**Minutes of Upper Thames Group Council**

**Held at Latton Parish Hall, Thursday 15th October 2015 at 8.00 pm**

**Present:** Rev. Phil Bradley (PB), Matt Smith (Chair) (MS), Adina Grace (AG), Ian Wharton (IW), Stuart Dagnall (STD), Linda Tuck (LT), Sharon Smith (SS)

1. Opening Prayer

Romans 8:5-6

Seeing through God’s eyes

1. Notes and actions from last meeting

Apologies from Ian not Kathryn – **MS to correct and re-send out minutes**

Yvonne Edmonds – safeguarding officer for AK along with Kathryn

AK and Leigh Vision – see AK snapshot

Procedures – Baptisms should be within a main service (Arch-deacon)

New wedding and baptism process in place

Christian Aid service – AK to be venue for 2016 agreed by Churches Together

AOB – Aim of group council. Adina only responder. **MS to put on website, AG and PB to forward**

1. Church snapshots – any comments from circulated updates

Advent service for the Leigh will be at AK this year.

Wet rot not dry rot at St Sampson’s

1. Vicar’s update

- Thinking about people taking leadership roles within our churches – leading home-groups, teams, etc. Phil looking for recommendations of emerging leaders.

- New people not being spoken to after service at SS last weekend. Phil finds this difficult as he has to dash to Latton. Can we think about better use of clergy and Lay ministers to help with this. Review service patterns in New Year at GC.

- CG members to ensure minutes and points are taken back to PCCs in all churches.

1. Safeguarding

**AG & SS to progress actions from safeguarding review.**

1. Year of discipleship

We’re in the middle of a sermon series on the “I am” sayings

**PB and SD discussing a new sermon series for the new year on Moses**

Looking at getting audio files of sermons on the web

1. Uganda

All PCCs and all agreed to continue support through Tearfund

Deanery trip being planned for 2017 aimed at youth.

1. Youth work

Youth café run in Jenner Hall Cricklade for past few weeks for year 7. To be opened up to year 8 due to popular demand. To possibly be opened up to year 6 towards the end of school year.

PB looking into UTG youth and family working. PB been in contact with SWYM (south west youth ministers) who provide and pay full-time youth workers and we would have to provide accommodation

1. Latton Village Hall and Church Re-ordering

Since last GC meeting, exhibition on Sat 11th July, 22 responses: 21 in favour, 1 against. Meetings held with PCC and Parish Council. PCC to determine how long to support maintenance of hall. Position of diocese to be determined. 2 residents offer to join management committee. Options still be developed. Project brief to be developed by StD for next Latton PCC meeting. PB written to Arch-Deacon.

Ideas welcome from other churches in UTG for re-ordering of church.

1. Events

20th Oct – Henry Olonga at St Sampson’s

25th Oct – All souls at St Sampson’s

28th Oct - Magic of Christmas at Cricklade town hall

20th Nov – quiz night Latton village hall (curry supplied)

21st Nov – Men’s breakfast in Cricklade – RAF wing commander details from Graham Light

28th Nov -Advent quiet morning at AK

28th Nov – SS 50s evening

5th Dec – AK Christmas bazaar

21st May 2016 – UTG away day – speaker: vicar of Holy Trinity Leicester

Events page on website – **MS to investigate**

1. Items for next meeting

Thoughts about the “church of tomorrow” (5 years time)

1. AOB

**AK share of UTG expenses. Gaye would like monthly invoice – ACTION AG**

Linda Tuck handing in her resignation to the group Council. New representative from AK to be found.

SD raised the recent Telegraph headline that the CofE is concerned about low attendance in rural parishes and is looking at closing churches except for major festivals.

1. Date & time of next meeting : Thursday 21st January, 8pm - venue TBD
2. Chair for next meeting: Ian Wharton