

(draft2) Minutes of
Partnership AGM (P-AGM)

At Toothill Church. Thu 4 April 2019, 7:30pm

Attendance: 21

Rev Teresa Townsend, (and representing Holy Trinity Shaw) Janet Clarke, Sue Green, Rebecca Kershaw, Steve Kershaw (chair), (and representing St Marys LT) Wendy Deverell, Jacqueline Kirwan, Lynwen Morgan, Ed Poole, Mary Poole, (and representing Toothill) Sarah Battershell, Mark Dowling, Rachel Dowling, David Hoar, Nicola Hoar, Ed Koppoe (and representing Westlea) Pete Gilder, Moya Pinson, Pam Ray, Chris Scarisbrick, Julie Scarisbrick.

Apologies received from 7, not separately recorded here

1. Welcome

Steve Kershaw welcomed everyone to Toothill church and reminded everyone to sign the attendance sheets and record any apologies for absence.

2. Prayer activity

Rev Teresa Townsend led a Celtic evening liturgy including a reading from Acts 2 42-47 describing the behaviour of the early church, and the guiding passage for our Holy Habits initiative.

3. Partnership Annual Report for 2018

Most people having had a copy for review for a week or so, Steve presented the edited highlights

We have 92 people working with children (a large increase). Some still need training or DBS check. Membership up slightly. Sunday attendance down slightly

We held 24 Joint services, some monthly, we will be holding fewer of these events in 2019.

We struggle to find enough volunteers to help with some of our activities. And we are challenged by financial pressures

Steve and Chris Scarisbrick then reported on our areas of particular focus in 2018.

- Churches continue to work through questions on strategy

Church leadership teams have all met together several times. And may need to meet one or two more times to finish this off.

Some people suggested these meetings are extremely helpful, encouraging and useful. We would encourage anyone to join with us.

- Increase local emphasis to our relationships with schools

Some examples picked out include the First World War Armistice commemorations. Open the Book initiative gaining momentum. Primary-secondary transition support.

- Deepen our link with Katikama Sebamale Primary School

We have re-begun our contact with the School, now they have new leadership. We received a very encouraging newsletter showing what they had achieved with our first donation. A Diocesan visit was planned for 2019. Sue Green reported that following this visit we now have appropriate bank account information, so future donations can be much easier, better controlled and accountable.

- Increase discipleship in our congregations - engage with the Holy Habits initiative

Engaging with HH certainly occurring. Discipleship take a little longer to discern, we intend to keep some focus here.

The Areas of focus for 2019, proposed in our report

- Publish an agreed vision for our mission here, generate a strategy that aims at that goal. Look for actions resulting from these discussions.
- Stabilise our long-term finances
- By engaging with the Holy Habits initiative, increase discipleship in our congregations.

Were agreed with no objection

Motion: That the Partnership Annual Report be accepted

Agreed with no objections

4. Matters arising from minutes of our P-AGM (for 2017) held 29 Apr 2018
(Minutes were agreed as accurate record at PC 9 May 2018)

Bank account name has changed, everything else seems to be in progress or done. No other matters arose

5. Presentation of Partnership Central Account for 2018

Sue explained where the money actually goes.

Plans changed during the year (2018) and our reserves disappeared much faster than we'd planned.

6. Presentation of Consolidated Partnership Accounts for 2018

Motion: That the Partnership Central, and Consolidated Accounts be accepted

Agreed with no objections

Motion: A vote of Thanks for our accounts inspectors Steve Fraser (and Heather Weeks) at MHA Monahan's

Agreed with no objections

Motion to appoint Steve Fraser at MHA Monahan's as inspectors for 2019 accounts.

Agreed with no objections

7. Budget

Sue presented the budget for 2019 and a quick summary of our income/expenditure issues, proposed solutions, what we might change, and how we plan to sustain our work.

Following generous increases from churches, admin hours reduction, Methodist reduction, Youth work grant we are currently forecasting just over £6k deficit which will leave us with reserves of £37k (St Mary's building fund having £30k of it).

We will still need to pay the Anglicans £7k for this year's pledge when we get the loan money back and possibly some to the Methodists.

We are working on getting the 2020 budget to be a balanced one.

We will be doing a Schools Work gift day in September – this going to a fund reserved for work with Primary, Secondary & Katikama.

We are currently applying for grants for Schools work

8. Break for Tea and discussions

9. Plenary discussion of Finance plans

What is the future in terms of CofE share?

We intend to pay just 48 instead of 55 this year, with the intention of paying more if we can.

We will not again set a deficit budget. (Apart from currently unforeseen special circumstances)

We will build up our reserves slowly.

Will there be regular updates and monitoring at PC meetings on expenditure. Sue will send Julie Scarisbrick and Gordon Partridge (treasurers at Westlea and Toothill) the planned expenditure and run rate projections when they are prepared for Exec of PC meetings.

