



## Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership, Milton Keynes

### Minutes of the Trustees' Meeting held on Thursday 14 June 2012 at 7.45 pm at New Bradwell, St James' church

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#### 1. Opening Prayer

Revd Paul Smith used the relighting of the Candle of Faith to illustrate the hope expressed in 2 Timothy 1 that we might fan into flame the gift of God; particularly appropriate for later discussions on Authorised Ministry and the service of Celebration of Ministry on 24 June. He concluded by reading the Collect for the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity.

#### 2. Advance Notification of Any Other Business

Faculty for new lighting at Bradwell Church, Authorised ministry for Rob Coles

#### 3. PCC Meeting

*The meeting commenced at 7.49 pm*

It is proposed to replace faulty light fittings in Bradwell Church at present on a like for like basis. It was proposed by Revd Andy Jowitt and seconded by Henry Dougherty that a faculty be obtained for this purpose. Agreed *Nem. Con.* A Faculty for an improved lighting scheme will be sought at a future date.

Revd Andy Jowitt reported that Rob Coles was now appointed an Authorised Minister and had already taken two services at Bradwell. This development was welcomed by Trustees.

*The PCC meeting closed at 7.53 pm*

#### 4. Minutes of the Meeting on 23 February 2012 for approval

It was proposed by Revd Peter Ballantine and seconded by Revd Paul Smith that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting. Agreed *Nem. Con.*

#### 5. Matters Arising

*Appointment of Deputy Chairman of Trustees*

This had been suggested at the Annual Congregational Meeting to facilitate smooth continuance of business in the absence of the Chairman and as a potential way of identifying a successor for election in due course. No volunteers were forthcoming and the Chairman asked that Church Councils should consider possibilities in order to avoid problems at the ACM in 2013. This should continue to be an agenda item.

*Evaluation of Easter Events and report on Easter Cracked activities*

Revd Chris Howden had sent a written report (attached) on the Easter Cracked presentations and asked for approval for repeating both Christmas and Easter events. It was generally considered that the past events had been a worthwhile exercise and feedback had been very positive. It was agreed that revised presentations should be arranged for next Christmas and Easter; Revd Peter Ballantine considered these to be quality events for mission. Revd Paul Smith said that greater lay involvement would be highly desirable.

### *Website and NETwork Magazine*

Revd Andy Jowitt reported that advertising revenue and sponsorship had meant that the third issue of NETwork Magazine had been self-funding, and even had made a small profit. Thanks are due to Paul Brookman for his expertise and help in producing the issue --- it is also important that Paul should receive news and information from all churches on events and activities in order to keep the website up to date and interesting. "Think Website"!

The Secretary drew attention to the fact that the redacted minutes of the Trustees' meetings which are now kept on the Stantonbury.net website will eventually form the main archive for SEP. Is it really necessary to remove the names of those attending and giving apologies for the meetings before posting the approved minutes on the website? Revd Andy Jowitt agreed that electronic storage was an inevitability, but queried whether the website was the most appropriate location. He pointed out that paper archives of SEP/SET business are maintained at Bradwell Chapel. Mike Morris wondered whether the oldest documents should be sent to Aylesbury for safe keeping. It was agreed that the question of archiving and minutes redaction should be referred to the Standing Committee for discussion and reporting back to the Trustees.

### *Citizens:MK*

The report from Revd Brian Howden (attached) was noted and Church Councils were reminded of the offer by Mohammed Suleman to talk individual churches or meetings. Trustees asked that their appreciation of Brian's efforts be recorded in the minutes

## **6. Sharing Agreement for New Bradwell**

Revd Paul Smith reported that today (14.6.12) he had received a message from Revd John Rees saying that he was in process of drafting an agreement with Revd Lee Coley. Accordingly there are grounds for cautious optimism that matters may now progress. Once the New Bradwell agreement is finalised similar agreements can be set up for the other five churches in the Partnership.

The Community Centre Management Committee now has a new Chair (Janet Irons) and Secretary (Helen Billingham) and the accounts show a satisfactory balance of about £6,000. It is hoped that an 'Albemarle' type lease can be arranged when grant aid of some £60,000 will become available to allow the premises to be put into good repair. Trustees agreed that it is important for the community and the church that progress be made and asked that a letter of support should be sent to the Management Committee.

**Action: Secretary**

## **7. Revised Constitution for Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership**

Revd Andy Jowitt confirmed that the decisions made at the Annual Congregational Meeting in April 2012 would be implemented at the ACM in 2013. In the meantime, however, Anglican Synod Members and United Area Representatives would be invited to attend SET meetings (*this had been done for the present meeting*). It would be best to await the documentation from Revd John Rees before establishing a Joint Council for the care of the Partnership buildings. Since the Partnership is not yet registered with the Charity Commission it is uncertain whether the accounts have to be submitted to them. It was suggested that Revd Peter Green may be able to give guidance.

## **8. Finance**

The accounts had been circulated to Trustees by Maggie Prisk prior to the meeting (copy attached). The Treasurer welcomed the fact that NETwork magazine had become self-funding. However, the Soup Run fund are running low and additional support from churches would be appreciated; Revd Paul Smith suggested that an email could be sent to Church Secretaries appealing for assistance. The new table tennis table is for the Stantonbury Hangers Youth Club (run by Gemma Winn, wife of the

VentureFX leader Rob Winn) – it was suggested that Rob might be invited to a Trustees' meeting to give an update on the project.

Regarding Stewardship Advisors there was no report from churches, but Revd Peter Ballantine said that he would find out whether Dr Julian Pedley would be willing to speak to other churches as well as to Great Linford, St Andrew's.

## **9. Reports**

### *Chairman of Trustees*

The report by Mike Morris had been circulated to Trustees (copy attached). The Queen's Diamond Jubilee events had helped fulfil the mission for drawing together church and community and the forthcoming Olympics are another opportunity. Bell peals had been rung at Bradwell and Downs Barn for the Jubilee and Willen will contribute to the Olympic ringing on 27 July.

### *Team Leader*

Revd Peter Ballantine reported that new fees for weddings have been agreed nationally and local Partnership charges will also apply (details are given in the attached paper by Revd Andy Jowitt).

The recently appointed Director of Ecumenical Mission, Dr John Robinson, will preach at the "Celebration of Ministry" Service at 6 pm on Sunday 24 June 2012. The reorganised Partnership arrangements will require more people to become 'ministers' to congregations, including training to become authorised minister/local preachers both for individual churches or for the Partnership as a whole. It is hoped to arrange a City-wide training scheme later this year for those with a wish to develop skills in preaching/teaching.

## **10. Any Other Business**

Revd Andy Jowitt reported that the hot water system at Bradwell Chapel was now working. The premises are owned by the Methodist Church but are looked after by Bradwell Church. Use of the facilities is free for Partnership churches.

Revd Mindy Bell asked that churches should display Olympic-theme posters "Put yourself in their shoes". The Chairman took this opportunity to wish her, and husband Ted, everything good for their impending family increase, since this would be the last SET meeting she will attend until after her maternity leave --- the good wishes were endorsed by Trustees.

## **11. Forward Dates**

The next Trustees' meeting will be on 20 September 2012 at Willen, St Mary Magdalene. The Standing Committee will meet on 15 August 2012 at Downs Barn, Cross & Stable at 2.30 pm.

## **12. Closing Prayer**

Mike Morris reflected on the discussions and decisions of the meeting and prayed that our words and actions would further the spreading of the Gospel in the area of the partnership.