

## St Matthew's Church Harwell

### Minutes of the Annual Meetings held on Wednesday 18th April 2012 at 7.45 p.m. in St Matthew's Church Hall

The Chairman, Reverend Jonathan Mobey opened the meeting by reading Psalm 100, the first 5 verses. This was a sermon of joy and celebration, it had universal scope and was good news for everyone. The church represents everyone and all Gods people should be Priests. This was a reading of thankfulness. Psalm 100, verses 1 to 5 were then read again,

The Reverend Jonathan Mobey then said a prayer to open the meeting.

The attendance was 33.

**Apologies** were received from Norman and Murial Ponting, Tim Roberts, Mike Pepper, Phil Roberts, David Evans, Heather House, Scott Cockburn, Dawn Mobey and Roy Slatter.

### Annual Parochial Meeting

#### Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2011 had been distributed. It was proposed by Roz Shipp that these should be accepted as a correct record. This was seconded by Tony Hughes and unanimously agreed. The minutes were duly signed as a correct record by the Chairman and Secretary

#### Election of Churchwardens

The Chairman said that everyone was truly grateful to Tony Hughes and Allan Macarthur for their continual hard work both in public roles and behind the scenes as churchwardens over the last year.

Allan Macarthur was standing down as Churchwarden having served his full term of 5 years and the Chairman thanked Allan Macarthur for all his hard work and it was fully appreciated. There was then a round of applause. Tony Hughes thanked Allan Macarthur for his help during his first term of office as Churchwarden.

In advance of the meeting, Tony Hughes and Mel Gibson had been nominated and seconded in writing to be elected as Churchwardens for the next year. There were no other nominations and they were elected unanimously.

Signed as a true record:

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Chairman:

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Secretary:

## **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

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

Minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2011 had been distributed. Allan Macarthur proposed that these should be signed as a correct record of the meeting. This was seconded by Roz Shipp and unanimously agreed. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

### **Matters Arising**

Tony Hughes asked what was the outcome of the CRB checks on Page 7 under the Child Protection Report? Georgina Greer replied that if (a) people were working with vulnerable adults they would need to be checked. (b) the Bell Ringers were alright as they had been checked. (c) The orchestra were alright as David Evans and Francis Taylor had been checked.

### **Election of PCC Members**

The chairman thanked all the PCC members for their service over the last year, and particularly thanked Sid Gale, Sarah Milrose and Nicholas Milrose, Jonathan Wood and Tim Roberts who were stepping down this year for their contribution.

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

Allan Macarthur	Jane Woolley
Kate Evans	Roz Shipp
James Scott Cockburn	Anne Gill
Liz Roberts	Peter Barclay- Watt

### **PCC Members Term of Office**

The Secretary informed the meeting that Chilton PCC members term of office was for three years with one third retiring each year. Most churches in the Diocese have a 3 year term and a 3 year term was also in the rules although an Annual General Meeting could decide on a lesser term as in the case of Harwell which was 1 year. The Secretary explained that the Annual General Meeting had to pass a motion this year for implementation in 2013 and he proposed that the Harwell term of office for the PCC should be 3 years. A discussion then followed. The term of office was changed from 3 years to 1 year about 9 years ago on the recommendation of Chris Stott as he felt that a 3 year term would put people off from standing and a working group had looked at various arrangements. Also a working group had looked at various arrangements and also concluded that the PCC members should stand down after a 5 year term as is the case with a Churchwarden. Gordon Gill thought that this was a good idea and Peter Barclay-Watt thought that the term of office should be rolling.

Mel Gibson proposed that the term of office for PCC members should be increased from 1 to 3 years from 2013. This was seconded by Roz Shipp and it was passed unanimously.

Tony Hughes then proposed that one third of the PCC should retire each year and the PCC would decide how this should be implemented. This was seconded by Peter Barclay-Watt and passed by a majority decision as there was 1 against.

### **Election of Sides persons**

Allan Macarthur thanked all who had served as sides persons over the past year and for making a very important contribution to the services. Allan Macarthur proposed the following to serve for the coming year. These were seconded by Roz Shipp and elected unanimously.

