

West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership
Minutes of AGM 12th April 2015
Holy Trinity Shaw 10:30am
(Draft 2 of 15-04-13)

AGM conducted in two sessions during, and interspersed with, a joint worship service, conducted by Mark Dowling.

Attendance: 79 adults +10 children

No roll taken, but most adults are presumed to be members

Apologies, not individually listed:5

Welcome – Mark Dowling welcomed those assembled, specifically welcoming Janet Gray our URC Synod Pastoral Advisor (SPA)

Finances:

Sue Green introduced highlights of the partnerships central account
Income

From Churches	67,500
Ministry Fees	19,364
Youth Work	9,507
Office Income	5,588
Other (incl All Saints Baptist Pension)	2,480
TOTAL	104,439

And Outgoings

Diocese of Bristol	25,700
Other Denominations	4,105
Ministry Fees	18,965
Ministerial Expenses	2,805
Salaries – Youth, Admin & Schools	16,569
Office Costs	4,183
Youth Costs	3,921
Pension Costs	2,992
Other	8,818
All Saints Reserve Payment	6,845
TOTAL	94,903

Sue commented that the churches had met their shares and Westlea increased. We had a surplus of £9,536 for the year. Our General Reserves were £48,032, and our Youth Reserves were £3,489 at the end of the year.

We have made a pledge to the Diocese to give £28,000 in 2015, and for 2016 £32,000
Our 2015 Budget has a new schools work item but is otherwise similar to 2014.

Sue presented our consolidated accounts (all 4 churches and the partnership together)

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Voluntary Income	101,340	36,431	137,771
Other Income	27,324	35	27,359
TOTAL INCOME	128,664	36,466	165,130
Our Outgo	106,042	18,589	124,631
All Saints transfer out	72,020	9,003	81,023
TOTAL OUTGO	178,062	30,204	208,266
Surplus	(56,503)	13,367	(43,136)
Funds Bfwd (with All Saints)	143,721	51,025	194,746
Funds Cfwd	87,218	64,392	151,610

and commented that the accounts are more complicated due to All Saints leaving the Partnership. Our part of the funds have increased by around £40k (composed of £18k in unrestricted funds and £22k in restricted - St Mary's building fund)

Sue brandished the checked and approved, signed copy of the accounts. So it must be right.

The full report is available online <http://wswinlyd.org.uk/council/report>

There were no questions and the accounts were adopted with no objection.

We publicly appreciated our inspector, Steve Fraser of Monahan's and re-appointed him for 2015

Report:

Chris Scarisbrick introduced the highlights of the 2014 Annual Report

- 80 DBS checked people working occasionally or regularly with children or the vulnerable.
- Membership is steady perhaps up slightly
- Sunday attendance is steady. Chris admitted we're not sure we account for Messy Church attendance accurately in these figures. We will re-examine and so Sunday attendance is likely to be higher.
- We have 75 emerging young people
- We have Messy contact with 21 families
- We have significant work going on within 6 of our 8 local primary schools, including conducting 17 assemblies and getting in front of 1800 children

All of these are very good things.

On behalf of the outgoing Partnership Council, Chris proposed our areas of particular focus for 2015 should be

- Work on training and enabling of other areas of ministry, especially schools worker training
- Expand our relationship with Bible Society
- Fine tune our working model - PC, Exec and church leadership teams - to further explore and refine our local hubs of mission and ministry.

The full report is online at <http://wswinlyd.org.uk/council/report>

There were a couple of questions. One pointed out that the report (and therefore our activities

in 2014) seemed very focussed towards children and young people, whereas there was little or no mention of the elderly. Chris admitted this was true, and that our mission activities have been directed firstly at children and youth, but that we were looking and providing local services for the elderly and looking at ways to bring the good news to such communities. Watch this space.

One pointed out that this strategy was acceptable as the young people are the church of tomorrow (or today)

The report was approved with no objection.

Policies:

Chris Scarisbrick read out some extracts from the partnership safeguarding policies.

The Partnership commits itself to the nurture and safeguarding of all, especially children and young people, and their spiritual and social development in a safe and secure environment

The protection of the vulnerable is the responsibility of every church member.

There were no questions. The safeguarding policies were re-adopted with no objections.

