

**West Swindon and the Lydiards Church Partnership
Partnership Council Meeting
Monday 23 Sept 2013 at 7:00pm (prayer) 7:30 pm (agenda)
at Holy Trinity Church, Shaw**

1. Prayer (at 7:00)

2. Mark welcomed us (at 7:30)

...and proposed a **Vote of Appreciation from Partnership Council, to Dick Gray** for his work with us, vigorously supported, followed with a round of applause.

3. Opening Worship

Dick read from Romans 8v 18-27

...then challenged us about how much prudence and how much faith are appropriate in leadership. God may take us well outside our comfort zones

4. Attendance. Apologies, Declarations of AOB

- Present:
Janet Clarke, Clive Deverell, Mark Dowling (chair), Gill Ganley, Pete Gilder, Dick Gray, Sue Green, Steve Kershaw, Mary Poole, Tudor Roberts, Chris Scarisbrick (notes), Julie Scarisbrick, Tish Vass, Mike Watson, Pat Watson, Jill Winson.
David Tapscott (observer)
- Apologies received from Jaqueline Kirwan,

Secretary apologised for his confusion about the date (on the agenda)...and the venue for our meeting changed from our original plans for no good reason. Culpa Scriba.

5. Good News - Each church to bring a 1 minute item

HTS greatly blessed having several people stepping up and taking services, preaching.

Westlea very diverse, but very faithful. Two new members. Sadly two friends passed away.

ASLM Weekend away in Wales, Good time and good teaching from Paul Griffiths. A performance of The Inn Crowd is planned for Christmas Eve and early preparation going well

SMLT Heritage weekend was very busy. Very encouraging and lots of interest.

Toothill. David Hoar as agreed to represent Toothil on PC. Mums and tinies want to be involved in an event at Christmas.

6. Approve minutes of PC 25 July 2013

Approved as circulated.

7. Matters arising:

- Letter to Di Benbow was written and given at her retirement
- Words to Methodist Circuit (about our desires for Circuit Superintendent Minister), subsequent discussion. They almost understand us now.
- DoomBar 5 would like to be called “the Executive”
Intend to recommend course of action to this meeting, and progress actions from this meeting
Name and scope were Agreed
- David Perkins, Methodist Circuit communications
Mark has been in contact and we will set up a meeting with our Executive at some point in the new year of 2014
- All Saints washroom
Architect engaged. About half way to the probable cost. Replacement boiler(s), some structural work, drainage is the biggest unknown. DAC due to visit.
 - The DAC visit to see the collapsed wall.
The owner of the manor house next door is helpful and sympathetic, but its ASLM’s wall, and is a specialist job.
Also hoping to get permission to replace the notice board
- Alpha and Christianity Explored update
Alpha starts tonight
Christianity Explored starts shortly.
Paul Griffiths has “Table Talks” which are a bit pre-Alpha. Diocese are looking at this in October. Tudor will probably roll it out here.
- All Saints weekend away – report back
Highlights were a barn dance, a trip out, talent night, swimming races...Good for getting to know one another.

8. To confirm Sharon Bentley Thomas as foundation Governor at LM School

Agreed.

9. Receive notes from Exec meeting 2 Sept 2013

Noted, recommendations below

Action Chris - We will write to the DBE to ask them to take up references BEFORE the DBE meeting, to save some significant delay in appointments. (consult with Clive for background)

10. Recommendations from Exec:

The following are verbatim from the notes above

- DoomBar 5/6 would like to be called “the Executive”
Agreed above
- Propose that we underwrite emerge in 2014 (5-8 grand depending on grant awards)
Budget for Emerge will need us to cover 2000 perhaps 2500. **This was Agreed.**
- Recommend a review of Brenda’s and Claire’s job spec, objectives, performance and salary.

Claire’s review has taken place with Andy Vernon and Clive D. Sue will have a look at the budget. Objectives review will take place

Brenda will have a performance and objectives review and salary review.

Action Clive plus another of Exec. to implement and recommend.

