

13TH MAY 2025 WREXHAM MISSION AREA CONFERENCE

Holy Trinity Church 7pm

PRESENT: Revd Canon Jonathan Smith (Chair: Mission Area Leader), Revd Dylan Parry Jones (All Saints' and Holy Trinity), Revd Petra Goodband (St Giles'), Carol Jones (Treasurer), Melissa Griffiths (St Giles'), Dr Elizabeth Cottrell (All Saints'), Sue Williams (St John's), Kevin Clark (St Mark's), Helen Davies (St Margaret's)

IN ATTENDANCE: Karen Reynolds (MA Administrator)

APOLOGIES: Brian Stickels (MA Warden), Christopher Jones (Holy Trinity)

ABSENT: Ann Owen (Secretary), Nick Roe (MA Warden),

The Meeting opened with Worship and Prayers led by Fr Dylan.

Canon Jonathan welcomed everyone.

1. **Safeguarding:**

Rev. Petra reported there is a safeguarding issue at St Giles and is in contact with Olwen Kay, safeguarding lead for St Asaph and Bangor Dioceses. The individual concerned is now back on their medication (Sue Williams advised there was an incident at St John's related to this matter).

Rev. James and Rev. Petra will be meeting with Olwen concerning the attendance of the 8am service by certain individuals where no children are present.

Fr Dylan confirmed there were two ongoing safeguarding issues at Holy Trinity concerning mental health.

2. **Conflict of Interest:** none

3. **Approval of Minutes of 3rd MARCH 2025 :** proposed Kevin Clark, seconded by Dr Elizabeth Cottrell subject to the following amendments: Christopher Jones did give his apologies and was not merely absent and to the Easter Vigil arrangements. Approval for an emergency faculty was circulated prior to this meeting for repair to All Saints Church Hall door following a break-in.

4. Matters Arising:

- a. Appointment to St Giles': The licencing of Rev. James Tout to be held on 21st May 2025 7pm. The MAC are looking forward to welcoming James to the team.
- b. St John's/St Mark's profile: The new appointment profile document was sent to the Archdeacon, but there has been no response. Seemingly plans for the future are to be put on hold which is frustrating. It is good that St Giles' is moving forward even if other plans are in a state of flux. Rev. Petra offered pastoral outreach once Rev. James is in post. Canon Jonathan offered thanks to Fr Dylan, Neil, Rev. Petra and others who have maintained services at St John's and retained its congregation.
- c. CIO: Karen (MAA) confirmed she was still awaiting a response from Llyr Williams (Diocesan Registrar) to finalise the application, despite a reminder from Canon Jonathan. Karen has recently gone back into the on-line application to extend the 3 month time limit (in order to expedite matters perhaps Karen and Canon Jonathan could attempt to finalise the CIO application between them). The MAC agreed that a letter should be sent to Llyr Williams expressing its concern at this delay. Rev. Petra agreed to write and send this (Karen will forward the last email sent) as reference.

Gift Aid: Karen (MAA) confirmed HMRC has recognised the MA for gift aid purposes and it now has its own GA reference. The MA will need to submit one GA and GASDS claim encompassing all the churches. Karen will now review the next eligible claim and request necessary information from each of the church Treasurers. There is no MA GA secretary. If required Karen (MAA) offered to prepare the claims, and Sue Williams offered to assist in this matter.

- d. Property Subcommittee: Suggested members to include were Steve Cannon, Steve McCreath, Shaun (caretaker), Canon Jonathan, Roger Graham-Palmer, Dave Denoven, Bill Arold and Leon Potts. Canon Jonathan was going to check the specifications for this in the MA Trustee booklet.

5. **Mission Area Confirmation Service 4th May & consideration of future shared events:** The MA confirmation service was extremely well attended – there was an extraordinary amount of people; the service achieved what it was setting out to do. Canon Jonathan wished to record his thanks to Rev. Petra and all at St Giles who helped with this service.

Canon Jonathan also wished to record his thanks to Fr Dylan and Holy Trinity for hosting the Easter Vigil.

Rev. Petra expressed pleasure at the MA working as a team without ego or entitlement, just “getting on with the job”. It has been a very positive experience. When Rev. James is in place, it was suggested to reinstate “swap around Sunday”, starting in the Autumn, or encourage congregations to move around. It was suggested MA group services do not work as well in urban areas compared to rural areas. Swap Around Sunday avoids anyone missing out on a service.

6. **Formation of Pastoral Care Team**

Fr Dylan is working with Sarah (Student) and Maria (Pastoral Chaplain) on this matter. The pastoral care will be offered to residential care homes.