Matters Arising from AGM 2013 (held 23 March 2014)

1. In 2014 we voted on the application to set up the DCC scheme separating All Saints Lydiard Millicent from the partnership, but within the parish. This came into effect on 1 May 2014. It was intended to be an interim arrangement and will be reviewed later this year, in a low impact way. We anticipate a single recommendation on a permanent solution being available by January 2016.

Chris explained that during the review process our position was that

- We want West Swindon intact and complete.
- We want to remain as a partnership of 4 churches
- We want to remain ecumenical

This position was warmly and unanimously supported.

2. In 2014 we appointed a finances arbiter, David Froude. He reported in September 2014. The decision was to split the disputed portion of the reserves according to a previously agreed formula. We paid All Saints Lydiard Millicent £6845 as their portion of the reserves.
3. Our debt to the Baptist pension scheme is still unresolved. We had hoped to hear by this Easter past.
4. Last year we had renamed ourselves before the AGM. The Charity Commission have now renamed our charity accordingly. We need to edit our constitution in a few places to reflect this. Chris had previously made available the changes, which several admitted to checking. There were no objections The constitution changes were agreed unanimously.

There was one question about the altered charity registration. Chris clarified that this was a simple rename of the registration and that the registration number had not changed.

Appointments

We elected (or recognised) the following as members of our Partnership Council

- Clive Deverell (ex-officio)
- Brenda Hicks (ex-officio)
- Methodist Circuit Steward (ex-officio)
- Janet Clarke, Sue Green, Steve Kershaw
- Pat Watson, Jacqueline Kirwan
- Jan Partridge, David Hoar, Mark Dowling
- Mike Dilly, Pete Gilder, Chris Scarisbrick

- Mary Poole
- Claire Camm
- Gayle Bryon

There were no questions or objections. Agreed unanimously.

We nominated the following as safeguarding officers for the partnership

- Julie and Chris Scarisbrick

There were no questions or objections. Agreed unanimously.

We nominated or recognised the following as our representatives at the various denominational fora:

- Baptist WEBA – Mike Dilly
- CofE Swindon Deanery Synod – Mary Poole
- Methodist Upper Thames Circuit – Jan Partridge
- URC South Western Synod – David Hoar

There were no questions or objections. Agreed unanimously.

We approved the nominations of

- Pat Watson and
- Jacqueline Kirwan

as Churchwardens at St Marys.

We noted HTS has a vacancy for a churchwarden

There were no questions or objections. Agreed unanimously.

We nominated to be elected to PCC:

- Clive Deverell (ex-officio)
- Mary Poole (ex-officio)
- Pat Watson (ex-officio)
- Jacqueline Kirwan (ex-officio)
- Sue Green
- Mark Dowling
- Chris Scarisbrick

There were no questions or objections. Agreed unanimously.

To read Banns at St Marys, we nominated:

Pat Watson, Jacqueline Kirwan, Ron Brock and Tish Vass

There were no questions or objections. Agreed unanimously.

To assist at Anglican Communion we nominated:

- Ian Bryon, Mark Taylor, Steve Kershaw, Sue Green
- Pat Watson, Jacqueline Kirwan, Ron Brock, Tish Vass, Ann Fisher, Hilary Gardner, Paul Gardner, Claire Camm, Ed Poole, Mary Poole, Janet Cooper-Tydemann
- Gordon Partridge, Jan Partridge, David Hoar, Rachel Dowling, Mark Dowling
- Andy Vernon, Pam Ray, Sarah Wilmott, Chris Scarisbrick, Pete Gilder, Julie Scarisbrick

There were no questions or objections. Agreed unanimously.

We recognised Mary Poole representing us on Deanery Synod.

We noted Ed Poole also serves on Denary Synod, but does not specifically represent us.

Commissioning of Ministers

At the request of Partnership Council, Rev Capt Clive Deverell commissioned the following ministers for our partnership:

- Rev Jan Partridge, a Methodist Supernumerary with partnership responsibility for pastoral ministry training
- Gordon Partridge, a Methodist Local Preacher
- Rachel Dowling, a Methodist Local Preacher
- Mark Dowling, a Methodist Local Preacher
- Rev Mike Dilly, a locally appointed Congregational Minister
- David Hoar, a URC Lay Preacher
- Claire Camm, as Youth Work Manager
- Gayle Bryon, as Primary Schools Worker

We thanked Clive for his service by a round of applause.

Date of next AGM is provisionally set for Sun 10 April 2016. (2 weeks after Easter)