

MINUTES FROM THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE JOINT CHURCH COUNCIL
MONDAY 3RD JULY 2023
AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH SOUTH WOODHAM FERRERS

Present;

Sheila J, Bernard D, Trisha T, Peter B, Judith R, Rev Barry, Fr Matthias, David W, Maureen G, Janice P, Jim T, Kath G.

Apologies: Lynda S.

Fr Matthias welcomed all to the meeting and commenced with a prayer.

2) Election of officers

Chair; Fr Matthias Badoo	Proposed; Rev Barry, Seconded; Sheila J.
Vice Chair; Rev Barry Allen	Proposed; Kath G, Seconded; Judith R.
Treasurer; Jim Tidmarsh	Proposed; Judith R, Seconded; Maureen G.
Secretary; Kath Gable	Proposed Judith R, Seconded Tricia T.

All agreed motion carried.

3) Minutes from AGM 2022 and April 2023

Minutes from the AGM 2022 were agreed and signed.

Minutes from April 2023 were agreed and signed.

4) Matters Arising

The change of signatories to the bank account is still in hand.

5) Three communities feed back 2022/23

Catholic community.

Fr Matthias said the beginning of the year was not so busy, but June has been a busy time. The Bishop visited the parish in June, which was a first time for Fr Matthias. It was a lovely visit with the Bishop taking Sunday masses and confirming the 6 candidates in English Martyrs church.

There were 15 children receiving the sacrament of reconciliation and their first Holy Communion in June.

There has been 1 wedding and some baptisms.

The Catholics are still streaming masses at the 8.45 mass.

Since covid they have not reclaimed the numbers that attended church before, which affects the finances of the parish.

Christmas and Easter numbers were good.

Fr said it was good we are now back to normal.

Anglican community

Since Rev Carol's retirement the numbers have been lower. The Anglicans are relying on lay people and the occasional minister taking services.

Sheila said it is a very slow process in getting a new minister perhaps 6 months to a year.

On the first Sunday in the month they join the Methodists for their service.

They thanked everyone for their support.

Methodist community

The Methodists are experiencing the same situation with lower numbers since covid.

There have been a couple of new people attending.

The Methodists are still continuing with Open Book, monthly arts and crafts, memory service in Windle Court, Bible study and prayer groups.

6) Treasurer

My report is in two parts- firstly a summary of the 2022 Financial Year and then an update on the year to date.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH - BALANCE SHEET 2022			
EXPENDITURE	£	INCOME	£
GAS	1,461.93	ANGLICAN QUOTA	3,000.00
ELECTRIC	1,013.52	CATHOLIC QUOTA	6,000.00
WATER & SEWERAGE	829.98	METHODIST QUOTA	1,100.00
BROADBAND	615.60	DONATIONS	2,353.00
REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	4,073.28	INTEREST	40.36
INSURANCE	1,072.41		
MISCELLANEOUS	235.50		
LOAN REPAYMENT	1000.00		
	£10,302.22		£12,493.36
Excess of Income over Expenditure = £2,191.14			
Balances at 31/12/22			
Current Account Closing Balance		£1,349.46	
Deposit Account		£6,198.39	
Methodist CBF Deposit Account		£3,032.78	
TOTAL ASSETS 31/12/2022		£10,580.63	
* In addition, we are holding £1,803.21 on deposit on behalf of SWF Christain Council			
* There is an outstanding balance of £1,000 for the anonymous loan			

In summary, the year was very successful in financial terms and ended with a surplus of over £2,100.00. This was despite the cost of replacing the rear windows, new organ speakers and minor roof repairs.

FINANCIAL YEAR 2023 TO DATE

Balances as at 30/6/23

Barclays Curren Account	£1,246.66
Barclays Bank Deposit Account	£6,512.79
Methodist CFB Deposit Account	<u>£3,057.97</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	£10,817.42

(In addition, we are holding £1,678.55 on deposit on behalf of SWF Christian Council)

So far this year, we have been very fortunate to have borne no excessive maintenance or repair costs with the exception of repairs to the water storage tank above the TSM chair stall (£480)

As of today, the Anglican quota is up to date, while the Q2 Catholic & Annual Methodist quotas are due this month.

I have received the Insurance renewal which is due 01/08/2023 and the cost is less than £100 more than last year. Any amendments to our insurance policy following the Risk & Policy Review may or may not increase the premium.

I am confident that the JCC finances can bear the possible cost of replacing the gas boiler, providing it does not exceed expectations. The previously agreed legal costs associated with the JCC Risk & Responsibilities Review should also be affordable.

We have one more payment of £1,000 before the end of the year to complete repayment of the anonymous interest-free loan.

I have yet to update the bank mandate to replace Rev Carol with Fr Matthias as previously agreed. The closure of Barclay Bank SWF is of minor inconvenience to me.

In summary, I think the JCC finances are currently on a sound footing but may suffer a substantial reduction in the second half of the year as a consequence of the above mentioned costs. It is possible a review of the current funding arrangements may be needed next year.

JRT

01/07/2023

Notes from the meeting

Expected expenditure for the next year,

The boiler will need replacing as its 40 years old. Estimate approximately £5 to 6,000.00 We will need a plumber who can deal with a commercial boiler.

The solicitors bill of £1,500.00.

The loan of £1,000.00.

Jim said we have a healthy balance at the moment but this will be low once the above have been paid.

The JCC may need to fund raise to help cover the costs.

The report was proposed by Peter B and Seconded by Bernard D.
All agreed to adopt the report.

7) Constitutional Matters

Report on the Review of Risks and Responsibilities of the JCC.

Peter prepared a document that was previously distributed to the JCC for consideration. The old sharing agreement is out of date. We need to know the legal position of the 3 churches and Chelmsford Diocese.

The question was raised is this amount of money the only cost, or is it to be an ongoing one. Peter replied we are asking for initial advice on our responsibilities.

Philip T raised questions that will be forwarded to the solicitors.

It was noted that the chair stalls belong to the church and Jim will ask the insurers about the school items stored in the church stalls.

As proposed by Bernard Dayer, seconded by Sheila Jenkins and agreed unanimously, The Joint Church Council of Holy Trinity Church, South Woodham Ferrers, resolved to instruct Stephens Scown LLP according to Alison Stock's email of 13 April 2023 addressed to Peter Blackman. It was agreed that the three members of the JCC who will provide their full names and addresses for this purpose are Rev Matthias Baidoo, Chair and Roman Catholic Priest in Charge, Rev Barry Allen, Methodist Minister, and Mr Peter Blackman.

Thanks were extended to Peter, Jim and Kath for the work done on this review.

Report from the Chair

JCC AGM 3 JULY 2023 CHAIR'S REPORT

I was nominated and confirmed to take over as Chair of the JCC and Rev Barry as Vice Chair. Six meetings in all were held virtual and face to face.

This year has been one of return to normal life in our church community following the Covid 19 pandemic. More and more people have been vaccinated and we now know how to manage the presence of the virus in our communities. We have seen a removal of the rules at services, singing has once again resumed, no more sanitising before services, no more cleaning of seats. However, online streaming services continue for the benefit of the sick and housebound.

JCC webpage

The minutes of the JCC meetings are published on our website. Members list is up to date.

Main issues this year were: -

1. Constitutional review ongoing. Peter will report on this.
2. Fabric – Quinquennial Report/Survey David Wymark coming to do that in a week or two; repair works done with the help of John Geary. A cleaner is employed to maintain the church and the toilets. A new cupboard for storage of cleaning tools in place, and a new ladder acquired.

3. Sunday, 23 April Rev Carol's Retirement Service and buffet – A presentation was made on behalf of the JCC.
4. John Geary Resignation – A presentation was made by JCC.
5. Finance – Finances look good from the financial statements from the treasurer. Change of signatories to the account yet to be done since Rev Carol is no more signatory to the account.

Ecumenism or Churches in SWF working together

1. A vigil was observed for the death of Queen Elizabeth II which occurred on 8 September 2022.
2. Friday, 16 December 2022 SWFCC Carol Service went well.
3. Saturday, 25 February 2023 Prayers were organised to mark the 1st anniversary of Russian invasion of Ukraine Friday.
4. Friday, 7 April 2023 Passion Play at the bandstand was a good way of witnessing to the town.
5. A vigil was observed for the Death of Queen Elizabeth II which occurred on 8 September 2022
6. Sunday 7 May 2023 Picnic organised for the Coronation of Charles III and Queen Camilla at the Village Hall

To be Actioned:

- Finding replacement for John Geary
- Replacing the boiler
- Fixing the Alarm system

I would like to end this report by expressing my appreciation to everyone on the JCC. Special thanks to John Geary for his long service to JCC, Jim, the treasurer and Kath Gable, the secretary for their dedication to the work of the JCC.

Report by Father Matthias Baidoo (Chair)

Chairs report Proposed Peter B, Seconded David W. Adopted by all.

8) Fabric report

For your AGM I have detailed below events / actions of the Property and Fabric Committee over the past twelve months as follows: -

- Rectification of the defect on the church boiler (corroded gas pilot pipe)
- Replacement of cold water tank ball valve and overflow
- Replacement of the vandalised polycarbonate sheet in the Anglican notice board
- Fitting warning notices to the radiators in selective locations
- Replacement of the main speakers for the church organ
- Employment of Nora as our cleaner
- Annual inspection of the fire extinguishers (including two replacement units)

- Six monthly inspections of the fire alarm system (including one replacement smoke detector and standby batteries in the control panel)
- Fitting of two additional padlocks to the boiler room door and gas meter enclosure door
- Purchase of a new step ladder to replace the existing damaged unit
- Fitting of a storage locker in the Anglican lobby toilet

By far the most urgent issue is the replacement of the boiler. It is now over forty years old. Replacement parts are becoming an issue but genuinely we had had our monies worth out of this boiler and it needs to be replaced with a new condensing type boiler. This will be more efficient and should reduce our gas consumption. All the companies I contacted have declined to quote because they do not carry the requisite certification to undertake this class of work.

John Geary Past chair retired.

Our priority is to form a new fabric committee. The following will be on the new committee; David Watts, Janice Pearson, Maureen Graham and Michael Clark.
We need 2 members from the catholic community.

We have received the Quinquennial report and this has been circulated. A copy is attached to these minutes. Chelmsford Diocese will pay for the report. A Thank you is extended to them.

Urgently required are asbestos signs that seem to have disappeared. **Trish** will ask Val if she still has them.

The committee will prioritise the urgent issues from the report.

Jim will ask the insurers re the asbestos issue.

9) Worship and Outreach Report

Minutes of Worship and Outreach Meeting
Tuesday June 20th at 7.30 pm by Zoom

Rev Barry opened the meeting with a prayer.

Present; Rev Barry Allen, Peter Blackman, Sheila Jenkins, Fr Matthias and Tricia Tutin.

Sheila is going to find out who the other Anglican Rep is.

1. Apologies; Judith Radley.

2. Appoint secretary to take minutes

We agreed the minutes should be brief and informative. Tricia offered to do them and said Judith would help.

3. Minutes of previous meeting

There were no minutes from the previous meeting 23rd March 2023. Peter read the brief report of Worship and Outreach from the last JCC meeting.

4. Update from each Congregation

Catholic

- First Holy Communion took place in SWF on 11th June.
- Bishop of Brentwood visited SWF on 18th June
- Still live streaming Masses

Anglican

- Still in process of doing Parish Profile
- Working together with St Mary's and St Andrew's so the profile is taking longer than anticipated
- Once the profile is completed it is sent to be approved by the diocese before being sent out
- Current pattern of worship is;

1st Sunday of Month at St Andrew's or St Mary's or joining the Methodists in SWF

2nd and 4th Sunday - Lay Led

3rd Sunday - Rev Andy Griffiths

Methodist

- Vision meeting on June 13th - some ideas suggested for future planning.
- Open the book, Worship at Withy Windle and Monthly Saturday morning crafts continue

5. Future events for individual Churches and collectively

- Methodist led Picnic on Saturday July 1st in Compass gardens instead of Arts and Crafts in St Mary's School hall. All welcome
- Film 'The Letter' - A Message for our Earth and social evening led by Catholics on 30th June. All welcome.
- Joint Anglican and Methodist Harvest Festival on September 24th. 10.30am. Rev Barry to organise a preacher. Rev Barry extended an invitation to the Catholics to join us.
- Christmas will be discussed at our meeting in September but current dates known are:

Turning the lights on in Town - November 18th

Town Carol Service 15th or 16th December - Christian Council will organise

6. Any Other Business

- Peter contacted Paul Hardy regarding the Church Facebook Page. It was agreed that each Church would find someone to post events that are going in the newsletter on Face Book. Hopefully this will happen ASAP and we will report back at the next meeting.
- There is currently an Easy Fundraising account for the JCC as advised by Paul Hardy. Peter will pass this information to our Treasurer Jim Tidmarsh to sort out with Paul H.

7. Date of next meeting

Tuesday September 12th at 7.30pm. Tricia to book meeting room. Winter meetings can be via Zoom.

The meeting closed in prayer by Fr Matthias at 8.10 pm.

10) A.O.B.

ECO report written by Val delivered by Tricia.

Report to JCC 3rd July 2023

The Eco group of representatives from each congregation has yet to meet.

The Methodist congregation would like to meet its commitment to Eco-Church by hosting a service – Creation through the Bible – Nine Lessons and Hymns telling the story of Creation from Genesis to Revelation.

We would be pleased to invite everyone once the date is finalised on our Plan (the quarterly list of Preachers and Services). Watch this space!

Tricia asked does the Wifi work as they couldn't get it to. Yes all is okay with it.

Dates for the next two meetings this year were agreed as;

Monday 18th September at 7.30 pm in the meeting room.

Monday 27th November at 7.30 in the meeting room.

Both have been booked with Maria.

Rev Barry closed with a prayer.