

Notes from Meeting of WSLCP Exec + AS Leadership Team

LM Vicarage, Thu 10 Oct 2013, at 7:30

1. Welcome and Introductions round the room

Present: Mark Dowling, Clive Deverell, Sue Green, Chris Scarisbrick, Jill Winson, Tudor Roberts, Julian Wright, Sue Jones.

Apologies were received from: David Birch, Gill Ganley, Tina Wheeler

2. Mark Dowling is intending to chair

- There were no objections.

Rev Mark Barrett (Chair Swindon Churches Together) was invited – he cannot make this meeting. Chris spoke to him and formally asked for SCT or SCT Sponsoring Body to provide us with a chair, a convenor or someone to assist with this “agreement” work. That can’t happen until after their meetings on 17th Oct.

3. We opened in prayer

Mark suggested we must look forward, and not back, we must address issues, not personalities.

4. Accountability and Open-ness

This meeting (and any other working groups like it) will be briefly minuted, attendance taken, and every outcome published.

5. Chris offered some opening thoughts which may help put our work into context.

Num 32 and Josh 22 readings – in Annex 2

6. Summary of how we got here , our brief

Resolutions of PC at 7 Oct 2013

- *‘Partnership Council recognises that All Saints Lydiard Millicent wish to leave the Local Ecumenical structure known as West Swindon and the Lydiards Church Partnership, and recommend such a course of action.*
- *Further, that we wish to find an interim practical way to work together with the active support of SCTSB’*
- *Exec will work with All Saints leadership team to try and define the terms of a “work around” agreement. To form a recommendation to this body (PC) or the EGM. The Exec should be free to seek help from anyone else as necessary.*
- *Swindon Churches Together Sponsoring Body should commit to convene or at least assist with that.*
- *Aim for a work around to be in place for 01 January 2014*

This last proposal was a surprise to the leadership Team, as All Saints don’t see themselves as any different until any split becomes legally implemented. Needs further thought and consideration by the Leadership Team.

7. What do we need to agree? – the list

Chris proposed that we write, agree and sign a document called

“A Witness Between Us - That The Lord is God”, referring to Josh 22

and handed out a blank template document for consideration. It contained the following headings, they may not be the final list!

- *Date*
- *Budgets*
- *Financial Control*
- *Decision making – two models*
- *Disposition of Clergy*
- *Occasional Offices*
- *Office*
- *Emerge*
- *Messy Church*
- *All Saints Peoples’ Puppets*
- *Financial settlement*
- *Future Partnership Activities*
- *Pastoral Boundary*

8. How much can we decide now, that may well be agree-able?

Annex 1 has a copy of the template document offered by Chris.

During the meeting we suggested adding the following headings for consideration:

- Membership
- Publicity
- Worship rota
- Breathing space
- Leaving event
- The “other” denominations

In discussions about the future use of volunteers from All saints who wish to support emerge etc, Tudor assured the group that such people would continue to be DBS checked and counted on the list of childrens workers at All Saints. A section called Child Protection seemed appropriate, so Chris added it.

Annex 1 draft incorporates “decisions” made at the meeting, and text proposals by Chris, not yet objected to. It also incorporates some commentary made at the meeting.

Annex 1 is NOT any final document, nor even a firm proposal, just tentative proposals that the group considered worth further consideration.

9. Next steps

ASLM need to discuss the two possibilities – either continue financial involvement or have separate budgets

It was suggested Sue and Tina should get together to discuss the money stuff – this is anticipated to clarify many things.

All Saints reps will have further discussions around the outcomes from this meeting, once the notes are agreed between those present.

10. Anyone else to help

The group were asked to consider who might be useful to our purpose here. Tudor will possibly consult with Lesley Farrell about pastoral re-organisation process or other matters, and suggested arranging such a meeting with Tudor and Clive. Chris requested to be present if Tudor and Clive meet with Lesley. Tudor challenged that he might be free to consult separately. This was a useful clarification, Chris meant that if Tudor AND Clive meet together with any CofE hierarchy – Area Dean, ArchDeacon, Bishop, Registrar, Lesley or Chris Dobson even, etc - to discuss our re-organisation. Tudor agreed to this, subject to scheduling convenience.

11. Next meetings

Of this working group;

Thu 14 Nov - having done all the background stuff. At Vicarage.

Exec – needs to discuss confirmation, Lent etc.

Wed 27 Nov 7:30 at Sues

12. We closed in prayer and thanked Tudor for his hospitality.