It was suggested that up to 5% might be necessary subject to performance etc and at the discretion of the reviewers. **This was Agreed.**

- Recommend that Clive takes supervision (and kicks off review) for Claire and Brenda
Agreed
- We could perhaps invite Mark Barrett to be involved in the planning meeting on 10 Oct.
(Mark will convene and chair our Extraordinary Members Meeting on Sun 24 Nov.)
Further to the suggestion of the Exec, Chris was in contact with Mark, who cannot make the meeting on 10 Oct, but will be in contact with Chris later that week.

Clive has postponed his Extended study leave till 2015

11. Finances - Budget for 2014, deanery contribution

Sue presented draft budgets for several scenarios. Extensive discussion followed, noting our duty to be faithful and also prudent. We recognised a draft budget is there to be modified if necessary. It was suggested we commit to the deanery that we will pay **72000.in 2014. This was Agreed.**

Council thanked Sue for ably exploring the uncertainties

12. Lay leadership of URC and Methodist Communion services

URC will allow only Nominated people and then only in extreme circumstances.

Methodist will similarly allow only Local Preachers in a particular place for a limited time, and only in extreme circumstances.

Both would really rather not.

Can we ask HTS and Westlea to nominate two people. URC meeting at which those nominations would be discussed is in two weeks. URC would require a days training, Names via PC to Janet Gray

(Action HTS reps, Westlea reps, Chris)

13. Chancel Repair Liability (St Marys)

Chris presented documents, many many documents, all riveting. And maps, large maps.

Areas of investigation and list of evidence attached at Annex1.

Motion:

Partnership Council of West Swindon and the Lydiards Church Partnership has determined that St Marys Lydiard Tregoze has the benefit of a Chancel Repair obligation which is registered on Lydiard House and Park. We believe there is no other land for which such registration is required.

Agreed

14. The Marriage Course

Feedback is good. There will be an article in Partnership News magazine. Clive suggests Christmas service cards have an advert for next year, on the back. Course Re-runs beginning 20 Jan, We hope, at the De Vere Village Hotel.

15. Marriage Preparation course

Will involve the Partnership and St Mary's Purton. Sat 8 Feb morning and Sun 9 Feb afternoon. Will be held at LM School

16. Ridgeway development

This housing development affects the School at LM as developers are planning to build a school. Several hundred houses, means lots of new people. Several people have written to the council objecting to the proposed closure of the "Casa Paolo" Common Platt junction (of B4553 Purton Road with Washpool)

17. Partnership Services

Clive is intending to plan a "Partnership prayer and praise-y thing". From January on Sunday evenings once a month, likely to start at HTS. Clive will see Gayle and Ian Bryon this week

18. Future Plans

The Lydiard Trust has money to spend propagating the gospel in the Church schools locally. Proposed visit of "Oddments Theatre company" to Oliver Tomkins Schools (Mon 10 Feb 2014) and Lydiard Millicent School (Tue 11 Feb) A visit to Messy Church (on Sun Feb 9th) also possible.

All Saints Quiz 11 Oct 2013

Puppets Light party Oct 20th at 5pm in church

- Meeting dates
Mon 7 Oct Partnership Council at Toothill to discuss review and re-organisation matters

Thu 10 Oct Partnership Exec to plan for the EGM

Sun 24 Nov 2013 at 2:30. Extraordinary Members Meeting at HTS

Mon 2 Dec - Partnership Council - to discuss routine business (not review or partnership re-org). **LM School? Tudor will investigate**, HTS if not. Worship will be led by Janet and Mary.

Action Chris will contact Janet Gray and make an Informal approach to SCTSB to investigate possible process and timescales, once our decision is recommended/made.

Sun 29 December 2013. Joint Service is at Toothill.

19. AOB

Brief discussion about whether "the picture" is appropriate. We have to be aware that context is important and grace is necessary.

Alison Morgan from Resource Ministries is visiting on 5 Jan (was it?). Will talk about reconciliation. Further details to come.

Meeting closed with prayer and the Grace at 9:57

Annex 1 – ST Marys Chancel Repair Investigation

The yellow things, I want to investigate further

The green things, I brought along – ask to see them

Parish and PCC records, including papers relating to previous repairs

Most Parish records transferred to Wiltshire and Swindon Archive, Chippenham.

