

**Minutes of a Meeting of Harwell PCC
held on Tuesday 7 January 2014 at 7.45 pm in All Saints', Chilton**

Present

Pam Rolls (Chair and present up to initial part of item 15)	Chris Wheaton	Gordon Gill
Jonathan Mobey (Chair and present from latter part of item 15 onwards)	Tony Hughes	Monika Buxton
Jane Woolley (Secretary)	Lizi Bowerman	Peter Barclay-Watt (Treasurer)
	Scott Cockburn	Vicki Luker
	Mel Gibson	
	Anne Gill	

1. Opening & Prayer

Rev Jonathan Mobey read the book of Haggai Chapter 1 about the Israelites' response to the command to build God's house. This reminds us to think about:

- What our priority is – ourselves or God (“And when you brought the harvest home, I blew it away. Why did I do that? Because my temple lies in ruins while every one of you is busy working on his own house”)
- Whether we are apparently active as a church but have less to show for that activity than we might wish (“You have sown much corn but you have harvested very little”)

2. Wallingford Deanery Shares/new parish share

The Deanery Synod has agreed the new 'equal share' proposal for parish share, as discussed at previous meetings.

The plan is for there to be a five year transition period before the new parish share arrangements are implemented in full. No benefice will have a year on year increase in parish share of more than 6% during this time. During the transition period, our benefice will be paying more than it would otherwise do under the new formula.

3. Medicine & Ministry

Jonathan Mobey explained that, if he is to keep up his medical registration, he needs to regularly practise medicine in order to pass the annual appraisal and the five year re-evaluation. If he does not do this, his registration will lapse. To re-register would then require a lot of work at a future date and might not be feasible. Thus far, he has been practising a little in his spare time for the Abingdon and the Bicester out-of-hours GP service. However, this is insufficient to maintain his registration in the longer term.

Jonathan has therefore been considering whether to let his medical registration lapse or not, and sensing that he should not, he is wanting to raise the issue.

Jonathan has discussed the matter with Rev Pam Rolls, the Churchwardens and Bishop Andrew to see how it might work if he were to increase his medical practice time to the equivalent of, say, 1 day per week, perhaps starting after Easter. They were supportive of

this idea. Pam and the Churchwardens were, though, concerned to ensure that Jonathan has one full day off per week. Jonathan has now settled on Wednesday as his day off from now on.

Various members of the PCC made supportive comments.

Jonathan will raise the issue again in February, once people have had time to think about it further. Jonathan said that he did not intend to apply for any regular medical work in the meantime.

4. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Liz Roberts, Allan Macarthur and Roz Shipp

5. Minutes of the October 2013 meeting

The minutes of the PCC meeting on 1 October 2013 were signed as a correct record.

6. Matters arising

Christian Aid – Jonathan Mobey has written to the Christian Aid co-ordinator and collectors to thank them for their work and has spoken to the Christian Aid co-ordinator about how best to liaise with the Christian Aid Committee about the decision to cease collections.

Actions outstanding: Jonathan Mobey to:

- publicise the decision to cease collections, and highlight other ways in which people can give to Christian Aid – near Christian Aid Week in May
- liaise with Mary Hanley about how to encourage those who have expressed an interest in running other fund-raising ventures for Christian Aid to meet to discuss and plan these as appropriate, but for such events only to be run if judged not to be detracting from or 'competing with' other church activities and mission giving priorities

Powerpoint template for improved visibility features – Chris Wheaton has produced a template but has not yet shown it to anyone.

Action: Chris Wheaton to:

- Send the template to Jonathan Mobey for his comment, and to upload on to the website

Concerts Verger – No one has come forward to be the person responsible for all aspects of liaison with, and giving access to, concert organisers. A couple of people have apparently said that they are willing to "help" but seemingly not to take overall

responsibility. There is a concert booked in March and another provisionally booked in September.

As far as PCC members knew, no one has yet asked the two people who have said they are willing to “help” if they would be willing to have a go at co-ordinating the March concert in full, to see if they like the role.

It was suggested that the term “Concerts Co-ordinator” would be more accurate and easier to understand than “Concerts Verger”.

Action: Tony Hughes and Mel Gibson to:

- Discuss the matter further with Jonathan Mobey and
- Consider advertising more widely in the community e.g. in the Broadsheet, if no-one can be found from within the church membership.

7. Buildings Committee report

There were no comments on the report.

