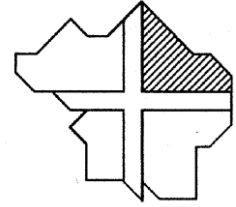


**Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership
Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting
held on Thursday 5 May 2011 at 7.45 pm
at Bradwell, St Lawrence's church
incorporating the Annual Vestry Meeting
and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting**



Document date 08.05.2011
Corrections 09.05.2011, 14.05.2011
Redacted 30.04.2012

Mr Mike Morris, Chairman of Trustees, opened the Annual Congregational Meeting by welcoming all present and thanking Bradwell Church for being hosts for the occasion.

1. Opening Prayer

Revd Chris Howden reflected on the account of the Road to Emmaus and asked that we too should invite Jesus to come amongst us for our discussions.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Revd Liz Baker, Mrs Amy Bright, Mr Paul Bright, Mr Mike Carter, Mr Graham Crisp, Mrs Prue Errington, Ms Sandra Kennedy, Revd Andy Jowitt, Mr Paul Watt.

3. Notification of Any Other Business

To consider the possible appointment of a Youth Worker in the partnership.
Votes of Thanks

4. Update on CitizensUK (*this item was taken after the Annual Vestry Meeting and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting to enable the Rector to attend another meeting*)

Mr Mohamed Suleman, Associate Organiser, explained that following the initial enquiries of some 1000 people, delegates from the 17 cooperating organisations had selected five topics for action --- "city safe", dignity at work, public transport, affordable housing, facilities for youth. Whilst Milton Keynes is actually a relatively safe environment people's perceptions are different and anti-social behaviour is an ongoing concern. Regarding Dignity at Work, emphasis is on replacing the Minimum Wage (£5.93 p hr) with a more realistic Living Wage of £7.20 (for MK area). Now that SEP are full members delegates are invited to attend training sessions for Community Leaders and Organisers --- the next event will be at the Quaker Centre on 14 May and thereafter in October 2011.

Revd Peter Green queried whether SEP employees (Cleaners and the like) were in receipt of the living wage; we could not campaign on behalf of others unless we followed our own principles.

Bob Cross said that another problem is employers who illegally pay less than the minimum wage.

The Chairman thanked Mr Suleman for apprising us of the latest developments. Mr Suleman left Training Application Forms for the 14 May 2011 sessions and Business Cards giving his contact information.

5. Annual Vestry Meeting (*commenced at 7.56 pm*)

The Chairman, Revd Paul Smith, Anglican Rector, reported that valid nominations had been received for Bob Cross and Adrian Prisk for the two posts of Churchwarden for the Ecumenical Parish of Stantonbury and Willen. There being no other nominations the Chairman declared these two to be elected.

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

It was proposed by Mike Morris and seconded by Maggie Prisk that the minutes of the APCM meeting on 22 April 2010 be accepted as a true record. Agreed *nem. con.*

Revd Peter Ballantine proposed and Revd Chris Collinge seconded that the powers of the APCM be delegated to the Trustees of Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership. Agreed *nem. con.*

(the APCM concluded at 7.58 pm)

7. Annual Congregational Meeting of Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership
(chaired by Mr Mike Morris, Chairman of Trustees)

7A Membership Numbers and Lists

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

Stantonbury	43	Bradwell	123
New Bradwell	74	Downs Barn	22
Great Linford	120	Willen	51

Overall total 433, a decrease of 2.5% compared with 2010

7B Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting held on 22 April 2010

No corrections or amendments were identified and the minutes were agreed and duly signed by the Chairman as being a true record of the meeting.

7C Matters Arising

(vide minute 18) The Chairman welcomed the fact that Revd Liz Baker is now a fully licensed minister in the partnership --- this welcome was endorsed by the meeting.

7D Annual SEP Report

Mike Morris congratulated all concerned with the compilation and reproduction of this year's Annual Report. His summary of the year is given on page 3 of the report. Continuing concerns are to conclude the Sharing Agreement for New Bradwell, to finalise legalities for the Community Centre and to work out how to organise ministerial deployment after the retirement of Revd Chris Collinge in May 2012. More happily he reported that MK ecumenism was admired by his recent contacts with a Nigerian Methodist minister and feedback from the 2010 Kirchentag meeting.

7E Financial Report and Consolidated Accounts for 2010

Maggie Prisk referred to the accounts information included in the SEP Annual Report. The eventual deficit of just under £9,000 in 2010 was less than anticipated due to careful budgeting and generous assistance from congregations able to increase contributions. Transference of the Soup Run accounts to SEP had gone smoothly.

It was proposed by Revd Peter Ballantine and seconded by Mary Kennedy that the accounts be accepted. Agreed *nem. con.*

The budget for the forthcoming year also anticipates a deficit of about £19,000, although it is hoped that this may be less in practice. It is important to note that Gift Aid allowance will reduce from 28p to 25p in the £1; if more congregation members opt to

gift aid contributions it would help overall funding. From 2013 cash payments (i.e. plate collections etc.) up to £5,000 will also be eligible for gift aid allowance.