Glebe Terriers for 1607, 1677, 1703 and 4.

1943/4 Patronage transferred to See of Bristol - Bristol Archive EP/A/4/LT/2

Who paid for repairs in the past

Many secondary historical documents describe repairs renovations and rebuilds under the St John family and various rectors.

I've a list of rectors and some curates (a few from 1229, 1304, 1439, and from 1535 to present

Wilson's Imperial Gazette (1870) says "...partly rebuilt in 1683; underwent thorough restoration about 1852"

1683 rebuild is mentioned in Dufty, details yet to be traced

1787 the church was whitewashed on the orders of Archdeacon of Wiltshire

1852 "thorough restoration" still to be detailed

1901 the wall paintings were re-discovered by CE Ponting during refurbishment, after Rev Ebenezer Humphrey Jones arrived. I've seen the mortgage for £450 the Rector took out in 1902 to pay the bill.

1979 faculty claims "there is no lay rector"

Local Knowledge

Monuments in Chancel to be inspected, I need to exclude the Pleydell / Midgehall link from formal responsibility.

IR 104/ Record of Ascertainment, contains liability identified under the Tithe Act 1936

No record to be found at National Archives

Search carried out by Tina Wheeler (LM) on the index IR104/108 confirms Lydiard Tregoze is R/AN Cty. In 1936 Composite County Records showed cessation of liability, so no record was never prepared

Parish Tithe Records

IR 29/38/180 - Tithe apportionment will cost £10 to copy

IR 30/38/180 – Tithe Map "too large to estimate cost to copy"

IR 18/11076 – Tithe file and agreement estimate cost £61 to copy

I need to get up to London!

Examined local county copy of Tithe map (1841) and apportionment. 1839 Rector awarded £603 18/5 rent charge "instead of great and small tithes and instead of all moduses, but

without affecting the rules of first cut..." (from 10a of Brook Mead and whole of Parsons Ham)

£27 rentcharge on glebe also awarded if glebe not in occupation by rector.

1845 Altered Tithe Award reflects land swap of meadow for cut and go

1851 copy of the tithe apportionment as it applies to the Bolingbroke estate lands. Wilts and Swindon Archive 305/14

All Tithes were redeemed by annuities as stated in 1979 letter from Church

Commissioners:

£630 18/5 (awarded 1839), of which

£419 16/10 redeemed by tithe act 1918 and

Cert of T R 1922 Oct 10,

Cert of T R 1922 Oct 19

Cert of T R 1922 Dec 4

More still to find

£211 1/7 redeemed by tithe act 1936

Full evidence of these last redemptions still to be proven.

Glebe land transactions

Glebe Terriers:

1607, a bit impenetrable but mentions Blacklands, Prinneals and Claypiece

1677, reasonably consistent with what we know subsequently, but not all items understood yet...

1703, informative and amusing

1704, New rector, same list, less disputes.

1748 – 1764 Small piece of Glebe (rt next to the house) swapped for Garden or orchard D1/61/1C (41, 45, 155)

1766 Amazing and huge (5ft x 10 ft) map of Bolingbroke lands still working out how to copy it

1812 The Stable Room... "exchange of land adjoining the church, the construction of a gravel walk to the church entrance and stabling for six horses adjoining the churchyard for the use of parishioners attending services, and the making of new roads to and from the church"

1830 map - swap of (old old) Parsonage lands in Lydiard Park to Bolingbroke. Detailed contract at W&SA 305/6 - Land of equal value. Tithe transferred.

(Date not yet determined though 1830 ish) New (new old) rectory built "at the back of Tregoze School"

1839 Glebe valued. All Tithes (except the first crop from Book mead and Parsons Ham) apportioned as rent-charges.

1845 map swap of first crop of hay from Parson Hams and Brook Mead (to Bolingbroke) for Freshbrooks Mead (from Bolingbroke).

