

**West Swindon and the Lydiards Church Partnership  
Partnership Council Meeting  
on Monday 24 June 2013 at 7:30pm (prayer) 8:00 pm (agenda)  
at St Mary's Stable Room**

1. **Prayer** (at 7:30)
2. **Welcome** (at 8:00)
3. **Attendance**

Pete Gilder	Sue Green (treas)	Gill Ganley	Rev Clive Deverell	Mark Dowling (chair)
Rev Dick Gray	Steve Kershaw	Rev Tudor Roberts	Tish Vass	Gerry Hambridge
Chris Scarisbrick (sec, notes)		Mary Poole	Pat Watson	

Ed Poole and David Tapscot attended as observers.

4. **Opening Worship**

Led by Mark, we read the Partnership's Shared Vision statement (taken from [http://wswinlyd.org.uk/council/constitution/c11\\_d02vision.html](http://wswinlyd.org.uk/council/constitution/c11_d02vision.html))

Matt 5: 43-45 "You have heard that it was said, "Love your neighbour and hate your enemy." But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven"

Jesus brings change

Gal 3: 26-28 "So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptised into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus"

Ps 127:1 "Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labour in vain."

We need to be listening and hearing. So we make space for God to change us.  
We listened to Lou Fellingham's "All I have is yours"

5. **Apologies**

Julie Scarisbrick	Janet Clarke	Jill Winson	Jacqueline Kirwan	Rev Jan Partridge
Rev Mike Dilly			Mike Watson	

And Brenda Hicks.

6. **Good News**

ASLM Sunday school going very well, enthusiasm for children's involvement in communion.

HTS A new baby (in Scotland)

SMLT Strawberries, and fellowship...teamwork

T – people involved in leading parts of worship on Sundays. Toothill Tinies going well.

W - Prayer chain

The mix festival was splendid and well supported, especially by youth helpers.

7. **Approve minutes** of Partnership Council 20 May

Pete Gilder pointed out Westlea's change in communion to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday is FROM SEPTEMBER. With that change. Minutes Approved.

8. **Resignation**

Nicola Hoar wishes to stand down from Partnership Council.

Toothill have not yet had a committee meeting to consider their representation.

**9. Financial matters**

Sue proposed Claire Camm to be a signatory. Approved.

**10. Approve nominations of Foundation Governors** for Oliver Tomkins Schools  
Victoria Nicholls and Rahel Dams were proposed and recommended by Clive  
Both approved.

**11. Staffing consultative**

[W] We have taken on board the news that Dick and Janet are to retire from ministry and leave us. We are also aware that we are unlikely to get any stipendiary clergy posted with us even partly, other than some oversight. We have the benefit of Mike Dilly's ministry among us, though he is very busy elsewhere too. We have prayed and thought long and hard about these things and have bolstered our leadership team in numbers to enable the anticipated workload to be spread wider.

- What is your church's vision (why do you exist, what is your purpose, now and in the future)

[W] Our vision: A community of people worshipping in Westlea who believe in God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, as revealed in the Bible and who accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. In September of last year we asked all of the membership and regular adherents, what we should do given the anticipated changes – the clear direction was to continue as a distinct church family. Accepting the reduced input from clergy and increasing our lay commitment (numbers of people, roles, and time) accordingly.

[ASLM] We are a group of Christians who worship in the Church of All Saints Lydiard Millicent welcoming all who believe in or seek to know more about the Lord Jesus Christ

[HTS] vision statement is on website

As a church ...

- We want to continue learning to follow Jesus.
- We pray that we may grow in the love of Christ both as individuals and as a group of God's people.
- We want to be able to serve Christ in the area of Shaw by our care and support and friendship of those whom we meet.
- The wider world is also very much a part of our Christian life in our work of relief, justice and peace.
- We are a Fairtrade Church this means we use Fairtrade foods when ever we can.

[SMLT] To know Christ and to make him known. To draw people in.

[T] God Father Son & Holy Spirit is special and important to us. We're in the centre of our community. We invite the presence of God into our community through us. God is important and the people in our community are too. People are important to us, no matter what background. We welcome you. We are inclusive, open flexible and adaptable.

- What is you church's mission (how is your vision applied and worked out)

[W] Our mission statement is annually renewed (we haven't changed it recently as it still succinctly describes our mission) Our mission: Take the Good News about Jesus to every person in Westlea and encourage them to receive Him as their Lord and

Saviour. Care for and teach every Christian believer so that they can become mature disciples of Jesus. Our [annual report for 2012](#) explains further.

