

West Swindon and the Lydiards Church Partnership

Meeting of PC on Thursday 25 July 2013 7:00pm at Toothill Church

Attendees

| | | | | | | | | |
|--------|-------------|------------|------------|----------|-----|-------|---------|----|
| Dick | Gray | WL | Sue | Green | HTS | Tudor | Roberts | AS |
| Chris | Scarisbrick | WL(sec) | Steve | Kershaw | HTS | Jill | Winson | AS |
| Julie | Scarisbrick | WL | Clive | Deverell | SM | David | Tapscot | AS |
| Mark | Dowling | TH (chair) | Jacqueline | Kirwan | SM | Ed | Poole | AS |
| Gerry | Hambridge | TH | Pat | Watson | SM | Mary | Poole | AS |
| | | | | | | Gill | Ganley | AS |
| Brenda | Hicks | Minutes | | | | | | |

1. Prayer

2. Welcome

3. Opening Worship led by Revd Tudor Roberts Tudor read Mark 1:14-20

4. Apologies, Declaration of AOB

Apologies; Mike Watson; Peter Gilder; Tish Vas; Jan Partridge; Janet Clarke
AOB; Clive Deverell

5. Good News

HTS: Baptistry has been used by Community Church and this week by the Polish Church. HTS are pleased with the usage.

WL: End of school year BBQ. Met Jan Murphy. Young people questionnaire feedback was encouraging.

SM: Final junior church party on 14th went well. Healthy food provided. Special needs children did really well. 21 DBS checks in a fortnight set a record.

AS: Also had a BBQ lots of people attended it was well organised and good fun. AS are going ahead with putting a toilet in the boiler house. Lydiard Millicent Primary School, Year 6 had end of term service, a really good service and send off. They really appreciated their bible gifts.

TH: Toothill are excited about exploring the possibility of making an application for lottery funding of a joint venture with the Willows to provide additional church facilities and a counselling service to local residents. The Swindon Food Bank have expressed an interest in using our building, we are looking into the possibilities for that too.

6. Toothill Representation

Church committee meeting accepted Nicola Hoar's resignation and asked for replacement. Nothing forthcoming will investigate possibilities.

7. Financial Matters

Ticking along nicely. Finances are solid, happy to pay Bristol Diocese £6k shortfall now. Mark thanked Sue.
Approved.

8. Approve Minutes

24 June Meeting Minutes
Approved.

9. Matters Arising

Ministry discussion from last meeting raised questions, ISR to report; any outcomes are still ongoing.

Text submitted to Circuit to aid stationing of Circuit Superintendant Minister:

West Swindon and the Lydiards Church partnership consists of 5 local churches, we are mostly ecumenical – each of our churches, to a greater or lesser extent try to reflect Anglican Baptist Methodist and URC traditions. We have a membership of about 300, 2 full time and the part-time services of 2 non-stipendiary clergy.

We would want a Methodist Superintendent Minister to be willing to work across denominations and in particular welcome, encourage and assist non-Methodist ministers to take an active part across the circuit.

Approved.

10. Accept ISR Report

Communication internal; Publicly available on website and copies have been issued.

Communication external; Gone to sponsoring body and to Bishop Lee and S. Stevenette.

Communication to ISR; Not invoiced yet.

Report can be read on <http://wswinlyd.org.uk/council/meetings/2013-07-13-ISR-readout>

J Doble and S Topping are retiring immediately would be nice to feedback whilst they are still there.

Dick to convey our hearty thanks – Agreed.

11. Approve Minutes

Minutes of ISR readout. Record of what happened and a snapshot of the feeling at the time. Requires no action.

Approved.

12. Matters Arising

Consultation and decision making process; Each church is requested to hold extensive discussions and possibly an open meeting to consider each of the 4 scenarios that ISR set out. There needs to be an official count of attendees. To be completed by end of September.

Each church will come back with a set of recommendations to PC meeting on 07 October 7pm at Toothill. Partnership Council will make final recommendations.

Recommendations will be brought to an Extraordinary General Meeting on 24 November 2.30pm at HTS. Any decision would need to be by 2/3 majority. It would be wise to have a third party to chair. Chris will contact Swindon Churches Together Sponsoring Body to invite their representation

Staff Team Cabinet (the so called “DoomBar 5”); With Dick leaving we will not have a Team Leader. A proposal was made for cabinet of 5 people Chris Scarisbrick, Mark Dowling, Clive Deverell, Tudor Roberts and Sue Green to form a small group like a Standing Committee. Concern had been raised about the increased stress and strain on full time ministers. The small group is a way of starting the process to support the clergy. Recommendations and requests will be brought back to the PC. To reduce meetings there was a suggestion that this replace the Standing Committee temporarily.

Clarifications to mis-apprehensions; ISR did not understand all aspects of our Partnership. Chris Scarisbrick set out a 26 point explanation of issues. It is not a policy; it is advice to support the consideration of the ISR proposal. This was proposed to be adopted as a reference document used to support reasoning.

Adopted.

Chris was commended for his dedication.

Thanks to Chris for all his hard work and commitment to the process.

13. Methodist request for meeting

Mark Dowling read out a letter of proposal from David Perkins that a team from the Partnership and a team from the Methodist Circuit meet occasionally.

Proposed teams: Doombur 5 and Circuit Leadership.

Approved.

14. Fraternal contact with Milton Keynes LEP's

Di Miller, Secretary of the visitors group for Milton Keynes Mission Partnership contacted us to discuss how other Partnerships are managed. Chris agreed to meet and talk after Christmas and Clive is interested in visiting them in the New Year. Their website is <http://www.missionpartnership.org.uk/> and the list of churches in the partnership of partnerships...is at <http://www.missionpartnership.org.uk/local-ecumenical-partnerships/>

15. Next Meeting

Monday 23 September 7.30pm at St Mary's Stable room

Devotions – Rev Dick Gray

16. AOB Items and notices

Di Benbow, involved in Chaplaincy and Mothers Union is leaving for Ireland. Chris will write to thank her for her support.

Janet Gray is starting Cross-partnership prayer meeting 8:30 am, Sat 3 August, St Marys Stable Room.

We are concerned that feedback invitations to make personal written responses to ISR were not extensively used. An opportunity missed as discussions could have been more effectively led by questionnaire.

Closing Prayer

Mark Dowling

All Said Grace