

West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership

Partnership AGM (P-AGM)

and CofE Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

By Zoom and telephone Thu 18 March 2021, 7:30pm

1. Welcome (Steve Kershaw)

Papers for the meeting were available in advance, online at <https://wswinlyd.org.uk/council/report/>

Attendance:

Chris Scarisbrick, Ed Poole, Mary Poole, Steve Kershaw, Wendy Dukes, Rev Clive Deverell, Mike Black, Lyn Morgan, David Perkins, Pam Ray, Julie Scarisbrick, Rev Trevor Day, Pat Watson, Sue Green, Pete Gilder, Christine Rogers, Pete Rogers, Jacqueline Kirwan, Mark Dowling, Rachel Dowling, Janet Clarke, Angela Mak, David Hoar, Nicki Hoar

Apologies:

Lis Arnold, Andy Bissex, Pauline Bowler, Hazel Davies, Vanessa Parfitt, Sarah Pritchard, Connie Roach, Paula Roach, Rev Teresa Townsend, Ian Whitworth, Mavis McLaughlin, Freda Spencer

2. Presentation of Partnership Annual Report for 2020 (Steve)

- Highlights

We've still circulated and held services on paper, online, thanks to a great number of people. We handed over the primary schools' work from Gayle's leadership to Heather. Thanks to them both and the local teams. Claire has continued with the youthwork as an unpaid volunteer, running online sessions, many thanks to her.

- Questions

The areas of focus seem a bit abstract with not much focus on mission and growth.

Growth comes from our communities and we need to stabilise and rebuild those communities. There have been areas of spiritual growth even during shutdown. Prayer has been a major feature of our online virtual life. We need to find ways to continue this translated into in-person worship. Mission needs to be a local priority once everything re-starts. Local churches approaches will vary. The occasional offices will give opportunities when they re-start. We also have personal challenges to witness.

It was suggested that we include Messy Church in our Autumn review –
Action Chris will update the annual report

Motion: That the Partnership Annual Report be accepted
Accepted in its modified form. None against.

3. Matters arising from minutes of our P-AGM (for 2019) finally held 13 Oct 2020 (Chris)

(Minutes were agreed by Exec on 4 Nov 2020) so just anything still arising...

Conservation work at St Marys still somewhat delayed as stated in our annual report

One of our goals for 2019

Publish an agreed vision for our mission here, generate a strategy that aims at that goal. Look for actions resulting from these discussions.

Was held over to 2020 and not yet actioned. Essentially our youth and children's work, A review of which is incorporated into our 2021 goals

The Methodist plan to withdraw from partnership here, is delayed if not derailed.

Revd Dr Callan Slipper (Church of England) of CTE, is the person overseeing SCLEP review nationally.

The backlog of Safeguarding paperwork is reduced but not yet gone. Delayed due to covid primarily.

4. Presentation of Partnership Central Account for 2020 (Sue)

Motion: That the Partnership Central Accounts be accepted

Agreed. None against

5. Presentation of Consolidated Partnership Accounts for 2020 (Sue)

- Questions

The meeting thanked Sue for her years of service

Motion: That the Partnership Consolidated Accounts be accepted

Agreed. None against

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

Agreed. None against

Motion to appoint Steve Fraser at MHA Monahan's as inspectors for 2021 accounts.

Agreed. None against

6. Budget (Sue)

Budget as previously presented was agreed, none against. The speculative 2022 budget may need to be revisited during 2021, with the wedding rules changes

7. Areas of focus for 2021

- Ensure our Trustees and leadership have training and knowledge to lead us.
- Emerge from COVID-19 lockdowns with intact communities and stable finances
- Find areas where we choose to work together, given the possibility that in future there may be no formal LEP here.
- In the Autumn, reflect on (our Messy Church), youthwork and work with Schools, and those involved.
- To rebuild respect for those called to serve with our Churches and the denominations within the partnership.

Messy Church review added at meeting.

Question about how the handover from Gayle to local teams is working and how Heather links into Partnership Council. Also for Claire, now a volunteer, how will she link into Partnership Council?

Action Chris will contact Claire (and Micon) to see if and how the responsibility link is working, and how Heather and Claire wish it to work.

8. Renew our commitment to our policies

(Summaries here) full texts at <https://WSwinLyd.org.uk/council/policy>

Accessibility (last changed Nov 2003)

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;

A brief discussion about recent Covid-driven risk assessments and the impact these may have on health and safety policy. The risk assessments will need to be dealt with when buildings re-open. Though this situation was unprecedented (!) the policy could be updated with a suitable template and guidelines.

It was suggested that the Exec could review a policy each meeting.

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)

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.

Agreed. None against. All re-affirmed.

9. Elections to Partnership Council

From HTS: Janet Clarke, Angela Mak, Wendy Dukes

From St Marys: Pat Watson (ex off), Jacqueline Kirwan (ex off),

From Toothill: Mark Dowling

From Westlea: Peter Gilder, Pam Ray, Chris Scarisbrick

Ex-officio, likely to be co-opted or honoured friends: Micon Alojado or Heather Benn, Claire Camm, Rev Trevor Day, Rev Clive Deverell, Rev Gerald England, Andrew Fleet, Rev David Perkins, Ed Poole, Mary Poole, Rev Teresa Townsend
Rev Rachael Wilson

All Agreed.

As mentioned above Chris will follow up with Heather, Claire and Micon to see how they wish to be represented at PC. The meeting agreed they would all be welcome to be co-opted as they wish

10. Partnership posts – Treasurer, Safeguarding lead

Treasurer: Pam Ray

Safeguarding lead: Chris and Julie Scarisbrick

With Steve's resignation we now need a new Chair of PC: Please consider carefully for our 20 April PC meeting

Appointments Agreed. None against

Meeting thanked Steve for his work.

11. Denomination Points of Contact (notification of reps)

West of England Baptist Assoc: Janet Clarke

CofE Swindon Deanery Synod: Angela Mak

Methodist Upper Thames Circuit: Mark Dowling

URC South Western Synod: David Hoar

All Agreed. With our thanks

12. CofE specific posts

Churchwardens

At HTS: Wendy Dukes

At St Marys: Pat Watson, Jacqueline Kirwan

Those authorised to assist at CofE communion

At HTS: Wendy Dukes, Steve Kershaw, Angela Mak, Mark Taylor

At St Marys: Janet Cooper-Tydeman, Wendy Deverell, Ann Fisher, Hilary Gardner, Paul Gardner, Doreen Henderson, Jacqueline Kirwan, Ed Poole, Mary Poole, Pat Watson, Pauline Bowler (To be Confirmed: some may wish to step down. **Action Pat and Jacqueline** to ask. These notes to be updated if necessary)

At Toothill (TBC): Mark Dowling, Rachel Dowling, David Hoar, Nicola Hoar

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

Read banns

At St Marys: CofE clergy (inc. Lis Arnold) + Pauline Bowler, Wendy Deverell, Jacqueline Kirwan, Pat Watson

All Agreed.

13. Announcements

Hazel Davies has been posted to Burton as curate.

Angela has taken on helping to train LLMs for the Diocese.

14. Close in prayer (Steve) at 8:50pm

15. Meeting Dates

Partnership Council (likely Zoom!) Tue 20 April