

Minutes of Partnership AGM
29 April 2018 at Holy Trinity, Shaw

Present.

58 adults + 3 children. Most of the adults presumed to be members, though this was not checked.

4 Apologies for absence received before the meeting. Not listed here.

AGM started with normal joint service of worship, at which modified CofE clergy licenses were read.

2017 report

Sue Green presented the partnership accounts, and the highlights:

- Churches met shares
- General Fund Deficit £5,923
- General Reserves £54,959
- Youth Reserves £5,865 & Family Work Reserves £10,000
- Diocese Pledge for 2018 £50,000
- 2018 Budget has another deficit of around £6,000 this will not be sustainable long term

Sue then presented the consolidated partnership finances, (including all the church contributions) and the highlights:

- Our funds have increased by around £16k
- The unrestricted increases in income are largely accounted for by a legacy received by Toothill.
- The unrestricted increases in expenditure are mainly due to the Diocese share (reduced by 2016 figures inflated by building work at Toothill and the manse).
- St Mary's building work has had large increases in income and expenditure in the restricted funds

Sue thanked the inspectors of our accounts. Steve Fraser at MHA Monahan's, and proposed that they be appointed as inspectors for 2018

That MHA Monahan's be appointed accounts inspectors for 2018.

Agreed with no objections

Steve Kershaw presented the annual report for 2017. The highlights:

81 people working with children (+). Some still need training or DBS check

Membership down (-).

Sunday attendance up slightly

20 Joint services, some monthly (-)

Struggle to find enough volunteers to help with activities.

Youthwork review challenged us...

Steve then presented the results of our areas of focus for 2017

Press forward with a youth and children's work review.

We held the review. Implemented urgent recommendations.

Other challenging questions need longer term thought.

Deepen our link with Katikama Sebamale Primary School

We began our formal link. Hampered by the illness and then death of the head teacher.

Review and understand internal structures, improve communication and ownership of our common mission/projects.

We began the reviewing, (PC and leadership teams)

Understanding may take some time yet.

We are still working on firm suggestions to improve ownership of our common mission activities.

More details in the report at <http://WSwinLyd.org.uk/council/report>

Steve convened a **question and answer** session.

Q: Why is youth housegroup, hosted by Westlea, not reported on in the partnership report?

A: Chris admitted he'd forgotten it (as had the Partnership Council reviewers, 4 times!) We'll try to remember to add it to the list for next year. Andy Vernon reported that the group eats a lot of pizza and has found out about biblical characters. And chatted, and got to know one another. Numbers about 7. Secondary school age. The group is aimed at children of church families, and admission is by coming along.

Q: Why is Mother's Union not reported?

A: Chris admitted he'd assumed it was primarily a St Mary's group, but several people from other churches said they went too. Chris will add it to the list for next year

Q: More detail was requested on the Youth and Children's work report, actions done, and any plans to implement more in future.

A: It was suggested a progress report may be set out at another session. A future Partnership Council, concentrating on these issues, might be a good forum.

Q: Could the 81 people involved in children's work meet together?

A: It was pointed out that the Gathering is a good forum, intended to meet this.

Q: Can banns be read elsewhere (other than St Mary's, eg HTS)?

A: Used to, but HTS stopped. So not at the moment.

Those involved in Youth and children's work were appreciated. Specifically, Gayle, Eddie and Becky were picked out, but there are many more.

Chris pointed out the **minutes of last years AGM** had been previously agreed at PC and those for the CofE APCM also at All Saints LM District Church Council

Chris presented matters arising from the minutes:

- CofE Parish re-organization is done (1 Feb 2018)
Last action was the new CofE clergy licenses read today
- PC chair Mark Dowling stepped down,
Steve Kershaw agreed to take on the role (temporarily)

We publicly thanked Mark for his work and support over the years.

2018 plans

Partnership Council presented proposals for our areas of focus in 2018

- Churches continue to work through questions on strategy
- Increase local emphasis to our relationships with schools
- Continue to build link with Katikama Sebamale School
- Increase discipleship in our congregations - engage with the Holy Habits initiative

That these proposals are adopted as our areas of focus for 2018
Agreed with no objections

Our policies were adopted, in summary form, presented as:

- (Safeguarding-C) We commit ourselves to the nurture and safeguarding of all, especially children and young people
- (Safeguarding-A) The protection of the vulnerable is the responsibility of every church member
- (Accessibility) We believe that all people should have an equal opportunity to experience the love of God, to grow spiritually, and to participate in worship and share fully in the life of the Church
- (Health-Safety) We will provide adequate control of health and safety
- (Privacy) We will use personal information only for the purposes for which it was given

That we adopt these policies to guide our work
Agreed with no objections

Chris pointed out there was more on the “how” of each of these on our web site.

Elections

Partnership Council:

Janet Clarke, Sue Green, Steve Kershaw
Pat Watson, Jacqueline Kirwan, Wendy Deverell
Jan Partridge, David Hoar
Pete Gilder, Chris Scarisbrick, Pam Ray

And our ex-officios

Clive Deverell, Trevor Day (ex-officio)
Brenda Hicks (ex-officio)
Methodist Circuit Senior Steward (ex-officio) - Andrew Fleet
Methodist Circuit Superintendent Minister (often attends) – David Perkins
URC Synod Pastoral Advisor (often attends) - Gerald England

Mary Poole (Deanery Synod and Messy Church)
Claire Camm (Youth Missioner, Emerge)
Gayle Bryon (Childrens Missioner)

That these folk are elected to serve on Partnership Council
Agreed with no objections

Partnership Posts

Treasurer: Sue Green being willing to serve

That Sue Green is elected as Treasurer to the Partnership
Agreed. All voting for, none against, no abstaining (apart from Sue)

Safeguarding Coordinator: Chris Scarisbrick being willing to serve

That Chris Scarisbrick is elected as Safeguarding Coordinator to the Partnership
Agreed. All voting for, none against, no abstaining (apart from Chris)

Denomination Reps

West of England Baptist Assoc – Janet Clarke
CofE Swindon Deanery Synod – Mary Poole
Methodist Upper Thames Circuit – Mark Dowling
URC South Western Synod – David Hoar

That these folk represent us at denominational meetings
Agreed with no objections

CofE posts

Churchwardens at HTS: Sue Green and Steve Kershaw.

Churchwardens at St Mary's: Pat Watson and Jacqueline Kirwan

That these folk are elected as churchwardens
Agreed with no objections

Assist with communion

At HTS: Gayle Bryon, Ian Bryon, Mark Taylor, Steve Kershaw, Sue Green

At St Mary's: Janet Cooper-Tydeman, Hazel Davis, Wendy Deverell, Ann Fisher, Hilary Gardner, Paul Gardner, Doreen Henderson, Jacqueline Kirwan, Ed Poole, Mary Poole, Pat Watson

At Toothill: Mark Dowling, Rachel Dowling, David Hoar, Nicola Hoar, Jan Partridge,

At Westlea: Andy Vernon, Pam Ray, Sarah Wilmott, Chris Scarisbrick, Pete Gilder, Julie Scarisbrick, Richard Williams

That these folk are nominated to assist with CofE communion

Agreed with no objections

Read banns

At St Mary's: Hazel Davis, Wendy Deverell, Doreen Henderson, Jacqueline Kirwan,
Tish Vass, Pat Watson

That these folk be nominated to read banns

Agreed with no objections

Steve got all those who serve in any way in our churches, to stand. Virtually everyone stood.
Clive closed with a prayer of blessing. We finished by saying the grace to one another.