

**Joint Parochial Church Council**  
Meeting at The Methodist Chapel, Brighstone  
Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2015 19:30

**Meeting opened with prayer**

**Present:** Nick Dorley-Brown(Chair, B&M), Anna Davidson (Sec), Guy Acland (B&M), Gill Bradbury (B), Norma Bradley (B), Jill Downer (S), Janet Edwards (B), Yvonne Hide (S), Rodney Hogg (B&M), June Horsfall (B), Michael Kier (B&M), Stephen Sutcliffe (LLM), Mary Tester (C), Sven Tester (C), Isabel Thorp (C), Jean Wavell (B), Jan White (S), Yvonne Willoughby (S), Felicity Adams (B&M).

**Apologies:** Roy Bromley (B), Roy Carter-Jones (S), Elaine Fisher (C), Bev Fryer (B), Jill Jackman (S), Peter Johnson (E-O), Richard Morrison (S), Beth Peckham (B), Rev'd Helen O'Sullivan, Brenda Rowe (S), Pat Spittles (B)

**1. Round up from the Five Churches**

**1.1 Brook with Mottistone – Rodney Hogg**

The annual Statistics for Mission returns have shown the congregation figures to be higher than last year. There were 7 funerals and only two weddings between the two churches in 2014.

There has been a big effort in the last six months to involve the whole village in the need for help (both with time and financially) in maintaining the churches. This has been preparing the way for a big appeal for major works. Both churches have suffered during winter storms, and need predictable income. The appeal has been timed to coincide with the Quinquennial.

**1.2 Brighstone – Gill Bradbury**

Financial concerns have been expressed as expenditure is exceeding income. The PCC have been looking at strategies to counteract this with the help of Rodney Hogg. The decision has been made to go ahead with the Parish Giving Scheme and will be trialed by 10 selected people, with the aim of launching across the congregation in September 2015.

Benefits of the scheme:

- Donations can be made monthly, quarterly or annually by Direct Debit
- Donations, including Gift Aid, are passed back to the chosen parish within 10 days of collection
- Donors can commit in principle to increase their gift annually, in line with inflation

This scheme has been proven to be an effective way to increase giving.

The PCC has had quotes for works needed for the church roof. They are looking to see if it is possible to access the government grant but there is a lot of work involved in preparing the application so this may not be feasible.

The Christmas Tree Festival was very successful this year, raising over £10,000.

**1.3 Shorwell – Yvonne Willoughby**

The Moot has been going very well. It was held at Northcourt Manor in November and in the church in December, as using the village hall has been problematic. The football club has priority use of the hall throughout the winter months. Approximately 40 people attend for the short, informal service, and these are not regular churchgoers. Shorwell will liaise with Tony Scotcher to try and come to an arrangement for using the hall.

Midnight Mass was very well attended with 60/70 people.

Work has been done to make the spire safe and water-tight. A quote for repair works is in progress. There is still uncertainty as to whether repairs will be covered by insurance as photos of the spire show not all damage was owing to the lightning strike.

**N.B.** Michael Kier gave an offer of help in dealing with Ecclesiastical Insurance. Yvonne Willoughby will pass the details on to him.

#### 1.4 Chale – Sven Tester

Sven expressed regret at Revd Canon Karen Schmidt leaving. The 900 year celebrations, which Karen was instrumental in organising, were most successful with lots of varied events, and well-attended, contrasting with the usual congregations of around 10. There are many people in Chale who love the church but will not attend it.

The merger of Chale with St Lawrence, Whitwell and Niton is going ahead. A new vicar has been selected. There was only one candidate, Nigel Porter, who was the Bishop's candidate and strongly supported by the Archdeacon. The feeling is that he will be well-suited to the position. Nigel will take over on 26<sup>th</sup> February. St Lawrence, Whitwell and Niton have been without a vicar for some time now. Sven expressed his regret in leaving the group of five but hoped the ties would still continue.

Nick Dorley-Brown wished Chale well and thanked them for their contributions on behalf of the JPCC.

## 2. Rev'd Canon Karen Schmidt and Revd Helen O'Sullivan

On behalf of the JPCC Nick D-B thanked Karen for all of her efforts and mentioned that the benefice had been lucky to have her experience.

Nick D-B asked the JPCC to consider the implications of Karen's departure on Revd Helen O'Sullivan.

There followed a general discussion:

*Rodney Hogg:* Helen wants to say 'yes' to everyone, leading to people demanding too much.

