



Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership
Milton Keynes
Minutes of the Council meeting
held on 9 February 2017
at Cross & Stable, Downs Barn

Attendees: Andy Jowitt, Carol Rockett, Bob Cross, Gill Grant, David Lewis, Patricia Collins, Adrian Prisk, Irene Farr, Mary Borrett, Alan Potter, Nicola Martyn-Beck, Maggie Prisk, Ruth Kennedy, Penny Miller, Gwen Green, Sean Miles

Apologies: Paul Smith, Carol Wood

Welcome prayer – Bob Cross

1. Note of Any Other Business

Dr Sam Muthuveloe is being priested on 24 June 11am at St Mary's in Aylesbury, he would be grateful for our prayers.

2. PCC and matters arising from PCC minutes

- Helen Rouse has been accepted for lay minister training, which she has now begun and she has also been able to take a car full of people with her to the course, which they can attend for free.
- Application for Archdeacons permission for tree felling at Willen church (the trees are reaching the end of their life and are in danger of damaging the historic building). The proposal is as follows:

“This PCC supports the application of Willen Church Council to the Archdeacon of Buckingham for approval for the felling of chestnut trees in Willen Churchyard subject to local authority permission.”

Proposed by Mary Borrett
Seconded by Adrian Prisk
All in favour

- Trusteeship of St Andrews school – we are still having to be patient as the holdup is now with the Diocese. Adrian has contacted them on a number of occasions with no reply, Paul will now try contacting as well. We want to try and avoid ill feeling with the school.

3. The questions put to church councils:

Question 1 – what can SEP do or do differently to help and encourage your church to fulfil its mission in your local area and through your congregation?

Question 2 – What projects or areas of activity can you imagine, where working together in partnership will create possibilities for mission?

St James

Development of young people would be better partnership wide rather than individual churches (ie teenagers).

Help with stewardship across the partnership

Cross & Stable

Q1 - Cross & Stable has good facilities for activities such as toddler groups and Messy Church (and runs a thriving toddler group) but lacks the people resources for Messy Church. Events like this need a big team and the right venue for them to be successful. If there was a parish team then this could work at any venue – monthly or every half term.

Q2 – support for joint worship on occasions e.g. tree cathedral (the last tree cathedral was successfully attended from those around the parish – the next date is 15 August). We need to look out for opportunities for churches to worship together. Holy week would be a good chance to do this with services across the parish. Another opportunity would be evening services.

In response to this it was highlighted that a the next confirmation service is being prepared for in May which will involve young people from more than one church. This means that young people will get to meet each other and hopefully form relationships between the churches.

Bradwell

Courses could be offered across the partnership, for example at Bradwell they are hoping to run a CAP course.

Previously there was a parish magazine, this worked well for three issues but didn't receive enough involvement of people from churches other than Bradwell. The website is still up and running and we encourage people to advertise events and report on things that have happened.

Suggestion of Ministers moving around the partnership – this is not easy as most ministers already look after two churches. Maybe something that could continue but just not so frequently.

Public witness – are there things that could make us more visible? Carol singing in Oakridge park or different shopping centres, a flash mob? As we don't have a town centre to focus on this can be difficult. The Partnership pilgrimage will be an opportunity for this.

4. Approval of minutes from the last meeting – all approved

What is the situation with Colin Taylor? Still waiting for the official transfer to be agreed. He does have a role just needs the final paperwork to come through.

5. Matters arising including Willen vision statement update

Emailed to all before the meeting - see appendix 1.

6. Finance report (to be send separately)

Sean can offer paying in books to churches who pay by cheque to make the process easier.

There will be a Giving for Life workshop on 28 February (in Aylesbury) about Stewardship, which could be a good starter for thinking about stewardship.

Action: Ruth to forward email about workshop to SEC membership.

It is proposed that we work out a partnership plan for stewardship to bring to the AGM, to roll out over the summer/autumn. So far Bob, Adrian and possibly Sean will be involved in this.

Julian Pedley from the Partnership stewardship office is a good speaker. He is currently in Australia, but it would be good to get him on board once he is back.