Peter & Nicola Barclay-Watt	Ryan Davies	Mike Pepper
Liz Roberts	Betty Pyke	Mary Hanley
Gill Gay	David Pyke	Tracy Linnard
Anne Gill	Jim and Wendy Sinclair	Elizabeth Gill
Jean and Tony Twigger	Roz Shipp	Elaine Shrimpton
Betty and Peter McNiven	Liz Hill	Davies Family
Anne and Graham Cox	Nicholas & Sarah Milrose	
Pat Connolly	Roy and Ruth Slatter	

### **Church Annual Report**

The Annual Report, adopted by the PCC at its last meeting and signed by Reverend Jonathan Mobey as chairman, had been distributed. 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.

The Chairman thanked the Secretary for writing the report and asked if there were any questions.

There were no questions on the report.

### **Financial Report**

The financial report was made by the Treasurer, Peter Barclay-Watt.

The Financial Statement for the year ended 31 December 2011 had been adopted by the PCC at its last meeting, and was presented along with the statement of the appointed Independent Examiner, Jane Moreton.

The Annual Report carries some commentary about the finances of St. Matthew's during 2011. Peter Barclay –Watt gave a short report on the Church finances.

The General Fund had increased in 2011 by £2500. In 2011, £2000 was put back in the General Fund from the Designated Fund and because of a very generous donation on the 11<sup>th</sup> hour, the General Fund ended up in surplus . The overall reserves fell from £38,193 to £33,697 partly due to the interior decoration of the church. This is small compared to our Annual Income of £98,000. The recommended amount should be £49,000.

It is imperative that we improve our Church income to finance future projects such as the new projection system which is a deliberate decision to go high tech. We will have to look at planned giving again next year. We need at least another £10,000.

In 2013, the Diocese are to look at the Parish Share paid by churches to the Diocese.

The Chairman asked if there were any questions about the Finance Report and a question was asked about the cost of the Interegnum and this was thought to be about £1500.

The accounts were accepted by the Annual General Meeting

The Chairman gave a vote of thanks for all the hard work done by Jonathan Wood, Elizabeth Gill and Jane Moreton over the last year.

### **Appointment of Independent Examiner**

Jane Moreton had agreed to take on the role for another year. Her appointment was proposed by Mel Gibson, seconded by Georgina Greer and unanimously accepted by the meeting.

### **Fabric and Ornaments Report.**

Tony Hughes gave the report on behalf of the Churchwardens. A full report is in the Annual Report.

Tony Hughes said that we have 3 books in the church for inspection and this is a statutory requirement. Log Books, Maintenance Books and the Quinquennial Inspection Book. These books are inspected by the Deanery Synod, usually once / year. Tony Hughes thanked everyone who helped to look after the fabric and ornaments of the church. Another working day would be planned again this year and the redecoration of the church was on going. The first phase would be the rendering and then pews out for the decoration.

There were no questions about the fabric report and The Chairman thanked Tony Hughes for his report.

### **Electoral Roll Report**

In the absence of Mike Pepper, the Secretary said that the number on the roll in APRIL 2011 stood at 139 and in 2013 all people on the Electoral Roll would have to apply again as the Electoral Roll numbers go back to zero.

### **Deanery Synod Report**

The report was given by Georgina Greer, written by Naomi Gibson.

The Deanery Synod met 3 times during 2011, in March, July and November.

### **March**

This meeting was held at St Mary Le More, Wallingford and was attended by Rt. Revd John Pritchard, Bishop of Oxford, who entertained the synod members and guests with his "Desert Island Discs". His favourite music was played and he was interviewed by the Revd Edward Carter about his choices.

The financial accounts for 2010 were presented and passed. It was agreed that the Standing Committee would organise a Stewardship Encouragers Network meeting to which Robin Brunner-Ellis, Christian Giving and Funding advisor, would be invited to offer guidance to those involved in stewardship for their parishes. The meeting marked the last session of the Deanery Synod. The Lay Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and contribution and wished farewell to those who were not standing for re-election.

## **July**

The July Meeting was held at St. Peter's Didcot and was the first meeting of the 3 year session ( triennium). The meeting opened with the election of the officers and Standing Committee. Graham Goy was re-elected as Lay Chairman, Naomi Gibson as Secretary and Mark Bayliss as Treasurer. The Area Dean, Lay Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary with the Revd Jeremy Goulston, representing the Clergy and Roger Morgan, representing the Laity, formed the Standing Committee.

The main item on the agenda was the consideration of the motion that will come before the Diocesan Synod on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2011 about women in the Episcopate viz:

That this Synod approve the proposals embodied in the draft Bishops and Priests ( Consecration and Ordination of Women) Measure and in draft Amending Canon No 30.

