

**Minutes of AGM of
West Swindon and the Lydiards Church Partnership
Held 18 March 2009
At Toothill Church, starting at 7:30pm**

Present:

Chris Scarisbrick, Julie Scarisbrick, Janet Gray, Revd Dick Gray, Revd Tudor Roberts, Revd Anne Carter, Dave Carter, Ed Poole, Mary Poole, Rachel Dowling, Mark Dowling, Simon Belcher, Sue Green, Maureen Anderson, Di Benbow, Jean Brock, Ron Brock, Debbie Fleet, Lesley Franklin, David Hoar, John Ridsdale, Joan Rumming, David Tapscott, Patricia Vass, Pat Watson, Mike Watson, Judith Duncan, Edward Glennie,

Apologies for absence:

Andy Vernon, Jan Partridge, Gordon Partridge, Eileen Sawyer, Nicola Hoar, Stephanie Glennie

Guests:

Rev Rob Burles, Anglican Area Dean, Swindon Deanery
Very Rev Alan Hawker, Anglican Archdeacon of Malmesbury

Number present: 30 (T: 5, W:5, HTS:3, SMLT:11, ASLM:5)

Notes taken by: Dick Gray

The meeting was convened and called to order by Chris Scarisbrick in the Chair, at 7:30.

1. Act of Worship – Chair

This included Mark 3:13-19 & Psalm 67.

2. Introduction and welcome - Chair

The chairman welcomed all, especially our guests Ven Alan Hawker Arch-Deacon Malmesbury, and Rev Rob Burles Area Dean, Swindon Deanery

He asked about AOB, but there was none. He explained meeting protocol - Votes by consent unless objected, in which case show of hands, unless objected to, in which case paper ballot.

2. Approve Minutes of AGM 12 March 2008 (motion) Chair

These were approved having been noted at the first ECC meeting following the last AGM. There were no matters arising.

3. Clergy appointment process - Arch-Deacon, Area Dean

AH outlines the new system of clergy appointments in the Diocese. Clergy are expensive and must be used effectively. Deployment is in the hands of the Deanery. Archdeacon will make appointments as requested by the Deanery. This will follow a review of the viability of the Parish or Partnership which will look at where we are and where we are going with mission. He noted 2 points of warning; neither Swindon nor Ecumenical Partnerships were favoured by clergy at present.

RB said the review was an opportunity to take stock, George Rendall and Chris Dobson had been appointed to undertake the review which would include wide consultation with members of the Partnership. Out of the review would come a recommendation regarding ministry and aspects that would need to be included in a job description or profile.

Questions include: Would the appointment be a Team Rector? Probably. Is the review of the whole Partnership? Yes. Should we set up a staffing consultative group? Yes.

4. Appointments - Chair

Appoint Churchwardens **Approved**

Holy Trinity, Shaw	John Ridsdale
St Marys LT	Lesley Franklin & Debbie Fleet
All Saints LM	Simon Belcher & Ginnie Heads

Appoint Partnership Child Protection Officer Pending
Rebecca Kershaw had indicated her desire to stand down from this post.

Nominated by	No candidates
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Vote of thanks for outgoing Child Protection Officer – Chair (Rebecca Kershaw)

Appoint Partnership Secretary - Lesley Franklin Chair **Approved**

Vote of thanks for outgoing Sec – Chair
Lesley Franklin, and before that Jane Skinner

Appoint Partnership Treasurer - Dick Gray Chair **Approved**

Endorse appointments of stewards and leadership teams, District (or Local) Church Committees in Partnership Churches **SEE ATTACHED LIST**

Note adult membership of each church – Chair See Annual Report for numbers

Endorse lists of readers of Banns, and those authorised to assist at Anglican Communion
SEE ATTACHED LIST

5. Financial report - Dick

The treasurer presented the ECC accounts (See attachments). We had done slightly better than budgeted having budgeted for a loss of £11,577 we actually made a smaller loss of £9,145.

To Adopt ECC Accounts for 2008 - Dick **Approved**

The treasurer then presented the consolidated accounts which showed a small surplus overall, and a little over £150,000 on the balance sheet.

To Adopt consolidated partnership accounts for 2008 - Dick **Approved**

A budget was proposed for 2009 which showed a loss of £2,200 against reserves of £31,288. However there was significant doubt about the ability of the churches to meet their share of the quota.