The manse rental income is going into the URC pot, (its their manse) and is reserved for manse repairs. We intend to sell the manse shortly.

We offered thanks to Sue for the hard work and clear explanation, in the manner of a round of applause.

10. Renew our commitment to our policies

Steve presented the summary sentences of our policies, pointing people to the full versions (or draft versions) on our web site <http://WSwinLyd.org.uk/council/policy>

Accessibility (last changed Nov 2003, really needs an update!)

We believe that all people should have an equal opportunity to experience the love of God, to grow spiritually, and to participate in worship and share fully in the life of the Church.

Domestic Abuse (last changed 2 July 2018)

All forms of domestic abuse are wrong and must stop. We are committed to promoting and supporting environments which:

- ensure that all people feel welcomed, respected and safe from abuse;
- protect those vulnerable to domestic abuse from actual or potential harm;

Health and Safety (last changed 23 Jul 2008)

We will:

- provide adequate control of the health and safety risks arising from our activities;
- consult with our employees, members, volunteers and visitors, on matters affecting their health and safety;

Privacy (last changed 5 Feb 2018)

We will collect personal information only as necessary. We will store such information securely. We will use such information only for the purposes for which it was given.

Safeguarding (Safe to Grow) (last changed 19 Nov 2018, procedures are being updated.

Unified policy now also includes adults at risk)

This church is committed to the safeguarding of children and adults at risk, and to ensuring their well-being.

- We believe that all children and adults at risk should know that they are valued within the church and safely enjoy and have access to every aspect of the life of our place of worship.
- We recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, emotional abuse and neglect of children under 18 years of age.
- We recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, psychological, emotional, financial, discriminatory abuse and neglect of adults at risk.

Motion: That we re-affirm our Accessibility, Domestic Abuse, Health and Safety, Privacy, and Safeguarding policies.

All agreed as displayed, with no objections

Elections:

11. To Partnership Council

From Holy Trinity

Janet Clarke, Sue Green, Steve Kershaw

From St Marys

Wendy Deverell, Jacqueline Kirwan, Pat Watson

From Toothill

David Hoar

From Westlea

Peter Gilder, Chris Scarisbrick, Pam Ray

Ex officio, usually co-opted, or honoured friends

Gayle Bryon, Claire Camm, Rev Trevor Day, Rev Clive Deverell, Rev

Gerald England, Andrew Fleet, Rev David Perkins, Ed Poole, Mary

Poole, Rev Rachael Wilson

12. Partnership posts

Sue Green assented to the suggestion and was duly elected, as Treasurer, again.

With no objections

Chris Scarisbrick assented to the suggestion and was duly elected, as Safeguarding Officer, again. With no objections

13. Denomination Points of Contact (reps)

We recognised, with thanks, our reps to denominational bodies

West of England Baptist Assoc - Janet Clarke

CofE Swindon Deanery Synod - Mary Poole (plus Rev Capt. Clive Deverell, Rev Trevor Day and Rev Teresa Townsend)

Methodist Upper Thames Circuit - Ian Bryon (plus Rev Clive Deverell and Rev Rachael Wilson)

URC South Western Synod - David Hoar (plus Rev Clive Deverell)

14. CofE specific posts

Churchwardens

At HTS - Sue Green, Steve Kershaw

At St Marys - Pat Watson, Jacqueline Kirwan

At St Marys AGM it was agreed that the term of office could go beyond the 7year rule for this post, therefore Pat Watson reapplied and was accepted, along with Jacqueline Kirwan, both unanimously accepted

Assist at CofE communion

At HTS – Gayle Bryon, Ian Bryon, Steve Kershaw, Mark Taylor, Sue Green,

At St Marys - Janet Cooper-Tydeaman, Hazel Davis, Wendy Deverell, Ann Fisher, Hilary Gardner, Paul Gardner, Doreen Henderson, Jacqueline Kirwan, Ed Poole, Mary Poole, Pat Watson

At Toothill - Mark Dowling, Rachel Dowling, David Hoar, Nicola Hoar, Rev Jan Partridge

At Westlea - Pete Gilder, Pam Ray, Chris Scarisbrick, Julie Scarisbrick, Andy Vernon, Richard Williams

Read banns

Banns not read at HTS

At St Marys -Hazel Davis, Wendy Deverell, Doreen Henderson, Jacqueline Kirwan, Tish Vass, Pat Watson.

15. Dates and notices

24 Hours of prayer Sat 27 April to Sun 28 April

Exec Wed 1 May

PC Mon 13 May 2019 7:30 (possibly at Toothill)

Teresa's priesting (in Bristol) Sat 29 June:

Coach from Ellendue at 2pm cost about £10. Contact Teresa.

Teresa's first communion presidency Sun 30 June 2pm at St Mary's

16. Close in prayer

David Hoar closed in prayer

Meeting closed at 9:10pm