The Area Dean presented an overview of the information received from the Bishop of Oxford and then three speakers put forward different points of view to help discussion and debate between the members. There followed a straw poll which the majority voted in favour of the motion.

## **November**

This meeting was held at Hagbourne Cof E Primary School, East Hagbourne. This was the Area Dean's, Edward Carter, last meeting before taking up his new post as Canon Theologian at Chelmsford Cathedral in Essex.

The Deanery Treasurer, Mark Bayliss thanked all the parishes for paying their share for 2011 and reported that we would receive the full 3% rebate. The draft figures for 2012 were accepted. He reported that many parishes were struggling to reach their allocation. A review of how the Parish Share is allocated would be carried out after the Bishops Council have reported their findings. Mark has decided to step down and was thanked for his valuable contribution over the last 3.5 years. The Deanery Mission and Pastoral Committee asked for a paper to be circulated to all parishes asking for feedback to develop collaboration and pooling of parish resources. Following the Stewardship Encouragers Network meeting in October, it has been decided to hold another meeting in the spring to discuss legacies. The main item on the agenda was the consideration of the motion that will come before the Diocesan Synod in March 2012 viz: " That this Synod approve the draft Act of Synod Adopting the Anglican Communion Covenant". This produced a lively discussion, but the straw poll taken showed an equally split decision for and against the motion, as well as abstentions.

Thank are due to all those who give up their time to represent parishes on the deanery Synod and the churches and parishes who have kindly hosted our meetings in 2010.

Naomi Gibson

Deanery Secretary

January 2012

## **Child Protection Report**

Georgina Greer, child protection officer for the parish, gave a brief report to the meeting.

Last year we transferred from the Diocesan C.R.B based at Church House in North Hinksey to the Methodist Churches Agency for Safeguarding based in London. We now pay £10.50 per check after an introductory rate of £9.50 per check. They are extremely efficient and the checks are carried out much more quickly. The only problems arising are at this end, getting the completed forms back for processing, some forms have been out for nearly a year now and I know that some of our Youth Leaders are now not covered. The Diocese still requires that the CRB checks are renewed every 5 years and the Diocesan CRB administrator Steven Barbow does check up and I do get reminder letters. So if you have an overdue CRB form please get it to me as soon as possible. I will over the next few weeks be handing out yet more forms for renewals and I have been told that these are much easier to complete and less in volume than the old Diocesan Forms.

Thank you.

The Chairman thanked Georgina Greer for her work in this very important work and invited questions, There were no questions.

## **Reports from Selected Organisations**

### **Youth Fellowship Report**

- YF meet every Sunday between 7pm-8.30pm at Mandy and Malcolm Birkinshaw's house. We currently have about 8 regular members, who range between the ages of 13 and 17. They are all regular or intermittent church goers, either at St Matthew's or Didcot Baptist Church.
- I took over the responsibility of leading YF from Steve Manning, alongside Malcolm in September 2011.
- Due to a number of YF members going to University this year, this left YF with a much smaller group than we have had before. Therefore Malcolm and I prioritised the importance of getting to know each other and bonding as a group. As a result, every second Sunday of the month we meet in the church hall for a games night. This has been hugely beneficial and all members of YF really enjoy each other's company and have fun together.
- In September we started looking at a guide called "Freedom in Christ for Youth" which is a 13 week discipleship course. Beginning with the fundamental truths of Christianity, particularly looking at who we are in Christ, the course moved through into what can deflect us from the truth. We considered what can affect our relationship with God including handling our emotions and exploring the issue of forgiveness. We then concluded the course by exploring Jesus' command to love our neighbour as ourselves, reflecting on the importance of our responsibilities in a relationship, rather than our rights.
- I loosely planned each session around the guide, but also added in games and activities of my own. It was a really successful starting point with this smaller group, as it went back to basics.
- Since finishing the Freedom in Christ course we have had debates about current religious issues that have popped up on social media sites. We also dedicated an evening into looking at the Old Testament book of Obadiah and how its message can affect our lives today.
- I have also organised some guest speakers to lead YF on their choice of topic. A mother of one of the YF members did an evening on the environment and our responsibility as a Christian and her husband( who used to be a minister) is going to be leading a session on other religions.
- In the last few weeks I have begun to use the Nooma Rob Bell DVD's ( of which there are 24) as a focus for each YF session. So far we have looked at one on suffering and silence. YF

have really positively connected with these DVD's and the questions brought up have led into really interesting and thought-provoking discussions.

