

Ecumenical Partnership of West Swindon and the Lydiards Annual General Meeting: 12th March 2008

Pre-meeting refreshments were provided by members of the Partnership churches, Toothill Church and 1st Shaw Guide Unit

It was agreed that Chris Scarisbrick would chair the meeting and minutes were taken by Pete Gilder
25 members of the Partnership attended.

1. Apologies for Absence

Anne Carter, Mike Dilly, John Halstead, Rebecca Kershaw, Alison Lowe, Jan Partridge, David Ratnam, Tudor Roberts, Julie Scarisbrick, David Tapscott

2. Worship

Worship was led by Nicola and David Hoar based on "God's Wisdom".

3. Minutes of AGM 14 March 2007

These were approved.

No matters arising.

4. Appointments

All appointments were recorded on the paper "Local Churches' Nominations for the Partnership AGM" (wsep2872).

4.1. Appoint Church Wardens and Child Protection Officer

The Church Wardens were appointed.

Rebecca Kershaw was appointed as Child Protection Officer for the Partnership.

(It was noted that the Diocese records appeared to be inconsistent as to who the "nominated" persons may be within the Partnership. Mary Poole to liaise with Rebecca Kershaw to clarify.)

<Action Mary Poole>

4.2. Endorse appointments of Stewards and Leadership Teams

These were endorsed.

4.3. Note names of Local Church representatives on ECC/PCC

These were noted.

4.4. Endorse list of those authorised to read banns and those authorised to assist at Anglican Communion

These were noted

4.5. Appoint members to the Deanery Synod

David Tapscott (AS), Steve Pearce (We), Sarah Wilmott (We) were appointed. Proposed Chris Scarisbrick, Seconded Ed Poole.

4.6. Note annual membership of each church

All Saints	St Mary's	Holy Trinity	Toothill	Westlea	Total
126	76	37	35	25	299

5. Financial Report

5.1. Adopt the ECC Accounts for 2007

The accounts were adopted, Dick Gray (ECC treasurer) noted that 2007 had been a good year although there was a small loss due to the costs of refurbishing the manse.

5.2. Adopt the Consolidated Partnership Accounts for 2007

These were adopted.

5.3. Adopt the Auditors for 2008

Monahan's were adopted as the auditors for 2008.

It was noted that the budget for 2008 shows a deficit of £11,000. This can be stood for one year but no longer.

There was a vote of thanks to Dick for all his hard work and Sue Green for putting together the consolidated accounts.

6. Receive and Adopt the Partnership Annual report for 2007

The report was received and adopted with the following minor corrections.

- P.11 No United All-Age Service in October at Holy Trinity Shaw
- P.11 The Partnership Memorial Service was at All Saints not Toothill.

Reviewing the report it was commented that Goals set for 2007 were successfully met, and the service on the 5th Sunday at each church in the Partnership in turn was a great success and it was felt that the ECC should consider continuing the system when it is discussed in the near future. It was also noted that G2G was not mentioned in the report.

Thanks were expressed to Ed and Dick for putting the report together and to all the contributors for their input.

7. Adopt the Partnership “Safe to Grow Policy” for 2008

The master policy is on the Partnership web site and can be found at <http://wswinlyd.org.uk/council/policy/safetogrow.html>. The policy was unanimously adopted. Each church needs to ensure that it is adopted at a church level and the ECC needs to be advised on the progress of this.

A question was raised as to the policy for vulnerable adults (safe church policy) and it was agreed that this would be investigated by Rebecca Kershaw.

<Action Rebecca Kershaw>

8. Adopt the principle Partnership Goals for 2008

The goals as detailed in the Partnership report were adopted namely

- **Prayer and Spirituality** – Develop and extend prayer commitment throughout the Partnership and Local Churches.
- **Equip and Encourage** – Support, develop and affirm church members in their contribution to church and community life.
- **Emerge** – Start-up the Partnership's new youth work with Ncounter.

9. Church Reports

Each church presented an item from their annual report. This year the churches were chosen in a geographical order of south to north.

- **Toothill** – Items of note were they have a new minister! the successful prayer day, the Good Friday drama written by David Hoar, 2 successful film evenings, the local scout troop have attended 3 church parades, the commencement of a bible club at the local school and they are looking forward to hosting the “Community Café”
- **Westlea** – Food was the theme for 2007 with successful (although wet) Barbecue, and cake auction in aid of the Harbour Project that raised about £300 for the charity.
- **St Mary's** – Community involvement were features of their year with closer involvement with both Oliver Tomkins infant and junior schools included services in the school on Sunday afternoon at 3pm for Harvest and Christmas and the attendance of many children at the crib service with the enthusiasm of all involved.
- **Holy Trinity** – Highlights of their year was line dancing, they also have a new minister! And the exciting opportunities for working with Emerge, Ncounter and Café Base West. Looking forward they are looking at building up contacts with those who deliver younger people to the various activities within the church. They also are looking at ways (possibly radical) for changing the interior layout of the building.

- **All Saints** – Highlights of their year include a successful day time Alpha course with 8 guests that is continuing to go well and looking forward to the Healing Prayer Ministry weekend in a few weeks time.

Thanks were also expressed to Dick for producing "In Partnership".

10. Ecumenical Team Leaders Report

Stephen Skinner gave a brief report that included the following points.

- Joy that there is now a full complement on the staff team and the induction process appears to be working reasonably well.
- Team Consultancy with Paul Wignall of Golden Apple Associates has helped the staff team work together and have been tackling the issues of "Emotional Intelligence"
- The loss of Claire Beaton as Partnership Administrator has been difficult, there is currently a review to ask about all aspects of the job with the aim of producing a job specification so that the appointment process may be complete by May to June.
- Hope '08 is giving the opportunity to use the national campaign to get involved in the local community. Locally it will be launched at the end of March. Possibilities may include a festival in the park.
- During 2008 as Stephen has been in the Partnership for 6 years a full scale review will be undertaken to ascertain his future.

In summary Stephen felt positive about he Partnership and with the Goals as well as excited.

A question and answer session followed and as a result of it, it was agreed that a report would be produced as to how the consultancy has been effective and helpful.

All Saints also expressed thanks for Stephen's support during their interregnum last year.

11. ECC Chair's remarks

Chris Scarisbrick reflected on the need to recognise the efforts of all the volunteers within the Church and without the volunteers and the people the Church would not exist.

Chris was also thanked for all his work during the last year.

12. Date for next AGM

It was agreed that the next Partnership AGM would be on Wednesday, 18th March 2009. Toothill offered to host it again.

13. Any Other Business

Paul Gardner – chair of St Mary's fabric committee advised the meeting that they were undertaking initial exploratory work on conserving the building in the next 4 to 6 years. The work would be to preserve the wall paintings and the exterior of the building as well as adapting the building to be suitable for the 21st century. The meeting expressed its support in principle but with the current financial constraints on the Partnership raised the issues of Stewardship.

14. Meeting Close

The meeting closed with the Grace.