1956 Sale of Glebe Farm planned 1949, sold 1956 to tenant (yet to be traced)

27 Nov 1957 Sale of Rectory House to Mr Enderby (details yet to be confirmed)

Diocesan records – holds lists where they accept responsibility

Investigated by Tina Wheeler while looking for LM

Church commissioners – hold lists where they acknowledge an obligation

Investigated by Tina Wheeler while looking for LM.

Enclosure awards

06/08/1979 – letter from Church Commissioners states no corn rents were created under the enclosure acts for Lydiard Tregoze

Archive Searches

National Archives - Downloaded index of all records with 'Lydiard' etc. in the title, which lists tithe redemptions.

Similarly Wiltshire and Swindon Archives, many more to see

Similarly Bristol Archives, more to see

Similarly Gloucester Archives

Similarly London Metropolitan Archives

Many records still to examine

Public records of value of parish

1291 Taxatio Ecclesiastica (Pope Nicholas IV) has £10 -/- (nominal value)

1428 Feudal Aids has Value of £10

1535 Valor Ecclesiasticus (Henry VIII) has £10, 5/4

1780-1831 Land tax assessments for LT glebe show constant value. Tenants of glebe changing occasionally, nothing unexpected.

1829 Ecclesiastical Directory has £10, 5/5 (in the kings books)

1836 Ecclesiastical Directory has £628 + parsonage (actual value)

1839 Tithe Commission awarded £630 18/5

1868 Clerical Directory has £680 + house

1870 Imperial Gazetteer has £628

1955/6 – 1961 Joint Benefice income (over rectors stipend of £675) was diverted to Bristol Diocese (it was usually £200-300)

Constant value (whether nominal or actual indicates no significant loss of glebe). So unlikely to be any land "out there" with residual CRL.

Parish external responsibilities

1291 Taxatio Ecclesiastica (Pope Nicholas IV) has portion to Priory at Ewyas (-Harold nr Hereford) of £1 10/-

1428 Feudal Aids has 30s portion to Ewyas

The payment was converted by Henry VII to an annual pension of £1 – not yet traced

1535 Valor Ecclesiasticus (Henry VIII) has annual pension to Abbot of St Peters Gloucester 20s

1886 10 June that £1 pension (previously paid to Dean and Chapter of Gloucester) was extinguished, transferred to incumbent of LT

Check titles of properties with names such as 'glebe', 'church', 'rectory', 'grange' and 'parsonage'

Various "Parsonage" named fields in Lydiard Park swapped in 1830

Studley Grange (in fact the whole of Midgehall tithing) was always tithe free. 1587 copy of 1229 document produced for a court case.

"Parsons Ham" cut and go hay meadow, swapped for land in 1845, is now Moresby Close in Westlea. Brook Mead became Swindon Lagoons (after the extraction of gravel, and the building of the Cheltenham railway...and the removal of the railway) I think.

I currently think all glebe land was under the control of the Rector until 1955 when the benefices of the 2 parishes were merged. When all income was diverted to Diocese is "Grange Park" a reflection by developers, that the area was glebe in 1839?

Deans and chapters of Oxford etc colleges

None relevant, though still tracking down the details of the Charterhouse lands (eg Mannington)

Income other than glebe land

Income to a Bincknoll chapel is listed in 1291 and occasionally thereafter up until 1580. No chapel has ever been found. Clues may be in field names on tithe map. May be Broad Hinton anyway...

A Lamp and its associated endowment income mentioned in Henry VI survey of 1548

For a lamp out of the coem. ffeelde, 8d.

For a light by Wm. Maskelyn out of the Weste beeche feelde, 6d.

– did not seem to survive the dissolution/separation/Religious Settlement

St John's trust 1645 £10 /year (will proved 1648) rentcharge from land which he had acquired from Edward Pleydell (details of the exact land yet to be traced)

Thamesdown Borough Council persuaded to pay £210 in 90s, now pay £250. I want to get to the bottom of the calculation of this amount – is this ex-gratia (and if so, why?) or possibly based on corn rent rates

Deed of Lydiard House and Park shows chancel repair liability on Swindon Borough Council.

(Still want to get to the bottom of whether there is more responsibility than just the St John legacy)