

MINUTES OF THE ALL SAINTS' PCC MEETING

held at St Matthew's Harwell on Tuesday 7th November 2023 at 7.30 pm.

St Matthew's, Harwell and All Saints', Chilton PCCs were present together for Items 1-4. For the other items, only All Saints' members were present.

1 Opening and Prayer

The Rector, Rev Jeremy Parsons welcomed the PCCs to the joint part of the meeting and opened the meeting in prayer.

Jeremy said that the work planning the outreach for the Valley Park Development was increasing, and he anticipated needing to spend two days a week on it in the New Year.

2 Children and Families Worker Recruitment

Sarah Barratt has now finished her contract and it is likely to be September or October before a permanent replacement can be found, judging by other parishes' experiences. A "Thank you" to Sarah is being arranged. In the meantime, Sarah Mawle is running Fledglings in Harwell on a voluntary basis, and Lucy Ryan is being paid to run Chilton's Fledglings. Jeremy is in conversation with ECHO about the role, and the advertisement will be revised and rerun. In answer to a question, he said ECHO were not able to offer us any support as they were also facing a similar struggle.

3 Deanery Synod Vacancy

Jeremy said this position also gave the individual ex officio membership of Harwell PCC. He asked PCCs to think about possible candidates and reminded the meeting that Chilton had no Synod representative. The post would be advertised shortly.

4 Schedule of PCC Meetings (A)

Jeremy said the schedule was a temporary compromise. The next scheduled PCC meeting is next March, but the proposed budgets were not yet finalised, and these would need PCC approval, which would necessitate an extra meeting, either in person or online.

All Saints' PCC only

Present:

Rev Pam Rolls

Judith Russell (Churchwarden)

John Pigott

Liz Morris

Rev Jeremy Parson (present for item 4, AV upgrade)

Hazel Benton (Vice Chair)

Alex Reich (Churchwarden)

Pat Moseley

Steve Hale

1. Apologies for absence

Hazel chaired the meeting. Apologies were received from Naomi Gibson, Stuart Gibson, Debra Dewhurst and Jan Radford.

2. Minutes of the meeting on 5th September 2023

The minutes of the meeting on 5th September 2023 were unanimously accepted as a true record and signed.

3. Decisions requested of Standing Committee between meetings.

The Standing Committee has met to decide on items for the agenda for this meeting, but no decisions have been requested.

4. Matters Arising

- **Back to Church Sunday** (Paper C)

There had been a good response to the invites for Harvest Festival with some people returning after a long absence and continuing to attend again. Invitations are being handed out for the Remembrance Service on 12th November. The next “season of invitation” service will be Carols by Candlelight on 10th December when the usual Christmas cards will act as the invitation. Alex was thanked for his report.

- **Update on becoming a Net Zero Church** (Paper E)

Debra was thanked for her report which she had produced following the meeting “From Energy Audit to Action Plan” she had attended in Reading. It was proposed by Judith, seconded by Alex and accepted by all that Debra should go ahead with a self-audit followed by an energy audit. Liz will let Debra know the result.

Action : Liz Morris

- **AV Upgrade progress** (Paper D)

Steve went through the recommendations in his report. It was proposed by Alex, seconded by John and agreed by the majority to immediately purchase two lapel microphones and a gooseneck microphone for the lectern in time for Christmas. Following a discussion it was agreed to purchase 2 monitors and investigate where and how to hang them. Judith will contact Liz Roberts who has a contact that will be able to help with the investigation. It was proposed and agreed by the majority to ask Gregory Wells and Andy Wells for a short list of laptops or small desk top that could be bought before Christmas as a short term fix. Liz will contact Andy Wells. Judith said that she has already approached the Diocese regarding fixing monitors to the wall.

Steve was thanked for his report.

Action: Judith and Liz

5. Governance

No items.

6. Finance (Papers F, G, and H)

- The World Mission Budget was proposed by Pam, seconded by John and agreed by all.
- Papers G and H were noted and there were no questions.

Hazel suggested that there should be an amount included in the 2024 budget for the AV system. Hazel proposed that £5K goes into the 2024 budget, seconded by Liz, agreed by the majority, Steve voted against.

7. Fabric Committee Report (Paper I)

Judith, Andrew and John were thanked for all they had done. The dying sycamore tree has been felled, it was suggested that the hollow stump could be filled with soil and daffodil bulbs planted. Judith agreed to plant them.

Action : Judith

8. Health and Safety

Judith will ask Deborah to put a notice in next Church Chronicle entry asking for a volunteer.

Action :Judith

9. Preparations for Christmas

Tree for the Tower, Hazel arranging with Garden Centre, Alex to collect and Judith to ask Tom and Tim to put on tower.

Pam will provide the tree in Church, Tom will set up tree with lights and children will be invited to decorate with items they would make at an activity afternoon'.

Advent Wreath, Naomi will do the wreath for 3rd December.

Living Advent Calendar, Liz will ask Debra if it is happening this year.

Window to be floodlight from December 3rd. John to arrange.

Poinsettias in Church, Pat will send Liz a Chronicle entry.

Carol Services, there will be Family Carols on Saturday 9th December at 4.00pm and Evening Carol Service on Sunday 10th December at 6.30pm. John will arrange candles and the PCC to provide a dozen mince pies.

Mulled wine, Naomi will provide, Judith will Check with the Kerrs if they are organising and if it is both Saturday and Sunday services.

Carols in the Rose and Crown on 21st December at 7.30pm. Note go in the Chronicle.

Naomi is doing Sherry and shortbread on Christmas Day.

There will be a Crib Service on 23rd December with Jeremy and Sacha.

10. AOB

Judith had received a suggestion that there should be a social PCC meeting with SLT and PCC in either January or February. It was decided to think about the suggestion.

11. Future Dates

There will be no Oasis in December, the next one will be in January, date to go in the Chronicle.

Hazel thanked everyone for attending and Pam closed the meeting at 9.30pm with a prayer.