Since 1 April 2011 the Mileage Rate for clergy expenses may be increased to 45p per mile up to 10,000 miles. It was proposed by Bob Cross and seconded by Danny Waite that this increased rate be adopted with effect from May 2011. *Agreed nem. con.*

Adrian Prisk then reported on a possible problem regarding pension contributions for Baptist ministers where a period of time elapsed between the departure of one minister and the appointment of a successor. This is due to an anomaly in legislation designed to secure pension payments where a commercial business ceased trading, which has had unforeseen consequences for Baptist churches and especially for LEPs after a Baptist minister leaves and is replaced by a minister of another denomination. It was suggested that our local members of parliament should be apprised of the situation.

Maggie Prisk thanked Paul Watt for his coordination role for the accounts and her husband, Adrian, for his computer expertise. She confirmed that Gary Farn (Messrs Mercer & Hole) is willing to continue as Independent Examiner for the accounts and asked the meeting to approve an honorarium payment of £150 for their nominated charity. It was proposed by Mary Kennedy and seconded by Gill Grant that this donation be approved. *Agreed nem. con.*

7F Reports from those holding Partnership-Wide responsibility

The report by Revd Andy Jowitt as Team Leader is included in the SEP Annual Report. Reports by Revd Chris Collinge (Work among Children and Families), Revd Chris Howden (Creative Arts) and by Revd Andy Jowitt (Evangelism Enabler) are attached to these minutes.

Revd Chris Collinge reminded Trustees that the SEP Policy Statement should be read at the first meeting of each Church Council following the Annual Meeting. She encouraged those with responsibility for children to attend the organised trainings.

Revd Chris Howden said that the current aim is for one larger partnership-wide event each year (this year the successful Riding Lights performance at Stantonbury Theatre) and that it is hoped to achieve improved coordination and publicity for locally-organised events, including making better use of the stantonbury.net website. The Art Group at Christ Church is to be re-launched (all levels of skill welcomed).

7G Election of Trustees for Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership

The congregations had nominated the following to become trustees:

Christ Church	Revd Brian Howden	Bradwell	Henry Dougherty
	Sandra Kennedy		Alan Howarth
St James	Mary Kennedy	Cross & Stable	Gill Grant
	Prue Errington		Bob Cross
St Mary Magdalene	Michael Kemp	St Andrew	Mike Carter
			Jim Billeness

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

7H Nominations for SEP Officers

The following nominations had been made:

Position	Nominee	Proposed	Seconded
Ministerial Chair	Revd Andy Jowitt		
Chairman of Trustees	Mike Morris	John Figg	Gwen Green
Secretary	John Figg	Mike Morris	Gwen Green
Treasurer	Maggie Prisk	Mike Morris	John Figg
assisted by	Adrian Prisk		

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

Confirmation of Appointment of Other Officers

The following appointments were confirmed:

Accounts Coordinator	Adrian Prisk with Dave Parsons
Clergy Expenses	Danny Waite
Gift Aid Secretary	Gill Grant
Independent Inspectors	Messrs Mercer & Hole (Mr Gary Farn)

7I Appointment by Trustees of members of the SEP Standing Committee

The following appointments were agreed:

SEC Standing Committee	Chairman of Trustees	Mike Morris
	Ministerial Chair	Andy Jowitt
	Treasurer	Maggie Prisk
	Secretary	John Figg
	Revd Chris Howden	
	Gill Grant	
	Danny Waite	

7J 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	Michael Kemp, Sean Miles
Bradwell	Stuart Wicks, Alison Peace
New Bradwell	Irene Farr, Jo Roberts

7K Election of Representatives to Denominational Meetings

The following delegates had been nominated by congregations:

Anglican Synod	Maggie Prisk, Barry Fleming, Peter Lazard
Baptist Assembly	Maggie Prisk
Methodist Circuit/ URC meeting	Mike Morris, Ruth Walker-Singh, John Moffoot

8. Proposed United Methodist/URC Area

The Chairman explained that through this concept it is intended that the URC will have a more local voice, at present represented only via a Midlands assembly. Our individual churches have already approved the idea, but a formal Partnership resolution is now needed to give legality to the change:

The following resolution was proposed by Revd Chris Howden and seconded by David Wilson:

“The meeting of Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership, Milton Keynes, agree to the formation of a United Methodist/URC Association comprising the existing churches of the Milton Keynes Circuit and URC Congregations in the Milton Keynes Area”

The motion was agreed *nem. con.*

9. Any Other Business

Revd Chris Howden reported that a research worker from Oxford University, sponsored by Christian Youth Ministry, is looking for an opportunity to become involved with young people (11 - 25 years) in our area. She lives in Northampton and the Partnership would, therefore, only be required to provide travel and incidental expenses (about £100 per month). The meeting considered that there is considerable need for improved youth contact and agreed that an offer should be made to cooperate

The Chairman said that Paul Watt has now moved away from Milton Keynes, but nevertheless had continued to act in his role as Accounts Coordinator for the past year. He asked for a Vote of Thanks to be conveyed to him. This was endorsed with acclamation.

The Chairman also asked for a Vote of Thanks to be given to Revd Peter Green for his tremendous efforts in producing this year's Annual Report. This was also endorsed by the meeting with acclamation. In thanking the meeting for their acknowledgement, Revd Peter Green suggested that the Report might be reproduced on the stantonbury.net website. This idea was welcomed by the meeting (*and was actioned by Paul Brookman the next day!*).

10. Closing Prayer

The Chairman closed the meeting by inviting members to join in the saying of The Grace and by sharing The Peace.