

West Swindon and the Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership Meeting of PC on Monday 03 July 2017 7:00pm at Toothill Church

Attendees

Mark	Dowling	TH (chair)	Mary	Poole	Deanery Synod
David	Hoar	TH	Andrew	Fleet	Senior Steward Upper Thames Circuit
Richard	Williams	WL	Claire	Camm	Emerge
Clive	Deverell	SMLT	Gayle	Bryon	Primary Age Schools Worker
Trevor	Day	SMLT	Dan	Jones	Visiting
Jacqueline	Kirwan	SMLT			
Sue	Green	HTS			
Steve	Kershaw	HTS			
Janet	Clarke	HTS	Brenda	Hicks	Minutes

7.00pm Prayer

7.30pm Welcome, Apologies (Mark)

Apologies: C Scarisbrick (Working in Sweden); Jan Partridge; Wendy Deverell; Keith Osborn; Gerald England; Pete Gilder

1. Short Devotions

Janet Clarke read from Eddie Askew book 'A little book of Easter thoughts'. Passage based on Matthew 16 v 24.

Mark led in opening prayer

2. Request AOB items, Approve Agenda

Communion; Parish Share

Agenda approved

3. Growing together, Looking forward.

• 2 Minute updates from each group

HTS: Had 2 Baptisms Joshua Lee Dukes and Carly Amber Smart. Carly is 9 years old and made her own decision to be Baptised.

WL: Hearing loop installed, thank you to Partnership for part funding. A regular attendee has been hospitalised and has come back since, tremendous pastoral care from the church. Litter picking group recognised by new parish council. Huge support from Councillor Suresh.

SMLT: Strawberry Teas were quite successful, the weather was good. There was good fellowship and music as well. There will be heritage work during 2018.

TH: Toothill Tinies had a day out; a full coach went to Weston-Super-Mare. There is a new Church sign at the front and a new one on the side shortly.

• Youthwork report

Summer show was well attended and proved to be a positive experience developing skills. Show raised £200 for guide dogs.

- **Messy Church**

Some families have returned after a gap of sometime and this shows the value of keeping in touch.

- **Schools work**

Prayer workshop at St Mary's.

- **Veg Patch Feedback**

Veg Patch Report

- Due to the availability of worship leaders during half term it was proposed that 22nd October would be a Partnership service at Toothill led by Trevor Day. **Approved**
- It was suggested that perhaps over the autumn/winter months we could take advantage of being indoors at Shaw, and use the last Sundays as a worship session followed by teaching/study on a pre-defined programme. **Approved**
- The need for a quiet meditative style Partnership worship session with a time to listen and make space for God was also discussed. After some discussion it was agreed that at 7pm on a Sunday evening would be a suitable time on the third Sunday of the month. **Approved**
- It was decided that we would follow a theme for the first four weeks of October and Mark Taylor would further develop material on the theme of 'The Kingdom of God'. **Approved**
- It was proposed that in 2018 we could have a cross campaign where we make and erect crosses in our front gardens as a witness at Easter. **Approved**
- The proposed Partnership AGM date is 29th April 2018 at Toothill. **Chris to communicate with ASLM to meet with them same day or next day.**
- After some discussion it was decided that it was best for Westlea to just host the Pentecost morning service following the Thy Kingdom Come theme and a larger prayer event would take place somewhere around St Mary's/Lydiard Park. **Approved**
- All churches need to have details of their Christmas service arrangement for the next Veg **Approved**

Next Veg Patch meeting on 14th September..

4. **Youthwork Review (Dan Jones)**

- **Exec Propose we receive report with comment from Dan**

PC thanked Dan for work done on the professional report. Printed copies of the report were handed out. A broad discussion about All Age services and timings of whether there should be one every month in the same church. The All Age Worship Survey was only returned by one church.

- **General conversation**

The churches need to decide if they are to be one partnership. Until this is clear it will be difficult to move forward with Dan's report.

Dan recognised the value of Claire and Gayle and all that they do. Existing and potential volunteer workers need a vision so people know what they are signing up for. All 4 churches should buy into this. How volunteers are valued and supported by their peers and the 'powers-that be', impacts on the dedication and quality of the service they provide.

Ownership: SWOT analysis is a good task to do with membership around the Partnership. Dan's Youth Children Families review will be taken back to the church leadership teams and members and bring back to PC for discussion.