To adopt partnership budget for 2009 – Dick **Approved**

Vote of thanks to accounts Examiner- Dick **Monahans in the person of Robert Brailsford.**

Appoint accounts Examiner for 2009- Dick proposed that we continue with Monahans. **Approved**

Progress on Charity Commission Registration Dick

The treasurer noted that we were still awaiting agreement between the Charity Commissioners and Churches Together in England who were acting a facilitator for Ecumenical Partnerships. It was expected that we shall register sometime in 2009.

Vote of Thanks to Treasurer – Chair **Approved**

6. Receive and adopt Partnership report for YE 31 Dec 2008 – Dick

DG proposed that the Annual Report be accepted as is. Some minor amendments were noted particularly in regard to Evening Services and the goal related to the Bible Reading. It was agreed that DG would amend the report to correct these errors.

The chair proposed a Vote of Thanks to Dick and Standing Committee – **Approved**

**7. Adopt the Partnership “Safe to Grow” policy for 2009 - Chair (motion)
Approved**

**8. Re-affirm our Accessibility (DDA) policy – Chair (motion)
Approved**

**9. Approve the standing orders for ECC and PCC – Chair (motion)
Approved**

10. Adopt partnership principal goals for 2006 – Chair (motion)

Refer to Report - Page 24 and 25

Approved subject to amendments

Equip & Encourage	Owned by	Revd Anne Carter & Revd Tudor Roberts
Spirituality	Owned	None yet identified
Youth Work	Owned	None yet identified

11. Item of news from each church

Toothill	David Hoar	The arrival of the Community Café had been positive. It was usually very busy. It required the renewal of the kitchen supported by a grant from the Methodist circuit. Questions of Life & Faith weekly on Mondays would probably become a confirmation class. The home group meets monthly as does the Lunch Bunch. Tuesday fellowship meets regularly. The prayer labyrinth had been successful on the theme of River of Life. Physical improvements included new guttering, repairs to the roof and some tree surgery.
Westlea	Dick Gray on behalf of Andy Vernon	Westlea in Stephen's view always punches above its weight. We do so very much in the field of Youth Work with leaders on the Emerge Steering group and Management team as well as 2-3 people helping regularly at Remix on Tuesdays. We focus on eating together and did so several times including a Fair Trade Breakfast, pancakes and BBQ. Christmas cards were more professional this year and seem to have brought positive results.
Holy Trinity Shaw	John Ridsdale	Heating has been improved in the hall and one group complained it was too hot! The area of Acorns has been redecorated. There are regular prayer groups; Lent Bible Study "Faith by hearing" with several people having the NT on an MP3 player. There are regular prayer group & coffee afternoon. The Church Health check went well and the church is assessing the results and action plan.
St Marys LT	Debbie Fleet	The year had been a roller coaster with the decision not to renew Stephen's license. Highlight of the year was the baptism of Keith Latchman in the lake by full immersion. There are regular prayer meetings, a prayer chain, prayer station on Sundays and 3 fellowship groups as well as social events. The building project is making slow progress and there is a new catering team. There are regular services at Oliver Tomkins School.
All Saints, LM	Simon Belcher	A brilliant and busy year; Lyn Button teaching weekend; Easter Holiday club with grunge tank; an away day; freedom in Christ course which is proving to be very effective as an alternative to Alpha; Maggie's cottage progresses now having planning permission but funds are still needed. The men's group help out with filling station; next Quinquennial survey due in 2010.

12. Team Leader's remarks – Dick

There are definite signs of hope, with a small growth in worship numbers, although still some decline in membership. There are signs that we are becoming more united due in no small part to socialising together and regular 5th Sunday shared services.

In spite of the loss of Stephen, St Mary's is in good heart. DG will help the leadership and property matters, TR will help with worship and Jan Partridge will help with pastoral issues. A challenging year ahead but we have a good team both lay and clergy.

13. Partnership Council Chair's remarks – Chris

There is a widening knowledge of how we operate and what it means to be a Christian in 21st century.

There are challenges with Climate change and Copenhagen meeting at the end of the year. There are also European elections this year.

At heart is Christians working in the community sharing the Love of God.

Lets publicise and share our experiences of working for community change, maybe we'll find kindred spirits across our Partnership.

14. Any Other Business – Chair

None

15. Thanks – Chair

Those who've taken on new roles and ministries, and especially those who've stopped or changed or moved to something different.

Toothill Church, for

- hosting
- opening up
- welcoming at door
- kitchen staff
- David Hoar for the sound

16. Date for next AGM - Chair

Wednesday 17th March 2010, Venue TBC

17. Date for next ECC - Chair

Mon 30 March 2009, Venue (All Saints?)

Closing Prayer led by DG

Meeting Adjourned at 9:20