

# West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership

## Minutes of Partnership AGM (P-AGM)

and CofE Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

at Holy Trinity Church, Shaw. Mon 25 April 2022, 7:30pm

Present (15): Rev Trevor Day (all), Rev Clive Deverell (all, Chair), Wendy Dukes (HT), Pete Gilder (W), Jacqueline Kirwan (SM), Angela Mak (HT), Ed Poole (SM), Mary Poole (SM), Pam Ray (W), Christine Rogers (W), Pete Rogers (HT), Peter Roslyk (SM), Chris Scarisbrick (W), Rev Mark Tidey (all), Pat Watson (SM)

Apologies for Absence: Rev Lis Arnold (SM), Wendy Deverell (SM), Julie Scarisbrick (W), Rev Rachael Wilson (T)

### 1. Welcome

Rev Clive Deverell, in the chair, welcomed all comers, pointing out the attendance sheet being passed round for the recording of attendance and apologies for absence.

Advance papers for the meeting were available online at <https://wswinlyd.org.uk/council/report/>, which was fortunate as the Secretary, Chris Scarisbrick had not managed to print more than a few paper copies of the agenda and accounts. The annual report had been available for a week or two, though a few small changes had been made recently.

### Looking Back to 2021

The meeting noted the minutes of last year's P-AGM (for the year 2020) were agreed as accurate at a PC Meeting held over Zoom on 20 April 2021. Available at <https://wswinlyd.org.uk/council/report/>. We did not need to approve them at this meeting.

The meeting noted the annual report for 2020, agreed at last year's P-AGM, was factually amended, then agreed by PC at the meeting of 17 June 2021. The updated report is published at <https://wswinlyd.org.uk/council/report/>

### 2. Annual Report

Chris Scarisbrick presented the Partnership Annual Report for 2021, on screen as paper copies were not available. Aspects highlighted included the increased membership numbers, almost a miracle considering Covid-related lockdowns, and the trend of reducing children attending worship on Sundays. The reasons for this decline are undoubtedly connected with Covid-related lockdowns but we had been trying to provide for childrens and families worship at home. Its not immediately evident what other factors are at play. We intend to examine the demand and provision for children on Sundays and at other times, during this next year.

It was pointed out that when discussing safeguarding (on page 9) the phrase "working with children" might be better phrased as "available to work with

## West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership

children...” As many were not currently working, but were available if so needed. The report will be amended. **Action Chris Scarisbrick**

Though the report claimed (page 13) to include numbers attending Messy Church, it was not clear that numbers had been counted accurately. The tally seemed only to include entries in the church buildings registers. The Messy Church team took the action to collate their attendance records for 2021 and check which if any had been registered already. A report update may be needed. **Action Messy Church Team, Chris Scarisbrick**

Chris Scarisbrick pointed out that the report draft presented to the meeting needed an update to include an authorising signature, requested earlier that day by the accounts inspectors. **Action Chris Scarisbrick**

Chris thanked contributors and especially Pete Gilder for ably compiling and editing the report in his absence.

There were no further questions

**Motion:** That the Partnership Annual Report be amended as indicated and accepted.  
Passed with no objections

### 3. Partnership Central Account for 2021

Pam Ray presented the statement of financial activities for the Partnership's central bank account.

There was a query about repayment of the loan to the Conservation Project. The statement showed only £5,000 repaid during 2021, the correct figure was £10,000. It was quickly investigated and the discrepancy found (the other payment had been marked as Other income. The account will be re-stated.

**Action Pam Ray**

There was a question about our denominational “subscriptions”, apart from the CofE and the Methodist contributions (which denominations have provided stipendiary ministry to the partnership) we pay a “minimum subscription” to keep membership of the Baptist Church and the URC.

Motion: That the Partnership Central Accounts be accepted, was not brought. This will be brought at the next Partnership Council meeting

### 4. Consolidated Partnership Accounts for 2021

The consolidated accounts were not presented in full, as the discrepancy above needs to work through the figure. We believe there will be no change to the consolidated figures, but the accounts inspectors will need to check updated figures before they can sign off the accounts again. **Action Chris Scarisbrick**

# West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership

There were no further questions

Motion: That the Partnership Consolidated Accounts be accepted was not put. It will be brought to the next PC meeting.

**Motion:** A Vote of Thanks for our accounts' inspectors Steve Fraser (and especially Heather Weeks) at Monahan's.

Passed unanimously

**Motion** to appoint James Gare at Monahan's as inspectors for 2020 accounts.

Passed with no objections

## 5. Prayer

Rev Trevor Day led the meeting in a prayer of thanks for the activities and achievements of 2021

## Looking Forward to the rest of 2022

## 6. Budget

Though our budget for 2022 was agreed at PC in the autumn last year, the meeting reviewed it on screen.