- **Reflection/consultation at churches and groups – review/conclude at September PC**
Council will reflect based on the outcomes of the church discussions between the leadership teams and members.
There was concern that the time taken has not given the discussion justice and may have to split it down to separate meetings giving priority to Schools work and Youth work
 - **Exec propose to extend Claire’s current terms until December. Agreed**
 - **Quarterly gathering (Gayle), to be considered as part of review**
Gayle will be setting up gatherings 4 times a year inviting everyone and anyone to pray, create and be imaginative together a week or two before veg patch meetings. **Agreed**
5. **Approve Minutes of PC 18 May 2017**
- **Matters arising**
None
Approved
6. **Accept Notes from Exec 05 June 2017**
- **Matters arising**
 - We sent the Advent 2018 request to All Saints. They will consider in due course. No action.**Approved**
7. **Local Issues**
- **Sustainability – Plans for growth – feedback from churches**
WL not discussed yet.
TH Questionnaire has gone out as part of the focus moving forward.
SM Changes to weddings; hotels are now offering complete packages and not just receptions. Wedding numbers have fallen considerably. SM may have to close for 9 months in 2018, have to make a big decision about worship or recommend to go to other fellowships.
 - **Mission strategy - an HTS proposal (Steve)**
After our last joint committee / WEG meeting there was a general feeling that as a Partnership we need greater clarity around “What does it mean to be Church today, how do we serve our community and what is our mission. Shaw is of the opinion that the only way to find the answer to these questions is to consult with those in our community—and that this needs to be funded as a priority by the PC. We believe that we could find appropriate people from within the Partnership to do this—but this must be a paid service—and be a priority for us.
The proposal is “That the PC fund a consulting exercise of those in the community of the Partnership (and not any one Church) to the question of what does it mean to be Church, how should the Church serve its community and how do the answers to these questions affect our mission as one Church”
Could mean sacrifice and possibly further changes. A survey of the communities of all 4 churches could be done at a cost of £1500 to give us focus and bring us together with one vision. SM has already done a survey in July. Have to think there are 4 different contexts and it may cost more. Don’t think one set of questions will tell what the community needs. Demographics are so different. This group is to prioritise and join in what is already going on. There is a strong message to understand what the vision is. Decide if it is 1 church or 4 before addressing other issues. The decision on this proposal will be deferred to a later date.
 - **Foundation Governor (OT) vacancies**

Really short still in need of governors. Rahal is now doubling up on Committees and along with Clive and 3 teachers are all they have. Need another 2 foundation governors.

- **Publication of housegroup details**

Just HTS has been published. Other churches to get details to Brenda to publicise with permission for contact details to be published.

- **Youth Housegroup assistance**

WL are aware of previous issues, are monitoring and still meeting. Will come back to PC.

- **Automatic Public Defibrillator (APD) (at Westlea School)**

WL were approached for helping with APD for public use. SM has one at the house. HTS are considering having one, will discuss with Shaw residents association. TH are willing to contribute. **Approved**

- **Bible Month impressions and review**

On Veg Patch agenda. General comments to Clive.

8. Not such local issues

- **Katikama Sebamale School update**

Since the death of the headmaster things are slowly progressing into doing the things we asked for, they appreciate our support.

9. Finances

- **Stewardship Campaign**

The campaign has worked, £4,000 extra per year.

Parish Share; we will pay £50k and that's all.

SM is entering conversation with the diocese about antique silver which is normally kept in the bank; it will be removed and kept temporarily at HTS. TH received a legacy of £25k which will be spent on roof insulation, rewiring and possibly an extension.

10. Denominational Issues

- **CofE - New Acting Area Dean.**

Clive's period may be extended to Dec 2018.

- **CofE parish boundary –**

Parish Boundary passed to Church commissioners

11. Safeguarding

Chris will be back at next PC

12. AOB

Communion

URC time is running out. Names to be put forward Ian; Mark; Pam; Sarah and David. Need to be done early for October consideration.

Jim Eddings was leader of the Gospel Choir.

There will be a Thanksgiving at Christ the Servant Abbey Meads on 13 October at St Joseph's school. Paul Field will be headlining along with church performers and gospel choir. Also Children's ministry group are to sing. Tickets will be available

13. Next meetings and other dates

- **PE Thurs 27 July**

- **PC Thurs 21 September**

- **Sat 21 Oct – Holy Habits launch meeting**

14. Close

Meeting adjourned at 10.30pm all said Grace