



**Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership, Milton Keynes
Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting
held on Thursday 19 April 2012 at 7.45 pm
at Stantonbury, Christ Church
incorporating the Annual Vestry Meeting
and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

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Present

Mr Mike Morris (Chairman), Revd Peter Ballantine (Team Leader), Revd Mindy Bell, Mrs Mary Borret, Revd Chris Collinge, Mr Henry Dougherty, Mrs Prue Errington, Mrs Irene Farr, Mrs Roma Figg, Mr John Figg (Secretary), Mrs Gill Grant, Mrs Gwen Green, Revd Peter Green, Revd Chris Howden, Revd Brian Howden, Revd Andy Jowitt, Mrs Mary Kennedy, Mrs Maggie Prisk (Treasurer), Dr Adrian Prisk (Assistant Treasurer), Revd Paul Smith (Rector), Mrs Judy Thorp, Mr Danny Waite, Mr David Wilson.

Apologies for Absence

Mr Graham Crisp, Mr Bob Cross, Mrs Irene Farr, Mrs Jeanette Smith

1. Opening Prayer

Revd Chris Howden prayed that we, people of the resurrection, should make best use of our skills and talents in furtherance of God's work and helping those less fortunate than ourselves

2. Advance Notification of Any Other Business

Annual visitations; new SEP logo; stantonbury.net website

3. Annual Vestry Meeting *(chaired by the Anglican Rector)*

The meeting commenced at 7.50pm

Revd Paul Smith reported that valid nominations for the two posts of Churchwarden had been received for Mr Robert Cross and Dr Adrian Prisk. There being no other nominations the Chairman declared these two to be elected.

4. Annual Parochial Church Meeting *(chaired by the Anglican Rector)*

The meeting commenced at 7.52pm

The minutes of the APCM held on 5 May 2011 were accepted to be a true record of the meeting.

Revd Andy Jowitt proposed and Henry Dougherty seconded that authorisation be sought from the Bishop for Mr Robert Coles of Bradwell Church congregation to become an Authorised Preacher; this request had been endorsed by Bradwell Church Council at a Special Meeting held on 16 April 2012. Agreed *Nem. Con.*

Revd Peter Ballantine proposed and Adrian Prisk seconded that the powers of the APCM be delegated to Stantonbury Ecumenical Trustees (SET). Agreed *Nem. Con.*

The APCM concluded at 7.54pm

5. Annual Congregational Meeting of Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership

(chaired by Mr Mike Morris, Chairman of Trustees)

5A Membership Numbers and Lists 2012

The Chairman said that membership numbers for the constituent churches are recorded in the Annual Report. Congregation totals are:

Stantonbury	41	Bradwell	133
New Bradwell	69	Downs Barn	22
Great Linford	114	Willen	48

Overall total 427, a decrease of 1.4% compared with 2011

5B Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting held on 5 May 2011

No corrections or amendments were identified and it was proposed by Revd Brian Howden and seconded by Gill Grant that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting. Agreed *Nem. Con.* The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

5C Matters Arising

(Re AOB, item 9) Revd Chris Howden reported that it had not been possible to progress the proposed sponsoring of a Youth Worker from Oxford Brooks University.

5D Annual SEP Report

Mike Morris congratulated all concerned with the compilation and reproduction of this year's Annual Report, with especially thanks to Gwen and Revd Peter Green for their editorial work and for arranging for the printing. Revd Peter Green said that the actual printing and binding had been by Messrs Murrays. Members asked that thanks be conveyed to them.

The Chairman reminded members of the service at 2pm on 28 April 2012 at Christ the Cornerstone to welcome the new Director of Ecumenical Mission, Canon John Robertson, and the service at 6pm on 24 June 2012 at Great Linford, St Andrew's, to celebrate ministry in our partnership.

He thanked Revd Chris Collinge for all her contributions to the Partnership and looked forward to this weekend's farewell events when we have an opportunity to show our appreciation.

5E Constitutional Changes

Revd Andy Jowitt outlined the proposals agreed by the Trustees at their meeting on 23 February 2012 (Item 8 of the draft minutes dated 12 March 2012). To meet the requirement for separation of SET and PCC interests it is proposed that the composition of the Trustees' (representing both SET and PCC) should be increased by each church appointing a further PCC (only) representative and that Licensed Ministers and Deanery Synod members (who are in any case ex-officio PCC members) should also be invited to attend meetings (PCC as full members and SET as observers) and that United Area representatives should also be invited to attend as observers. These changes would create the necessary quorum for the PCC in the event of any dispute arising within the Trustees.