The meeting noted Toothill's reduced financial contribution to the partnership, and the budgeted increase of St Mary's contribution. The increase is based on nothing more than hope that the occasional offices income will pick up again after the Covid shutdowns. Clive pointed out the number of wedding booking is still low. Even with the installation of a digital giving point in the church for 2022, it's possible St Mary's may not be able to meet this increase.

We need to look at ways to ensure the sustainability of our buildings

We have recently had a large donation (£84,000) designated for primary age children's and family work. In 2022 we intend to employ a children's worker of some kind, job descriptions are under discussion. This does not appear on the budget.

## 7. Areas of focus for 2022

- Take steps to work smarter together as a mission-focussed Local Ecumenical Partnership, making best use of the resources we and others have locally.
- Re-examine the demand for children's work in our church communities, and shared across the Partnership. Appoint a children's worker.
- Review our administrative/management resources.

The areas of focus were slightly edited and then agreed.

## 8. Renew our commitment to our policies

Chris presented the taglines of our policy statements. Full texts at <https://WSwinLyd.org.uk/council/policy>

# West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership

## **Accessibility**

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**

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;

Those with buildings need to check the toilet cubicles have appropriate up-to-date notices giving links to help. **Action all.**

## **Health and Safety**

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;

It was pointed out that we'd completed many risk assessments during and after the Covid lockdowns. It would be worth documenting a more generalised risk assessment template and/or process. **Action Executive**

## **Privacy**

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**

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.

It was re-iterated that this is everyone's responsibility.

# West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership

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

## **Passed with no objections**

### 9. Introduction of Mark Tidey

Rev Mark Tidey is due to formally join us, part time, on 22 May. He'll be concentrating on Toothill though intends to be seen around the partnership. His other role is with Swindon Borough Council in their "Live Well Swindon Hub" as Food Partnership Officer. This means he is contact with many other organisations and charities both local and national and opportunities appear to be presenting themselves which may include funding for projects in West Swindon which may tie in to the proposed children's worker referred to previously. This is an example of how there are many opportunities where we can work together across the Partnership and beyond.

### 10. Elections to Partnership Council

From HTS: Janet Clarke, Angela Mak (ex off), Wendy Dukes (ex off)

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: Rev Trevor Day, Rev Clive Deverell, Rev Gerald England, Angela Mak, Ed Poole, Rev Shirlyn Toppin, Rev Rachael Wilson (till summer 22), Rev Mark Tidey (from May 22)

### 11. Partnership posts – Treasurer, Safeguarding lead

Chair of PC: Peter Roslyk

Responded to a call by volunteering.

Proposed by Pat Watson and seconded by Angela Mak.

Agreed with No objections. Elected.

Bookkeeper pro tem: Pam Ray.

Pam reiterated that she wished to only take this on temporarily and would appreciate someone stepping in to help. She thinks its more like 2 hours per week not 2 hours per month as sold. And CAFbank are an inconvenient pain!

Secretary: Chris Scarisbrick

Safeguarding lead: Chris and Julie Scarisbrick

It was confirmed that the Executive will constitute

# West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership

Chair of PC: Peter Roslyk (St Mary's)

Treasurer: Pam Ray (Westlea)

Secretary: Chris Scarisbrick (Westlea)

HTS Rep Wendy Dukes

Toothill rep Mark Dowling

Clergy rep Rev Clive Deverell

## 12. Denomination Points of Contact (reps)

West of England Baptist Assoc: Janet Clarke

CofE Swindon Deanery Synod: Angela Mak

Diocesan Synod: Clive Deverell

Methodist Upper Thames Circuit: Mark Dowling

URC South Western Synod: David Hoar and Rev Gerald England

## 13. CofE specific posts

### **Churchwardens**

At HTS: Wendy Dukes

At St Marys: Pat Watson, Jacqueline Kirwan

### **Those authorised to assist at CofE communion**

At HTS: Janet Clarke, Wendy Dukes, Steve Kershaw, Angela Mak, Peter Rogers, Mark Taylor

At St Marys: Pauline Bowler, Jacqueline Kirwan, Pat Watson, Janet Cooper-Tydeman, Wendy Deverell, Ann Fisher, Hilary Gardner, Paul Gardner, Ed Poole, Mary Poole ?

At Toothill: Mark Dowling, Rachel Dowling, David Hoar, Nicola Hoar

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

### **Read banns**

At St Marys: Cof E clergy, Jacqueline Kirwan, Pat Watson

## 14. Close in prayer

Rev Clive Deverell and Rev Mark Tidey closed the meeting by reading Philemon v6 and v7, and with prayer.

## West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership

I pray that your partnership with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding of every good thing we share for the sake of Christ. Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord's people.

Meeting closed at 9:23 pm