

**West Swindon & the Lydiards Ecumenical Partnership
Meeting of ECC on 23rd July 2008 at the Stable Room, St Mary's Lydiard Tregoze**

Present:			
Chair Treasurer Secretary Ecumenical Team Leader	Chris Scarisbrick Dick Gray	Holy Trinity	Jane Skinner John Ridsdale
	Stephen Skinner	St Mary's	Lesley Franklin
All Saints	John Halstead Tudor Roberts Dave Ratnam	Toothill	Anne Carter Mark Dowling
		Westlea	
Deanery Synod	Mary Poole		
Apologies	Julie Scarisbrick, Peter Gilder		
Not Present	Pat Watson, Angela Mak		

1. Welcome, Opening Prayers

Anne Carter led opening Devotions

2. Apologies for Absence

Given as noted above.

3. Approve Agenda Agreed

4. Partnership Administrator

The Staff Team have met our new administrator, Branda Hicks, who seems to be very obliging. She will be working at the Partnership Office every afternoon – probably 2 to 5pm. Chris will update the information on the website.

5. Letters to and from Bishop Lee (CONFIDENTIAL)

Further to discussions at the last ECC meeting, Chris sent a letter of response to Bishop Lee as Chair, on behalf of the ECC. The letter he sent, and the reply from Bishop Lee were discussed. It was commented that the response from Bishop Lee was structured, professional and recognizes the need for a review of the structure of the role of Rector in the Partnership.

The Staff Team are already going through a consultation process.

Chris will now remove the letters from the website.

6. Financial Report - Budget 2009 (report given by Dick Gray)

Dick gave a very comprehensive report on the 2009 Budget. We are about £750 under budget for the year. There has been an increase of approx 35, but this is offset by a Diocese refund. It was noted that there has been no YTD for admin, but this will now change with the Staff salary for our new administrator. Dick explained that the individual Church requested contributions to the ECC shared costs have been based on a formula of: average attendance; average number of members: Average Income, based on the 2007 Annual Reports. Total income was used, not unrestricted. Dick explained his system of 'shares', which are carried forward to the Income schedule.

By the end of 2008, we will still have about 15K in reserve. There is still a deficit in the 2009 budget. Discussions took place about individual Churches, but all agreed that Dick's system is as fair as possible, and thanked Dick for all his hard work. Leadership Teams are responsible for Growth and Stewardship in their Churches.

7. Deanery Synod (notes given by Mary Poole)

Mary Poole attended the meeting on 8th June, and found the meeting useful. They are trying to get more invited Speakers to the meetings. Some information was passed on from the Vulnerable Adults Policy Officer. Mary pointed out that this is not just for 'special needs' people, it includes emotionally vulnerable adults.

Rebecca and Alison are working on policies for the Churches and PCC, based on the Baptist and House of Bishops guidelines. It is suggested we have a local rep and individual coordinators, different to the Child Advocates.

Report from Deanery Synod budget meeting (given by Dick Gray)

There will be a 3.5% flat rate increase in 2009, with a new system of calculating the Fair Share in 2010.

Throughout the Diocese, only 90% of fees are being collected, so the Diocese is working with the other 10% to help them.

8. Report from Holy Trinity, Shaw (given by Anne Carter)

Anne is gathering information from all groups who are interested in the planning for alterations at Shaw. They will soon be short-listing architects. The Diocesan Advisory Committee consultant can be asked to help.

Emerge have a lot of needs, but they are limited with funding time-scales. The project will need to be done in stages, but the proposals still need an architect and plans at the start.

9. Report – Progress on Partnership for Missional Church (given by Stephen Skinner)

Stephen gave notes from his meeting with Paul Rush, who is heading up the local Mission Churches clusters. There was a very inspirational first meeting with Martin Robinson. At the moment, there is no timeline agreed. We need to know what is expected at different times. Stephen went through the notes in detail. The next step will be for each Church to consider appointing a small exploratory group to attend meetings. There were discussions that suggested that we need to clarify our ability to capture the benefits for the individual Churches. They must compliment, not conflict with existing initiatives. There was concern that these small groups might exclude ministers, but agreement that not being too closely involved would release them for other projects. A key point of these clusters is the sharing. Stephen will contact Paul Rush and try to get some dates from him.

10. Report on Rock The Planet (given by Chris Scarisbrick)

Despite some rain, about 650 young people took part at some point between 2pm and 9pm. There was craft work, activities, lots of bands. Chris worked out that there were 79 helpers who in total helped for 450 hours. It was all very well received, and everything worked well. Ncounter is looking to possibly run the event again next year, which will need funding, possibly some from Npower again. They would like to increase the amount of people who could take part. Chris was thanked for all his work.

11. Report – Youth Work (given by Jane Skinner)

Claire has sent a report to Jane. Café Base West has 120 contacts, 60 are regular. Phase. Many thanks to Mike Dilly and Jacqueline Kirwan for all their help, but they are both unable to continue, so the Friday evening youth work is not able to carry on. From September, a new group – named “Remix” will start. This will be held on Tuesdays. Over the summer, there will be workshops at the base at Pur4ton Stoke. G2G will continue, but possibly to be split in 2. They are hoping to carry on with their performing work at Shaw. They are looking for new young leaders. Claire wants to focus on her work at West Swindon, but this continuation depends on funding. There could be access to some C of E Youth work funding, but this needs a 3-year plan. Claire is looking at other funding. Mary said she has access to some names and trusts for potential funding. This funding will not cover the needs for the building requirements at Shaw. It was suggested that a note is put in the Partnership News to ask for help – possibly a Project Administrator.

12. Health & Safety Policy for the Partnership (given by Chris Scarisbrick)

There is a general Policy with wording based on the Ecclesiastical Insurance guidelines. Risk Assessments, etc will be put on the Partnership website. The meeting considered them to be adopted. The Partnership now has their own Public Liability Insurance, which will cover Partnership events. Individual Churches already have their own cover.

13. Changing Worship patterns.

Anne Carter handed out notices relating to proposed changes at Shaw Church, with Communion on 3rd and 4th Sundays. The changes are because God.com want to increase to meeting twice a month. The Partnership likes to offer a communion service every Sunday, but with All Saints having a regular early communion, and the other services in the Partnership, the changes were not seen as a problem. This will be implemented from January 2009.

14. Discuss “ How do the ECC and the Partnership get work done”

Chris asked the ECC members to consider how we communicate, are assumptions made, how do the Staff Team; standing committee; Leadership Teams communicate? To be discussed at the next meeting, as this is more of a Social meeting, it will be a good time for a more informal chat.

15. Minutes of previous ECC Meeting, 19th May 2008, were approved.

It was noted that Angela Mak represents Toothill Church. Rachel is not required to attend meetings.

Matters arising: Deanery Synod restructure: Rob Burles would like to attend all PCCs during the autumn. A new group is being set up to put forward new proposals for a restructure. This coincides with a possible restructure for the Methodists.

It is suggested Rob be invited to the ECC meeting to be held on Wednesday 1st October 2008

A letter of thanks to be sent to the Constitution Group.

16. Approve Notes from Standing Committee 9th June 2008

It is felt that the Partnership Joint Services on 5th Sundays has gone well – next at All Saints 31st August. In 2009 these dates do not fall so easily, so they might need to be looked at.

Meeting closed 10.00pm