- I have been really upfront in asking the young people what they would like to look into at YF and what exactly they would like to get out of it. They have picked out topics and questions that they would like to explore from these Nooma DVD's so YF is relevant and interesting to them.
- In the next few months I intend to continue going through the Nooma DVD's and picking out the ones they would particularly like to see and discuss. We are also in the process of planning and booking a weekend away to the Big Church Day Out, which is a Christian music festival in West Sussex at the beginning of June. YF were really keen to go back this year – as they have attended for the past 2 years- except this year they would like to camp for the whole weekend.
- I have also been in contact with the Youth Group in Didcot at the Babtist Church and they are interested in sending some of their young people to YF, who are keen in a more in- depth discussion based Youth Group, rather than a games based group which theirs are at the moment.
- I've also been in discussion with the Youth Group at Ladygrove Church and we plan to have a joint games evening with them in the next month.
- In the coming few months I hope that YF are able to expand through the opportunity of Didcot Babtist Church, but also through inviting more young people from both St Matthew's and All Saints'.

### Orchestra Report

This report was given by Kate Evans

The orchestra has been playing twice a month since Harvest 1995

It has a membership of 17. The age range is complete. Older teenagers move on to University, families move away from the area. Younger ones start to learn instruments and other families move in to the village thus keeping the numbers more or less constant. The purpose of the orchestra is to lead worship. Like Psalm 150 says, praise God with trumpet, harp, string & flutes, not forgetting cymbals that get mentioned twice.

The great thing about playing for hymns is the improved playing & sight reading it enables – particularly for the beginners. At first it feels like trying to get on a moving roundabout; it is very uncomfortable & feels unsafe.

When learning an instrument the compulsion is to stop if you go wrong & immediately return to the beginning and to try again. Hymn playing does not allow for that. You have to wait until the end of that verse & start again at the beginning of the next. Later you learn how to skip a bar or a line & carry on. Thus music teachers have commented that a child has the best sight reading of any in their class due to playing in the orchestra.

The repertoire as at 31 December 2011 is 372 hymns & 30 carols.

The older hymns are being edited as required for current instruments and new songs are being added for all instruments as required.

### Ladies Group Report

Since last giving a report on St. Matthew's Ladies' Group we have celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> birthday and it is now 53 years since we were formed. We began as Young Wives, got older and became the Wives Group then and to accommodate all women we became Harwell Ladies Group.

We meet on the third Tuesday of each month in the Church Hall, we have a variety of speakers and social events and go out once / year for a meal. Each meeting is preceded by a prayer, a hymn and a reading from the bible. We do not stipulate that members must be churchgoers. As with many groups our numbers are declining and we are approximately 20 members, but we hope to keep going for a few more years.

### Rectors Report

The Reverend Jonathan Mobey thanked everybody for the welcome that he has had since coming to Harwell. He has got to know a lot of people and they have helped him, shown a lot of hospitality to his wife and children, been very patient and made him feel at peace. There are great challenges ahead both now and in the future. We need to reach out to the community including Chilton School and the development at Great Western Park will be a challenge.

The pattern of worship may need to be changed, we need to think outside the "box" and the PCC need to make decisions about our future.

We have launched a new website and we need to get more people from outside Didcot to use it. We have had 100 visitors to the site last month and this is very pleasing, but we need more.

It has been a great joy for Jonathan and his family to come to St. Matthew's Church, Harwell. .

### **Any Other Business**

Tony Hughes reported that Margaret Hughes was standing down as the Visiting Team Co-ordinator.

Broadsheet: It was reported that there would be no Broadsheet in May as Carolyn was on holiday and do we really need a Broadsheet. We could use the Parish Council Newsletter every month to get information to the Parish. Roz Shipp said that people liked it and it was a good way of communicating. Every house in the village was contacted said Wendy Metcalfe and should continue. Liz Roberts said that now we have a new photocopier this will save the church money as we do not have to use a printing company although it did give more work for Carolyn.

It was therefore decided that the Broadsheet should continue.

### **Close**

The meeting closed with prayer at 21:45 pm.

Signed as a true record:

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Chairman:

Secretary: