

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL
held on Tuesday 13 May 2008 at St Mark's Chapel**

Present: Mike Cooper, Delia Shephard, Morag Stuart, Joan Crossley, Charles Royden, Jenny Emsley, Linda Hoar, Laurence Wyatt, Wendy Nash, Sam Ware, Ian Morse.

Apologies: Sam Cappelman, Ian Farthing, Laura Farthing, Avril Williams

Charlie opened with a reading from Ezekiel and prayers.

Reports from Leadership Teams:

St Marks – Mike Cooper and team reported. Currently work on refurbishment of church hall and foyer was ongoing. Groups seem to be functioning well. Wendy Rider was out of action at the moment and Millie and group of volunteers were covering her absence very well. Wendy is making great progress with her recovery. Sunday afternoon coffee shop opened since last partnership council and churchyard and woodland burial grounds had been consecrated. Leadership team was meeting regularly and had invited visitors to their meetings to discuss aspects of church life, eg Clive had attended to discuss music, Emma to discuss Storybox and Chat and Play etc.

Draft accounts were now available, final accounts would be available shortly. Offerings were increasing and hire income was good. Various social events had been held eg Evening from the Shows. Back to Church Sunday would be celebrated on 28 September 2008 with Harvest and an autumn quiz was being considered. Telecare was going well.

Putnoe Heights – Wendy Nash and team reported. Building work was due to start in the next week to improve the kitchen and small hall. A WREN grant had been obtained for this and other funding applications had been submitted. Joan's leaving service would be on Sunday 24th August and this would be a circuit service. Ian reported that hire income was buoyant and offering income was stable. PH would need to register under the Charities Act by autumn. PH proposed that the annual mission project for the year be devoted to the Mission Aviation Fellowship, the partnership council agreed that this was an excellent cause and more information would be obtained. August 26th and 27th would see a children's special event on the theme "7 days of creation", there would also be an under 5's activities afternoon on 19th August on the theme "Raining cats and dogs". Youth workers from both churches were attending training and information sessions over the next few months. TNT and TXT were going well. On 1st June there would be a confirmation service with the Bishop at PH; Rev James Gartside would represent the Connexion.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Both Annual Congregational Meetings had been well attended and it was planned to continue with the after service format. The date agreed was 26th April 2009.

Ministerial Appointments

The council discussed the provision of a further minister for the partnership and associated issues at some length. It was noted that one proposal communicated by the Circuit had been for a minister to be shared between the partnership and additional churches in the South Bedford circuit and concern was expressed about the workload for such a minister. It was recognised that there would be considerable change within the circuit affecting all churches, and that the existing circuit would probably be amalgamated with the Biggleswade and South Bedford Circuits in due course. Concern was expressed that any ministerial appointment must be compatible with the nature and needs of both partnership churches and the associated community centres, despite the potential need for reallocation of Methodist presbyters across these circuits. The Partnership Council affirmed its intention to work together on the preparation of the profile and other arrangements for pursuing this appointment. It was agreed that rather than meet with members of the CLT as two separate leadership teams it would be more beneficial for all to meet together. It was agreed to try to book a joint meeting with Liz Little on 21 May 2008.

Any other business

There would be a Woodland Burial Open day on 7th June 2008 to which all were invited.

Wendy confirmed that the PH leadership team was eager to continue with its Project for the 4th Age despite Joan's departure and asked members to reflect on how this could best be accomplished.

The meeting ended with the Grace.