It was proposed by Revd Peter Ballantine and seconded by Revd Chris Collinge that the proposals be ratified by SET. Agreed *Nem. Con.*

5F Sharing Agreements

Revd Andy Jowitt, together with Mike Morris, had consulted with Revd Roger Paul on how best to proceed. Their recommendations were considered by the Trustees on 23 February 2012 (Item 7 of the draft minutes dated 12 March 2012). Since then Canon John Rees, Oxford Diocesan Registrar has agreed to progress matters on behalf of the partnership and correspondence has continued with Revd Paul Smith, also involving Revd Stephen Mosedale and Revd Mindy Bell. It is hoped that a draft Agreement will be ready by the end of this month. Full sharing agreements for all six partnership churches will also need to be prepared. Trustees welcomed these long-awaited developments, especially for the planned changes at New Bradwell, St James', which are dependent on the successful conclusion of negotiations.

Regarding St James and the input by Revd Mindy Bell (*vide* Item 11 of the draft minutes of the Trustees' meeting on 23 February 2012). During her maternity leave it is proposed that Revd Brian Howden should cover for her duties at New Bradwell and Newport Pagnell. The arrangements are due to be finalised by the end of this month.

5G Financial Report and Consolidated Accounts for 2011, incorporating the PCC Accounts

Maggie Prisk referred to the accounts information included in the SEP Annual Report. The deficit of £19,586 for the year is a little less than anticipated, but losses at this rate cannot be sustained and it has been necessary to reduce payment to the Mission Partnership by 15% for the forthcoming year. If churches are able to contribute their budgeted amount the Partnership account should balance in 2012. The Soup Run has been self-financing in 2011, but NETWORK Magazine at present is still short of projected income.

Revd Paul Smith said that it is unclear how monies for sales or sponsorship for NETWORK should be paid --- it was agreed that these should be directly to the Hon Treasurer. Gill Grant suggested that the elected Trustees from each church might act as collectors for the magazine.

Revd Peter Green pointed out that the reduction in payment by SEP was in reality failure to pay the wages of salaried ministers. Stantonbury is required to be self-financing by 2018, if income is not increased the number of full-time ministers will have to be reduced.

It was proposed by Revd Peter Ballantine and seconded by Revd Chris Howden that the accounts be accepted. Agreed *Nem. Con.*

Revd Peter Ballantine proposed and Revd Chris Collinge seconded that the proposed budget for 2012 be accepted. Agreed with one vote against.

Trustees requested that a Vote of Thanks be recorded in the minutes to Maggie and Adrian Prisk for their work on the accounts and budget of the Partnership.

5H Reports from those holding Partnership-Wide responsibility

(a) Revd Chris Collinge summarised Work among Children and Families during the past year. Notable successes had been the Core Skills course, the Noah's Ark and the Glow-in-the-Dark parties and the consolidation of Safeguarding arrangements under the Methodist scheme. She was pleased to welcome Judy Thorp who has taken over child protection work for the partnership.

(b) The Evangelism Enabler report by Revd Andy Jowitt is attached to these minutes as Appendix 1. The next Room'n'Ate meeting on 30 April 2012 will have as speaker Dr Sam Muthuveloe and it is expected that this will be an excellent occasion.

(c) Revd Peter Ballantine (Team Leader) presented this report although the time covered the period whilst his predecessor had been in office. He thanked Revd

Andy Jowitt for his leadership over the last three years --- this was endorsed by the meeting. The Team Leader's report is printed in the SEP Annual Report.
 (d) Creative Arts. The report by Revd Chris Howden is attached as Appendix 2

5I *Report on membership of Citizens:MK*

The report by Revd Brian Howden is attached as Appendix 3.

5J *Election of Trustees for Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership*

The congregations had nominated the following to become trustees:

Christ Church	Revd Brian Howden Sandra Kennedy	Bradwell	Henry Dougherty Chris Spikings
St James	Mary Kennedy Prue Errington	Cross & Stable	Gill Grant Bob Cross
St Mary Magdalene	Sean Miles Toby Hill	St Andrew	Mike Carter Jim Billeness

It was proposed by Revd Andy Jowitt and seconded by Revd Peter Green that the above be elected. Agreed *nem. con.*

5J *Nominations for SEP Officers*

The following nominations had been made:

Position	Nominee	Proposed	Seconded
Ministerial Team Leader	Revd Peter Ballantine		
Chairman of Trustees	Mike Morris	David Wilson	Gill Grant
Secretary	John Figg	Gwen Green	Revd Andy Jowitt
Treasurer	Maggie Prisk	Mary Kennedy	Mary Borrett
assisted by	Adrian Prisk		

These nominations were agreed *nem. con.* and will be ratified at the first meeting of the Trustees.

The Chairman reminded the meeting that both he and the Secretary will be retiring at the 2013 Annual Congregational Meeting and that there is a need to consider the succession during the forthcoming year. One suggestion was that a role of Vice-Chairman (Chairman Elect) could be created to work in parallel with the Chairman to facilitate a smooth changeover.

5K *Nominations for SEP Officers*

The following appointments were confirmed:

Accounts Coordinator	Adrian Prisk
Clergy Expenses	Danny Waite
Gift Aid Secretary	Gill Grant
Independent	Messrs Mercer & Hole
Inspectors	(Mr Gary Farnes) *
Safeguarding Officer	Mrs Judy Thorp

* this appointment has yet to be confirmed

5L Appointment by Trustees of members of the SEP Standing Committee

The following appointments were agreed:

SEC Standing Committee	Chairman of Trustees Ministerial Team Leader Treasurer Secretary Revd Chris Howden Gill Grant Mary Kennedy	Mike Morris Peter Ballantine Maggie Prisk John Figg
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5M Election of Representatives to MK Mission Partnership

Congregation representatives had been elected as follows:

Great Linford	Paul Carlo, Jim Billeness
Stantonbury	Maggie Prisk, Anne Slee
Downs Barn	Gwen Green
Willen	Toby Hill, Sean Miles
Bradwell	Alison Peace, Diane Stammers, Beryl Spikings
New Bradwell	Irene Farr, Jo Roberts

5N Election of Representatives to Denominational Meetings

The following delegates had been nominated by congregations:

Anglican Synod	Maggie Prisk, Barry Fleming, Peter Lazard, Mary Borrett John Trippett
Baptist Assembly	Maggie Prisk, Adrian Prisk
United Area Meeting	Mike Morris, Ruth Walker-Singh, John Moffoot Amy Head, John Figg, Jean Preedy, David Folwell

6. Any Other Business

Annual Visitations. This year it is intended to combine the visitations with the presentation of the "Flame of Faith" Olympic candles. For the parish of Stantonbury & Willen this will be on Thursday 24 May 2012 (*subsequent to the ACM it was confirmed that this would be at 10.30am*)

New logo for SEP. The logo on the Agenda and on these minutes had been selected by the Ministers' Meeting as being more fitting than the former northeast Milton Keynes symbol (which in any case is no longer correct). It was proposed by Revd Paul Smith and seconded by Revd Mindy Bell that the new logo be adopted. There were 12 votes in favour, 2 against and 1 abstention. Motion carried.

SEP website. Paul Brookman had discovered that the website has been hacked-into by unauthorised advertisers and is in process of correcting the problem. Although the minutes of Trustees' meetings had been published on the website (*vide* minutes of the Trustees Meeting on 1 September 2011, Item 12), they had been removed once they became superseded and not kept as an on-going record for future reference. The Secretary had asked Paul to create a separate section on the website, as with the civil parish records, where all past minutes could be consulted. This was endorsed by the meeting.

7. Closing Prayer

The Chairman closed the meeting with thanks for all that has been achieved and asked for guidance for the many things to be considered and blessing on all as we leave to put decisions into action.

APPENDIX 1

Evangelism Enabler Report

NETwork

We delayed the production of Issue 3 in order to seek income from advertising and sponsorship. We have succeeded in raising approximately two-thirds of the costs, and Issue 3 is currently at the printers.

Easter and Christmas Cracked

This programme for schools was taken on by the team and by SEP members, with Chris Howden taking the lead in liaising with Bridgebuilder Trust. We have now successfully run both programmes (as I expect will be reported elsewhere).

Alpha

A summer and autumn course have been run at Bradwell Church over the last year and the next course is about to begin (Friday, 20th/27th April at 7.00 pm). Full details available and late applicants welcome.

A follow-up course called 'Challenging Lifestyle' based on Jesus' teachings on the Sermon on the Mount proved very popular at Bradwell Church.

Room'n'ate

This year's programme has included an after-dinner speaker evening (with Andrew Gale, Chaplain of Oakhill Secure Training Unit) plus social evenings and a popular quiz supper. The next meeting is soon: Monday, 30th April with after-dinner speaker Dr Sam Muthuveloe. (Flyers available).