[ASLM] We seek to worship the lord our God. We express our worship through all that we do and all that we are; giving of ourselves, our love, our time, our money and our gifts. We seek to encourage one another in developing our faith. A life of prayer which encompasses listening to God, praying faithfully for one another, the local community and for the needs of the world. Every Child, Every Teen, every adult praying

- In what practical ways is that delivered now

[T] Housegroup, lunch bunch, Sunday mornings hold us together. It brings the presence of God into community. Struggling to support midweek groups and daytime events.

[W] *Taking the good news to every person in Westlea* is primarily done via friendship evangelism. Ok some of this is at work, which may not be in Westlea, via neighbours, which may not be in Westlea, but the principle applies. We like to use pretexts and social events to get people together. Mostly these involve food and families. Sometimes we use jobs that need to be done as a pretext. Occasionally it just needs beer and a curry. We don't have a wider grand strategy for evangelism. *Care for and teach every Christian believer* happens on Sundays but more so at our house-group. About half of our adult membership attends regularly. We could consider widening this participation maybe by starting another group. We have appointed a pastoral coordinator for the church family.

[ASLM] We believe in the authority of the Bible as the word of God. We seek to know, share and apply its message. We seek to share our faith with others. Welcoming all ,we seek to love, serve and care for everyone and to be a community of wholeness. Each member is unique and has different gifts and skills. We seek to support one another to develop these skills. As part of the West Swindon and the Lydiard's Partnership we value a multitude of traditions and styles of worship. We also value our historical roots and what God will do amongst us in the future. All Saints Church aims to make known and share the love of God within our communities. This work is still in progress as we think through the Church Vision statement it; Please continue to pray as we continue to seek the Holy Spirits way forward for All Saints Church and those with whom we partner.

[ASLM] Making Christ known through Sunday and other times. Two tracks, reaching out - alpha and schools - and making disciples. Still working out how the two tracks work. Bibletrack is good for making disciples. When we do things together, It gives encouragement to go out and shout about it. Partnership is a tool to show unity

The statements are easy to make easy, practical out-workings are harder.

[SMLT] Banners and have signboards around the park Communication group set up. Pastoral group mainly cares for church family. Occasional offices, particularly Baptisms, for church family and others in community. Lay chaplaincy at Asda. Giving to big charities. Tithe plus more where we can. Mother's Union is largely ST Marys. Congregation is growing. School governors.

[HTS] We do schools work and support emerge, We have people from the supported community in Angus Close who come to services. We have a big building, many

community groups use it. There is small overlap between the worshipping community and community organisations.

- In what practical ways would you like to deliver that in the future (possibilities, opportunities)

[W] There are opportunities we are not currently taking or creating, to engage with certain communities. We suspect our new community liaison will make us aware of lots of possibilities. There are probably opportunities to engage further with our school hosts, we have in the past but less so recently. This is probably connected with having fewer “church” children at the school, and so parents around the school community. We will pray for this to change, somehow. We’ve always struggled to find people available during the day, to explore and engage with daytime communities outside of work and school. We’ve not consistently managed to address older folk who may live alone and have had to give up a group around pre-school children. We might look to re-kindle similar activities if resources allowed. We are in the process of appointing a volunteer community pastoral worker from among our number, who will be the first point of contact from outside the church.

[HTS] want to carry on doing more of the same, limited by peoples energy and time.

[SMLT] have a few holes and are stretched.

Some think it worth spending more time on re-reaching the “de-churched”, those who may not need much work to bring back

- What structures and people do you have in place to deliver them now

Building up people is for a purpose. To be salt and light in our community. Emerge and messy church are valuable.

[W] We have appointed a pastoral coordinator for the church family, who will be a first point of contact for pastoral matters. We have a lay-led leadership team, which includes Rev Mike Dilly.

[ASLM] Leadership team, and several ministry teams. (web)

[HTS] are a small church (5 on leadership team) Pastoral team exists but meet infrequently. Coffee stop provides for older folks, and assisted by gen2gen group; No real structure to support leadership at the moment. Homegroup is very small, cancelled for Bibletrack so not been meeting much recently. We are ticking along; as long as the worship team are happy to continue, Sundays will work, and the fellowship will be happy to continue.

[T] have been here before. We set up a matrix of responsibilities. All the jobs are covered. Fortunate to have some of Jan, who must not be overused. People generally are supportive, though we’re short of leaders. Cannot be ambitious, but can manage the routine stuff.