*Michael Kier:* The job is a demanding one and Helen needs to delegate more

*Rodney Hogg:* Felt that Helen is already good at delegating

*Steve Sutcliffe:* Reminded everyone of The Plan and the taking of responsibility from the clergy. Because of the difficulties in attracting new clergy, an aging population of existing clergy and the financial problems in paying clergy, the way forward is in volunteers. Steve's new position focuses on ministry to Shorwell, and offers support to Helen in some of her duties. Rather than Helen delegating, people need to look at solving problems before telling Helen – proactive rather than reactive. Need to think about our own talents and how to use them constructively for the church. Brook and Mottistone have shown a good example of this with encouraging all in the villages to have ownership of their churches.

*Rodney Hogg:* Occasionally there is opposition to the changes the church makes which is not helpful to Helen.

A query was raised as to whether Helen always takes her day off?

*Jean Wavell:* mentioned the nature of the job is that there needs to be flexibility so if something urgent crops up, Helen may need to deal with it, regardless of whether it is her day off.

*Felicity Young:* Felt we should all think about not emailing Helen on a Monday as this is her usual day to take off – **general consensus was agreement to this.**

What is the effect of the recent changes on Helen in terms of her church duties?

*Steve Sutcliffe:* Felt that Sunday services are not the issue, there need to be more ports of call other than Helen.

It was asked if there were retired clergy in the benefice who could be called upon. There are none within our benefice but a number in Freshwater.

Another query was raised over Steve Sutcliffe's giving of the reserved sacrament. Steve explained that the general feeling in the Diocese, at the moment, is lack of support for lay ministers administering this. However this could be subject to change over the next few years with fewer clergy to call on.

A suggestion was made that a list needs to be drawn up of tasks needing doing and people to call upon – **Anna Davidson, Steve Sutcliffe and Helen O'Sullivan to action this.**

Nick Dorley-Brown officially welcomed Steve Sutcliffe to his new post and Steve gave thanks to all who have supported him.

It was also noted that the demands on the administrator are significant.

The Exchange in Brighstone was discussed. In order to make the building more usable, changes to the toilet are needed. The major need at present is for a project manager with time to invest in generating publicity and actioning any works needing doing. Wifi installation is underway in conjunction with installation at St Mary's.

### 3. **Safeguarding**

Nick Dorley-Brown began by reminding the JPCC of the need to be mindful of safeguarding at all times, and the legal obligation to have measures in place. Angela Russell is safeguarding person for the benefice. It was suggested that she should be asked whether we are meeting our obligations – **Anna Davidson to action this. Note, please see feedback from Angela Russell received since the meeting, at the end of these minutes.**

Anyone with responsibilities has to be trained in safeguarding. Depending on how responsible one is, impacts on the level of training needed. However everyone needs to be observant and be aware.

Felicity Young led the JPCC to the Diocese website, [www.portsmouth.anglican.org](http://www.portsmouth.anglican.org). By clicking on 'What we do' in the menu bar at the top, a drop down menu is shown. The first option is 'Child and Adult Protection'. Here members can find up to date information regarding safeguarding and the Portsmouth Diocesan Safeguarding Handbook. Details of Ian Berry, the Diocese Safeguarding Lead, and the rest of his team, can also be found here.

### 4. **Pastoral Care**

Steve Sutcliffe pointed out that this area is the biggest demand on Helen's time. However this is the nature of the job and this is as it should be.

Sven Tester mentioned that Niton have developed a pastoral care system independent of the clergy which works well. **Sven will find out more about it and feed back to the JPCC.**

### 5. **Date of next meeting**

The meeting plan for 2015/16 has yet to be drawn up so Anna Davidson was unable to advise the next meeting date.

20:48 the meeting closed with prayer.

**Feedback from Angela Russell re Safeguarding:**

“All the relevant people who need to be checked on my list are up to date - I have two to be done this July and one is pending.

The latest DBS News dated December 2014 gave two Policy Training dates on the Isle of Wight - these being Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 10 - 12 and Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2 - 4, both at the Medina Valley Centre. There are 3 others in Portsmouth. I have a spare copy of this and will leave it in the church office for our information.

I am not sure I can add anything to what is set out, we are very well covered in our church and these trainings are available for anyone who wishes to attend. They have to be every 3 years.”

*Please note that Angela is finding it difficult to coordinate this owing to family commitments, and would be happy to pass it over to another volunteer, guiding them through the processes involved. If anyone is interested, please speak to Anna.*