More Than Gold

On Wednesday, 25th April (at 5.15 pm or 7.45 pm at SU Offices, 207-209 Queensway, Bletchley) there are sessions offered to find out what opportunities there are for outreach and service connected with the Olympic celebrations. Look out for:

- *5km Park Run* on Sat. 14th July 9.00 am to raise funds for Stoke Mandeville Hospital. (For more info, e-mail Malcolm: malcolm.down@authenticmedia.co.uk (See www.parkrun.org/miltonkeynes/home)
- *Open Top Bus Tour* arriving with the Olympic Flame with Christian Bands/Groups (for info. e-mail Tim on tim.cutting@talktalk.net)
- *Community Event* with big-screen showing of Opening Ceremony at a local church.
- *'Flame of Faith'* passing through our Archdeaconry and coming to MK on Weds. 23rd May, with special candles to be distributed "bringing the light of Christ" to our communities.

The Diamond Jubilee

Look out for opportunities to be neighbourly and play a part in building neighbourliness and community, e.g. by joining with neighbours for Sunday lunch on Sunday, 3rd June (at the Queen's request); beacon parties on the evening of Monday, 4th June. There'll be an SEP stall at the Campbell Park Parks Trust Garden Party on Tues. 5th June 2-6 pm.

New House Visiting

We keep the 'Welcome Pack' updated, and copies are available on request, with info about all the churches in the Partnership.

Marriage Preparation

Courses have taken place over the Spring for couples being married this year (at Bradwell Church and some at St James and St Andrew's). They have been well appreciated by those attending. A further course is scheduled for Saturday, 28th April.

Because of a lower number of weddings in 2011, the team felt it best not to attempt a Marriage Celebration Dinner in 2012 and to consider coming back to the idea for 2013, inviting couples from two years of weddings (as we did in 2010).

Andy Jowitt

APPENDIX 2

Creative Arts Report 2011

The main project for 2011 was the staging of the passion Play 'The Narrow Road' performed by Riding Lights. We hired the Stantonbury Campus Theatre on the Tuesday of Holy Week and had a full turn out. This drew in people from across Milton Keynes and was a challenging play and much appreciated.

Since then, although not solely a creative arts venture we have as a team taken the Christmas Cracked programme to our partnership schools. This has involved the clergy and some of the lay folk from each of our congregations. Christmas Cracked is an hour and a half programme prepared by Bridgbuilder with games, film clips, drama and craft to help tell the Christmas story. Most schools travelled to their local church although we did hold some in the school halls. It was an enjoyable time to work together as a team and the children and schools seem to have much appreciated it. We were involved with 7 schools for Christmas Cracked and returned again in Easter 2012 for Easter Cracked and presented to 9 schools. We hope that this will continue to be a regular event at Christmas and Easter.

The use of creative ideas and materials is much more widespread in our usual Sunday services and concerts and art exhibitions have been held around our churches during the year.

Chris Howden

APPENDIX 3

Citizens:MK Report

Thank you to those who supported the Annual Assembly at Christ the Cornerstone on the 6th December 2011. Over 200 people were present representing 17 Institutions. This year's Assembly to be held on Tuesday 20th November 2012.

Four areas have been identified to focus on in the current year. These were agreed at the Delegates Assembly on the 2nd November 2011 at which SEP were represented.

1. Action re City Safe – working to establish Fishermead as MK's first City Safe Haven Estate. This to involve building relationships with the Fishermead shops with the aim of reducing crime and coming alongside Fishermead residents and working in tandem with the police. Three neighbourhood walks have taken place, the next one planned for the 26th May at 6.00pm.
2. Action re Living wage – continuing to campaign for a living wage with key MK employers. MK College catering unit now pay a living wage to their employees. An Action is planned at Mercedes on the 8th June, preceded by a planning meeting on the 8th May.

3. Action re identifying premises that would provide a safe place for youth to meet.
4. Action re housing – information being collected on HIMO's (houses in multiple occupancy) with a view to providing a grading of HIMO's with regard to issues of safety etc.

SEP Involvement

- 4 people to join one each of the 4 Action groups (above), who could then also share involvement in the Strategy Group, which meets twice a year.
- Attend any of the Actions planned (see above).
- 1 or more persons to form an organising group to plan a summer social. The social to provide an opportunity to meet one another from our different institutions.
- Mohamed Suleman would like to visit our Sunday morning congregations to be available to talk about the work of citizens:mk

Future dates:

Strategy team meetings: 15th May and 25th September 2012

Summer Social 23rd June 2012

MK One Day Training 30th June 2012

Delegates Assembly (min representation 5 people) 16th October 2012

Rehearsal for Annual Assembly 13th November 2012

Annual Assembly (Max turnout please!) 20th November

Brian Howden