

## **St Matthew's Church Harwell**

### **Minutes of the Annual Meetings held on Tuesday 30 March 2004 at 7.45 p.m. in St Matthew's Church Hall**

The meetings were chaired by Rev Chris Stott, and recorded by Jim Sinclair; the attendance was 38.

**Apologies** were received from Jim Mein, Frances Taylor, Alison Gale, Tony Twigger, and the Peppers.

The meeting opened with the singing of the hymn "Jesus is Lord". Chris then read some verses from Psalm 28 and committed the meeting to God in prayer.

### **Annual Parochial Meeting**

#### **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

held on 1 April 2003 were distributed. It was proposed that these be accepted as a true record.

Moved: Jean Twigger; seconded: Sylvia Boshier; passed: unanimously.

#### **Election of Churchwardens**

Chris expressed thanks to Allan Macarthur and Ruth Slatter for their service in this post over the past year.

Allan and Ruth had both been duly nominated in advance of the meeting to serve for a further year. They were elected unanimously.

### **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

#### **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

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Moved: Peter McNiven; seconded: Grace Mein; passed: unanimously.

#### **Matters Arising**

None was raised

#### **Basis for Election of PCC Members**

The following motion had been adopted at the PCC meeting on 27 January 2004 for proposal to this meeting:

"The Synodical Government Amendment Measure 2003 has established that the default arrangement for electing Lay Representatives to a Parochial Church Council is that each representative shall be elected for a term of 3 years, with one-third retiring each year. However, the PCC proposes that this default be overridden in Harwell, with elections for all the positions of Lay Representative to be held annually, the term of election being one year."

This motion was proposed by Jim Sinclair, seconded by Tim Roberts, and passed unanimously.

#### **Election of PCC Members**

Chris expressed thanks to those retiring, especially Tony Ullmer after serving for some 35 years.

Nine nominations had been received in advance for the twelve available posts. No further nominations were forthcoming. The following were elected unanimously:

Kate Evans	Clive House	Tim Roberts
Sid Gale	Tony Hughes	Wendy Sinclair
Georgina Greer	Nancy Preston	Jim Sinclair

## **Election of Sidesmen**

Ruth Slatter thanked all who had served in this way over the past year. She proposed the following to serve for the coming year. These were seconded by Pat Connolly and elected unanimously.

Malcolm and Mandy Birkinshaw

Peter and Betty McNiven

Pam Chung

Mike Pepper

Pat Connolly

Betty Pyke

Graham and Anne Cox

David Pyke

Ryan Davies

Jim and Wendy Sinclair

Elizabeth Gill (8am communion)

Jean and Tony Twigger (8am communion)

Mark Hillier

Tony and Kate Ullmer

Mary Jackson (8am communion)

Alan and Shirley Walker

Geoff and Mary Jenkinson

## **Church Annual Report**

The Annual Report, adopted by the PCC at its last meeting and signed by Chris Stott as chairman, had been distributed and was presented by the PCC secretary, Jim Sinclair. It summarised the purpose of the PCC, gave the list of members, explained the use of subcommittees, recorded the church membership and attendance figures, reviewed the business considered by the PCC, and summarised the financial position.

## **Financial Report**

Chris explained that Elizabeth Gill, who had been Treasurer, had stepped down from this role, but was continuing as Bookkeeper. The report was presented by the Treasurer, Clive House. The Financial Statement for the year ended 31 December 2003 had been adopted by the PCC at its last meeting, and was presented along with the statement of the appointed Independent Examiner, Alison Manning.

A statement of the Mission and Charitable Giving for 2003 was also presented.

Clive highlighted that the deficit for the year had been £1,800, compared with a budgeted deficit of approximately £9,000. He expressed his thanks to Elizabeth Gill for her hard work.

Asked about the appearance of VAT charges in the accounts, given that exemption from VAT for Church repairs had been announced in the last Government budget. Clive explained that a reduced rate of 5% had applied, but that similar works in future would be taxed at 0%.

Acceptance of the Financial Report was moved by Georgina Greer, seconded by Tony Hughes, and passed unanimously.

## **Appointment of Independent Examiner**

Chris thanked Alison Manning for her service in this role. Alison was proposed to serve for a further year by Tim Roberts, seconded by Allan MacArthur, and elected unanimously.

## **Report on Fabric and Ornaments**

A written report was distributed, and presented by Allan MacArthur.

Tony Hughes, the convenor of the Buildings Committee, gave more detail on the plans for improved kitchen and toilet facilities in the Church.

## **Electoral Roll Report**

Wendy Sinclair, electoral roll officer, reported that the roll stands at 163, after 7 additions and 6 deletions during the recent annual revision.

## **Deanery Synod Report**

This was presented by Clive Silver, one of the three representatives to Deanery Synod. The Synod had heard presentations on Church Music and on Senior Appointments, and had reviewed the Diocesan pamphlet 'Sharing

Life'. Financial affairs seem to be in an improved state, leading to hopes that next year's increase in the Parish Share would be less than many recent increases.

## **Vision Coordinator's Report**

Tim Roberts used a visual presentation to communicate to the meeting what was involved in the church's strategy to implement its vision, "Sharing life at the heart of the community, making followers of Jesus." He outlined the initiatives that had been taken the Key Areas that have been identified, each of which is championed by a leader. These are Prayer, Worship, Children and Youth, Outreach, Small Groups, and Structure and Communications.

## **The Rector's Report**

Chris began by thanking all who contribute to our church life – at a level not experienced in many churches. He specially thanked Jean and Naomi. In the times of great change in which we live, some – including the Archbishop Rowan Williams – sense that the Church is poised for a time of real renewal. We need to respond to changes in society as a challenge, rather than longing for a by-gone age.

In August, Chris had gone with a Diocesan group to visit Willow Creek, a large non-denominational church in Chicago. Despite the very different setting from our own, Chris felt that many of the principles followed by that large and successful church were applicable to us – shared leadership, a passion for mission and service, insistence on being culturally relevant, intent on evangelism and discipleship, working through small groups.

Chris would soon begin a three months' period of sabbatical leave. He hoped to use it to understand more about the culture in which we live, the mindset of those with little or no faith, and what this implies for our efforts at evangelism. He also hoped to explore the interplay between the themes of Solitude and Community.

God is building his church: it is our privilege to share in this.

## **Reports from Selected Organisations**

For the **Girls' Brigade**, Ruth Slatter reported that the group had comprised 18 enthusiastic girls between the ages of 5 and 16, meeting weekly. Because of several leaders stepping down, it had reluctantly been decided to discontinue meeting in Harwell, and the hope is that most of the girls will join with a company in Didcot. The organisation had been active in Harwell for 52 years. The closing event will be on 27 May 2004.

**Harwell Evergreens**, reported Jean Twigger, has over 60 members, who meet monthly. Activities include talks, demonstrations and outings. The membership includes those involved directly in the church and those who are not. Hence, Jean saw it as a good example of the aim to be 'at the heart of the community'.

## **Other Business**

- a) Margaret Dawes wished to suggest that the church renew its giving to CMJ (Church's Ministry To Jewish People). This was noted.
- b) A letter had been received from Jim Mein, urging that updating the Sound System in the church be given urgent attention.
- c) Betty Pyke appealed for the reinstatement of serving of coffee after evening services each week.
- d) Mark Hillier spoke in support of increased use of visual presentations using modern technology.

Jean Barton expressed thanks to Chris on behalf of the whole congregation for all that he has done for us this year.

## **Close**

The meeting closed with prayer at 9.50 p.m.

Chairman: Chris Stott

Secretary: Jim Sinclair