Sean, Bob and Adrian are to convene a working group to get the message across to churches of what they need to do regarding giving and about giving as part of discipleship.

7. Prayer for our churches

Willen – Launching a vision statement to take the church forward.

St Andrews – The arrival of Chuks, the new House for Duty Minister who will be moving in over the next week or two. His licencing service is on 27 February. St Andrews would particularly like prayers for sharing the ministry between Chuks and David.

Christ Church – The coffee and cake morning on 18 Feb. Christ Church has put a lot of thought and prayer into this morning in the hopes of reaching out to local community. They are also beginning to think about how to provide something for mums with young children in the near future.

Cross & Stable – Sign for the deaf service first Sunday of the month and in April the sermon will be done in sign language with translation for those who can hear. Cross & Stable have also started a home bible study group.

St James – Finding people to commit to helping with the running of the church. The Bible study group that meet monthly. The two young people attending confirmation and the preparation of and all those attending the confirmation course. New Bradwell Parish Council have agreed to sign the lease for the Community Centre.

Bradwell – Necessary repairs, mission action planning, the green church group and the plan to upgrade technology. The Communications group is working on a welcome pack and website, and have been focussing on nurture and pastoral care. A new house group has also been formed.

8. Team leaders report - see appendix 2

9. Report on the welcome service for Chuks

All are welcome at St Andrews on Monday 27 February at 7.30pm. The plans are going ahead well.

10. Locum fees protocol – see appendix 3 for approval of document

Proposed by Carol Rockett
Seconded by Patricia Collins
All approved

11. AOB

None, other than that discussed earlier.

12. Future dates

2017 AGM - Thursday 27 April at Christ Church, Stantonbury

Proposed SEC dates - 15 June, 14 September, 16 November 2017

Next Standing Committee date - 9 March at 8pm, 1A Atterbrook Bradwell MK13 9EY

Closing Prayer

Appendix 1

Willen Vision Statement update

At its January meeting Willen Church Council considered a draft Vision Statement drawn up as part of a working document by Paul Smith. Paul will send out the draft Vision Statement for review by Church members via his email group and ask people to attend the Vision Statement Launch at the church service on 26th February. This is so members can make an informed decision on the wording at the Annual Members Meeting on 12th March.

The draft vision statement so far is:

An open, growing and accessible church in Willen.

In the course of our process of developing the vision, especially at our Lent sermon slot exercises, sufficient “unpacking” of the adjectives in the statement mean that a draft mission statement is as follows:

Mission statement:

by OPEN we mean:

- for worship
- to welcome all
- for outreach
- to change

by GROWING we mean:

- in numbers
- spiritually
- in diversity
- socially
- in participation

by ACCESSIBLE we mean:

- for visitors of every kind
- to provide a practical space
- supporting openness and growth

The next three Church Council agendas will include time to discuss the strategies required for three draft areas: open, growing and accessible.

Paul Smith 1st February 2017

Appendix 2

TEAM LEADER'S REPORT

Chuks' arrival

A lot of work has gone into helping Chuks to get the St Andrew's Rectory ready and planning his Licensing Service. More of that later in the agenda.

David, Chuks and I will be programming in opportunities to meet and discuss and review the job-share arrangement. This is new territory for us; creative but challenging too. We will need to keep under review the way the ministerial team meets to best work in with the new situation.

Partnership Pilgrimage – Saturday, 20th May

This will be a walk between the 6 churches with prayer, rest, refreshments at each church. People can take part by:

- Walking the whole route
- Walking a bit of the route
- Being part of a 'welcoming committee'.

Please mark the date and keep it clear. The Rev. David Lewis will be taking a lead in this.

Looking back to Christmas

Christmas Cracked went very well. There were 7 presentations. The teams were a combination of local church members, often with assistance from members of other churches in the Partnership. We took out an advert in 'The MK Citizen' for services in the Partnership on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Looking ahead to Holy Week and Easter

Easter Cracked The programme is beginning to take shape. I know of 5 schools booked already.

During Holy Week From Monday to Thursday, we encourage people to visit churches around the Partnership for a series of services at 7.00 pm. I will be looking to receive and coordinate offers in order to put together a programme. (Note: It would be good also to advertise Ash Wednesday services across the Partnership to give people maximum opportunity to find a service they can attend).