7. **16 Foster Road *:** The Deeds to the property are held by the Representative Body of the Church in Wales. Letting Agents Bowens’ response concerning the possible sale of the property was discussed, particularly the introduction of Rent Smart Wales and the bearing of policy on such a sale. (The balance of power has changed in favour of the tenant rather than the landlord.) Canon Jonathan feels there is no option but to repair the property and then increase the rent to the market value. Concerns raised by the MAC over the risk of loose roof tiles to passers-by. Carol Jones advised that as there were insufficient reserves in the MA account the MA could seek a loan to carry out this work. Once the work is completed the property could be sold for around £250000. The property could be offered for sale to the tenant at a favourable cost. The MAC agreed it was important to open a dialogue with the tenant and were in favour of Canon Jonathan following up Bowen’s email (the MAC agreeing to undertake repairs but a full market rental would need to be charged in the future). Again, it was noted that any sale proceeds from this property could only be used in the historic parish of Rhosddu.

8. **St James' Church:** the MAC agreed not to take forward that any plans/thoughts of retaining St James and instead hand the property back to the RB. The RB has already bought the hall back. The RB holds around £50000 from the sale of the School Room but the small loan acquired to make good the School Room for food bank operations cannot be settled from these funds. If the church is handed back the monies from the School Room, they can be used anywhere in the Mission Area. The MAC are in agreement with this course of action. Ceri (Diocesan property team) is keen to sell the items available for sale. Carol Jones was concerned about the payment of ongoing bills for St James (insurance etc) and needed MA funds to settle these. The MAC authorised expenditure of up to £1000 of MA funds for this purpose, proposed by Fr Dylan seconded by Carol Jones with all in agreement. The faculty concerning the inventory/disposal has been approved. A Statement of Significance has been prepared by Denbigh MAA at a small fee. Concern was expressed over the future of the altar. It was noted that if the building is no longer to be used as a church in the future, the altar can go to another church.

9. **Other Property Issues:**

Updates on Building Projects: St Marks- Kevin Clark is waiting on an end date. The contractor hoped advised this would be within 5 weeks but for the last 3 weeks less work appeared to take place. Everyone (congregation/food bank etc) is wanting to know when they can move back into the building. There was hope that the first service to be held there would be at Pentecost on 8th June.

St Giles- Rev. Petra/Melissa Griffiths advised that Roger Graham-Palmer is dealing with CADW to secure further funding as additional repairs are required. All Saints Hall – Fr Dylan advised the property had been broken into twice, once during Holy Week and again on Easter Monday, possibly by kids or rough sleepers. An insurance claim on the new door has been made and a retrospective faculty is being made. Perhaps possible future faculties can be made to explore a CCTV system. In the meantime, Fr Dylan has installed web cameras which are working well. Ideally the hall would be managed by Shaun if he had time, especially as the Playgroup are ceasing at the end of July.

All Saints Church-plans for the re-ordering are still going ahead with enthusiasm.

Faculties: St Margaret's- The MAC are happy to for a faculty to be applied to install a small plaque in memory of a loved one.

St Giles – the MAC is in agreement to a faculty being paid to install a new sound system. These two faculties were proposed by Carol Jones and seconded by Kevin Clark and unanimously agreed.

10. Other Business and Announcements

Carol Jones asked St Giles whether they still required their Microsoft Office 365 subscription. The MA were paying £10.32 per month. Rev. Petra would look into this. The MAC were also paying Liberty Pay and Just Giving subscriptions. Rev. Petra thought St Giles were covering part of this cost. It was agreed that this matter be looked into.

- Monday 19th May. Same Sex Consultation, St Mark's, Connah's Quay 7.00pm
- Wednesday 21st May. Licensing of James Tout as Vicar of St Giles' 7.00pm
- Thursday 22nd May. Christians Together in Wrexham Open Meeting 7.00pm for 7.30pm at the Salvation Army Citadel, Garden Road, Rhosddu
- Monday 9th June. Mission Area Annual Vestry Meeting in St John's Church, Rhosnesni at 7.00pm
- Saturday 28th June. Ordination in St Asaph Cathedral at 10.00am
- Thursday 9th October. MA Safeguarding training Module B St Mark's Church 6-8.00pm

**MISSION AREA ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING ST JOHN'S MONDAY 9th JUNE
7PM**

NEXT MAC MEETING ST MARK'S TUESDAY 8th JULY 7PM

The Closing Prayer was offered by Rev. Petra.

* Further paperwork circulated.