- What structures and people would you like to have in place to deliver them in the future

[SMLT] don’t have anything formal to retain visitors. Occasional offices have retention of about 10%, we’re looking at improving that. Working with HTS folk to address some schools. **Action ASLM** will tie up Trish with the team and compare notes. A schools pack to address RE should be worked on.

[ASLM] would like to see the building used more during the week. Open every day, has a couple of groups. Plans for toilet and server. Would like to appoint a childrens' worker or something similar. Have a schools team. Could perhaps do with someone younger to convene and lead that. Doesn't work with emerge.

[W] We are waiting to see what changes we might make as a result of our new community liaison role.

[HTS] would like to have more people to not just tick along.

- What involvement will you require from stipendiary clergy  
Where can ministry be delivered by self-supporting ordained, or by stipendiary clergy or other paid ministry.

[W] We feel it is important to have a degree of pastoral oversight and support to our laity (though noting the input we receive from Rev Mike Dilly, as has been noted below this does not formally fall under the remit of the Partnership). Such oversight will guard our leadership team against slipping into heresy (!) or unhelpful patterns of behaviour. Our leadership team and others can probably continue to uphold the Baptist tradition, even communion. We note that we may be asked to nominate two lay people who we would like to preside at URC Communion in the absence of a clergy person. We also understand approaches have been made to enable our Methodist local preachers to preside at a Methodist pattern communion, we await the decision. However we will require clergy input at least occasionally to enable us to continue to reflect Anglican, and possibly Methodist, patterns of communion.

[ASLM] Facilitators, to enable others. There is a trend towards more ministry of ordained folks other than stipendiary... Strong team...

[HTS] Occasionally get requests for wedding or funerals – ordained clergy. Some people in congregation will want Denominational communion with ordained clergy. Some perhaps older people expect clergy to be available pastorally. Community contact (during the day)

[T] Occasional office, communion, clergy pastoring

How do we free up our clergy to do what clergy are needed to do?

- What support do you receive from the Partnership now

[W] The ministry of Rev Mike Dilly, though he is busy elsewhere. Strictly this is not from the partnership. We appointed him to work among us without much in the way of partnership consultation, and we feel free to share him as he is able and willing (he seems very willing). So this ministry is shared WITH the partnership. He leads services for us about twice per month, attends (but does not often lead) our Tuesday house-group and does pastoral visits among the church family. Currently we have Rev Dick Gray posted with us – again he does about 2 services per month, attends (but does not often lead) our Tuesday house-group and does pastoral visits among the church family. He is intending to retire in the Autumn. We have occasional input from the wider partnership in the shape of someone to lead worship and preach perhaps once a month. We are delighted to host Tudor and Clive, Jan, and our lay preachers. We have occasional input from wider afield – Methodist circuit folk and Baptist cluster folk when the rota spreads widely. We use the partnership office as a mail drop (essential for us - we have no other address) and publishing resource. Emerge and Messy – Imo comes regularly.

[ASLM] Rota of service. Admin, Partnership news. Staff team. Shared specialist ministry (childrens' worker perhaps)

[HTS] Office admin, worship rota.

[SMLT] Admin is important, clergy we know.

[T] lean on partnership – support for 'extreme' pastoral issues etc.

- What support would you like to receive from the Partnership in the future

[W] The same. Clive has expressed interest in providing pastoral cover once Dick has gone. This is welcome, and we suppose will take the form of a visit on a Sunday once a quarter or so, and contact with our leadership team, in order to provide pastoral cover to them.

[HTS] Enthusiastic enabling leadership

- If "your" clergy were to become responsible for another church in the partnership, how might that affect your mission

[W] Not relevant to us; we anticipate no impact

[SMLT] Structure in place (and people willing to step up) would be happy for this to occur.

[ASLM] Don't know. Could be made to work. Partnership can be exciting, it can change and evolve.

**Action all.** Lets make space for God to work in this.

## 12. Methodist Circuit Superintendant Minister

- Response to questions  
**Action Chris** to email a suitable draft response for our approval.

## 13. Meeting Arrangements

- Mark proposed moving our regular meeting time to become 7 for prayer, 7:30 for meeting. Approved.
- Worship rota - Tudor will lead us next time.

## 14. Next Meeting

Next Partnership Council 25 July will be at All Saints church at 7 for 7:30!

## 15. Notice

- ISR review readout 10am Sat 13 July at Toothill

All PC to get notes beforehand if possible **Action Chris**