Room'n'ate

Plans are taking shape:

Thursday, 2nd March Quiz Night upstairs at The New Inn, New Bradwell.

Monday, 8th May Steve Miller on 'God in the tough bits' (title t.b.c.) – telling his story with photos too – in the Oak Room, The Cock Hotel, Stony Stratford.

An evening in July (to be fixed) A BBQ evening at St James with 'the Pilgrim Bike' – an amazing custom bike and a moving story of tragedy and forgiveness, with Fred & Fran Gill.

Marriage Preparation

A successful day was organised for St Andrew's wedding couples to meet people involved in their big day and plan their service.

The *Marriage Preparation courses* have now begun. These are about building a strong marriage more than about the day itself, and take place at St Lawrence Church. The course last Saturday had couples with weddings at 4 different churches, and they all got on very well together!

Marriage Celebration Dinner

Invitations have gone out to couples who have had a wedding in SEP churches over the last 2 years to attend a celebration dinner on Fri. 24th February at Cross & Stable Church. Paul & Laura Oxley are guest speakers (Paul is Vicar of St Marks' Church). Team and church members from across the Partnership are involved in the evening.

Young People's Confirmation Course

Paul has organised a young people's Confirmation course on Sunday afternoons, beginning on 5th March. The first part of the course will be at Willen Vicarage and then from 9th April it will move to Bradwell Chapel. Paul, David, Nicola and I will variously share in leading and assisting on different dates.

The next MK Ecumenical Confirmation service will be at Christ Church, Stantonbury on Sunday, 14th May at 6.30 pm.

Jubilee Prayers for MK

Thank you to Christ Church for hosting this event during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. There was a range of prayer stations including Soup Run; Willen Hospice Chaplain; Hospital Chaplains; Homelessness and Refugees; Streets where we live, and Children and Education, and leaders and members came from different churches, including the Salvation Army and St Augustine's Catholic Church.

CitizensMK

SEP members have attended an MK-wide Weaving Trust event and the recent Delegates' Assembly. 5 delegates are needed from an institution to qualify to vote. We had 6. We pledged to aspire to a minimum of 12 to attend the big Accountability Assembly on Tuesday, 25th April. Maggie took a lead for us at this meeting.

ARBJ/9 February 2017

Appendix 3

STANTONBURY ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP Protocol re. fees for services and reimbursement of expenses to retired and non-stipendiary lay and ordained ministers

The context of this protocol is that we are mindful of the following:

- We highly value the contribution made by both lay and ordained ministers and by all the breadth of ministry given in different ways by church members.
- We are an ecumenical partnership and the ministry of leading worship and preaching and teaching is offered by people of different denominations and from different traditions.
- We have limited financial resources, but are blessed by the voluntary offering of ministry in all its different forms.

Remuneration for services

It is not the policy of the Partnership in general to pay fees for the taking of Sunday or weekday services at our churches.

Note: An exception to this occurs where the PCC would qualify for remuneration from the Diocese of Oxford for the payment of fees to a retired clergy person. This could only occur in the case of the vacancy of an incumbent (in our case of the Team Rector). The diocese may agree to reimburse parishes for payment at the standard agreed rate to retired clergy with Permission to Officiate (but not those licensed to a parish) who undertake service cover (Holy Communion, Matins, Morning Prayer, Family Services, Evening Prayer). Payment is made initially by the PCC and then refunded by the diocese.

Expenses

Visiting preachers should be offered travel expenses by the church at which they preach.

Lay ministers or preachers and non-stipendiary or retired clergy who serve within the Partnership as members of the Partnership may apply for reimbursement by SEP of reasonable expenses at agreed rates according to the same system as the stipendiary clergy.

Fees for Occasional Offices (Weddings and Funerals)

Retired clergy (not including any licensed to the parish) may retain two-thirds of the minister's element of the fee (i.e. that part paid either to the Diocesan Board of Finance, or to SEP, or to the minister according to denomination). The church (or 'PCC') element is paid to the relevant church in the Partnership.