reassurance is that each of the churches involved already has its own children's/youth workers. Our C&FWs would become part of a larger group.
- The C&FWs would benefit from mutual support if they were part of a larger group
- Jesus prayed for his Followers to be united. So if we could do something like this which unites different churches, that would be a step in this direction.
- Local churches have collaborated successfully on the CAP Debt Centre

6) C&FW and other fundraising activity (Paper A)

Paper A refers.

At the January Combined PCC meeting we agreed a fundraising plan covering CAP, St Matthew's roof repairs, C&FW and general giving. This plan was not fully enacted due to Covid19. The proposal now is that we:

- combine these items into one broad appeal to the congregations to coincide with the presentation of the annual reports in September and October

- make an appeal to the Harwell community and to the Friends of St Matthew's for the roof repairs

Jonathan Mobey invited comments and questions. The following points were raised:

- We should be cautious about fundraising because many people are moving into a time of financial insecurity. Any appeal needs to be framed very carefully

Q: Would we just be appealing to the congregation via 6pm Sunday services?

A: No, we would use other channels too e.g. Rector's emailed newsletter; Ridgeway Broadsheet

7) Action from the previous meeting:

- **Printed sermon sheets**

Previous Action: Jonathan Mobey and Pam Rolls to identify church members without internet access and supply a printed copy of the sermon to those who would like one

Pam Rolls explained that this action had progressed as far as drawing up a list of names and addresses, but not as far as delivering hard copies of the sermon to people.

Action: Jonathan Mobey to include mention in the next Ridgeway Broadsheet that a written copy of sermons can be downloaded from the church website, and that anyone who cannot access the website should contact the Church Office for either a paper copy or a copy on a DVD.

All Saints' preliminaries & procedural

8) Apologies for absence

Apologies from: Janet Radford and Pat Moseley

9) Minutes from previous meeting on 5 May 2020 (Paper B)

Unanimously approved and accepted as a true record that may be signed by the Rector.

10) Decisions of the Standing Committee

- **West House boundary wall quotes for owner**

The West House owner has stated in correspondence that he is "willing to contribute" to repair of the wall. This is not the admission of full liability as hoped, but the PCC's view is that West House does own the boundary wall.

The Standing Committee met and decided to assist the West House owner to obtain quotes for replacing the wall (as he is currently living away from the property and outside the UK). Given the owner's lack of commitment to fund the wall repair/replacement, the Standing Committee decided to seek quotes for the removal of the collapsing wall and the rotting post-and-rail fence, and to insert a new post-and-rail fence in its stead.

Judith Russell is in the process of obtaining three quotes for comparison, and has received two so far. These will be passed onto the owner of West House for him to decide what steps he would like to take to change his wall. The PCC would like to thank Judith for her work on this.

The PCC would like to thank Andrew Hayes (as Fabric Committee chairman) for all his work and recommendations on the boundary wall. The PCC notes his advice that the boundary wall comes under jurisdiction of ecclesiastical law and, accordingly, may need a faculty (if the foundations are to be altered) or (otherwise) List B permission. The PCC notes that the

responsibility to seek such permissions is with the owner/person doing the work. If the owner of West House requires assistance to seek such permissions then the PCC is willing (in principle) to assist him with this.

The contractors to date have not stated that the foundations need to be altered.

11) Christians against Poverty (CAP) fundraising

Options the PCC considered to fundraise money for CAP are:

- i) to publish details within the next Broadsheet containing an explanation of CAP's work and anonymised testimonies of persons helped; and
- ii) to invite a guest speaker from CAP to give a talk during one of the hybrid ("phygital") services (discussed in the joint section above).

Action: Jonathan Mobey to contact Liz Roberts and Naomi Gibson to produce something for the Broadsheet

Finance

12) Account and revenue update (Papers C and D)

The PCC would like to thank Stuart Gibson for preparing the papers.

There is likely to be a sizeable shortfall in the funds received compared to the estimated budget. The PCC hopes to get a better indication of the amount to be able to appeal for help.

Stuart Gibson noted that December is usually a good time for an unpredictable increase in revenue, but it's more unlikely to happen this year.

Judith Russell asked about getting card readers in the Church services. It was noted that the facility is available, and set up such that any payments go to the Harwell bank account. The card reader is currently not in a state to leave in the church unattended (for daily visitors to donate with). The PCC proposes to trial its use during the evening services, next to hand sanitiser for coronavirus hygiene.

It was noted that the option to donate through the website is currently obscure. It was decided that it might be better to add a "Donate" section on the homepage banner (between "Life Events" and "Committees"). This page will have an option to choose between Chilton and Harwell.

Hazel Benton enquired whether money from one bracket (e.g. Science and Faith) could be moved to one of the other categories to offset the loss. Stuart Gibson explained that some of the money is allocated for specific funds, but he could ask the donors for permission to move it if required.

Action: Stuart Gibson to try to provide Jonathan Mobey with an indication of the shortfall in funds (for the Broadsheet appeal)

Action: Jonathan Mobey to enquire whether the card reader is available from Harwell to use at the evening services

Action: Jonathan Mobey to ask Deborah Evans to make the donations page more accessible on the website

13) Mission Giving

Yvonne Sanderson updated the PCC that a proposal has been prepared which she shall share with the PCC. This proposal will confirm the five missions/charities that will receive funds.

Action: Yvonne Sanderson to provide the proposal to Christopher Pollard to circulate to the PCC members.

Fabric

14) Snapshot update (Papers E, F and G)

John Pigott updated the PCC on the bolt lock repair; its currently under investigation but likely that a new lock is needed.

The trial for the ramp is currently on hold as the demographic for those who need to use it are currently not attending the church.

The PCC would like to thank Andrew Hayes for providing the detailed papers, and all his assistance to the PCC and Church.

The PCC would like to thank John Pigott and Judith Russell for their churchyard work.

15) West House boundary issue

The West House boundary wall was discussed earlier (under point 10).

Health and safety

No items on the agenda, and nothing raised in the meeting.

Services and seasonal

Christmas was discussed earlier in the joint section.

Other

16) Future dates to note

- **Electoral Roll**

The revision period in which to update this year's Electoral Roll ends on 9 September 2020, and the statutory notices have been put up. To draw attention to the need for people to register if they are currently not on the roll, and to advertise the hybrid Annual Meetings, a notice will be put into the email roundup from Jonathan Mobey, and printed copies of this will be sent to those who have no internet/the Church knows it does not have an email address for.

Action: Jonathan Mobey to add the statutory notice into the email roundup.

- **All Saints' annual meeting**

Attendance to the annual meeting on Thursday 8 October 2020 will be both in person and via the Zoom online conference facility.

Action: Christopher Pollard to circulate Zoom details to PCC members

- **Ride and Stride**

Stuart Gibson raised that Ride and Stride will take place on Saturday 12 September 2020. John Pigott kindly offered to open the church at 9am and close it at 7pm, and to put out a table for the paperwork.

Action: John Pigott to open the church on Saturday 12 September 2020.

17) Any other business

None.

Meeting closed with a prayer from Pam Rolls at 10pm.

Next meeting: All Saints' PCC meeting 7.30pm, 3 November 2020 via Zoom

..... **Chairman**

Signed