8. Church Hall Management Committee report

There are some issues with some Hall users not cleaning up adequately after themselves. Anne Gill said that she plans to conduct an audit of the cleanliness every morning from February to establish clear facts and to give prompt feedback where necessary, to try and modify habits for the long term.

Anne Gill said that with ten non-paying groups and only four paying groups, it was probably unrealistic to expect the Hall to ever fully meet its costs. Members of the PCC reassured Anne that this was never the PCC's expectation. The purpose of attracting paying groups was firstly to reduce (not eliminate) the net costs of the Hall and secondly to maximise the use of the Hall.

9. Harvest Lunch

From discussions with the regular volunteers, Monika said that she had identified two advantages of keeping Harvest Lunch on a Monday:

- No clash with Chilton's cream tea (apparently quite a few people go to both)
- More attendees who are not regular church-goers are attracted – so it is a form of outreach. If it were moved to a Sunday, the likelihood would be that it would be mainly regular church-goers who attended.

Resolution	To keep Harvest Lunch on a Monday				
Moved	Gordon Gill	Seconded	Tony Hughes	Passed	unanimously

10. Harwell Feast

BBQ – PCC members spoke in favour of the church supporting the Feast once again by organising the labour for the BBQ, so this was agreed. Jane Woolley also volunteered to co-ordinate this task once again.

Action: Jane Woolley to:

- Co-ordinate the labour for the BBQ

Songs of Praise – Monika Buxton (who is on the Feast Committee) relayed that the marquee is available on the Sunday. It was suggested that Songs of Praise could be on the Sunday morning instead of the usual service at St Matthew's. Tony Hughes suggested that a small working group would be helpful to organise any Songs of Praise.

Action: Pam Rolls to:

- Discuss with Jonathan Mobey at the Worship Committee about whether he would be in favour of doing Songs of Praise again this year
- If so, ask Jonathan to bring the matter back to the March PCC in order that action can be taken to organise the event

11. Welcome to church

Tony Hughes said that there are no actions proposed yet, but that he and Mel Gibson would be taking any work forward with Liz Roberts.

12. Fairtrade Stall

Thanks were expressed for Joan Impey's many years of service running the Fairtrade Stall. PCC members agreed with Joan's suggestion that the stall should cease now that Fairtrade goods are easily accessible in the shops.

It was reiterated that PCC policy is that church supplies should be Fairtrade wherever possible.

Action: Jane Woolley to:

- Send a letter of thanks to Joan Impey

13. Reflection on various Christmas/toy service arrangements, etc

PCC members made many positive comments about these services and how well-attended they were. In particular, the Toy Service and Midnight Mass were thought to attract some members of the community who are never seen at other services, which is pleasing.

14. Stewardship

Resolution	That separate Restricted Funds for Friends for the Preservation of St Matthew's Harwell be opened within the PCC's accounts and a leaflet prepared outlining the purpose and aim of Friends				
Moved	Peter Barclay-Watt	Seconded	Tony Hughes	Passed	Unanimously

In order not to overload villagers with requests for funds whilst Village Hall fundraising is going on, the it is proposed that Friends of St Matthew's be recruited from outside the village in the first instance. Specifically, those in the USA with the surname "Harwell" will be targeted. Tony Hughes said that he had already started trying to track some down and volunteered to continue.

Action: Tony Hughes to:

- Co-ordinate the identification of, and communication with Americans who have the surname "Harwell"

15. Finance Committee report

The Treasurer highlighted some key items mentioned in the Finance papers.

The Treasurer clarified that there are some small differences between the figures on the E&I report and the proposed budget for 2014 sheet due to some final amendments to the former which have not been applied to the latter.

The meeting then went on to look at the proposed budget for 2014 in more detail, as this required approval.

The Treasurer and Pam Rolls confirmed that All Saints' was aiming to pay its parish share in full in 2014. Therefore St Matthew's does not need to set aside funds to make up any shortfall in All Saints' parish share.

Jonathan Mobey entered the room at 9.47pm and, as had been arranged, took over as Chair from Pam Rolls, who left the room in order to Chair the meeting of All Saints' PCC.

The Treasurer confirmed that no provision has been made in the budget for any expenditure on a Youth & Families worker. However, he reported that someone has come forward to say that they will personally donate 20% of the Harwell portion of the cost. This equates to around £3,200 + gift aid i.e. £4,000. All Saints' has some restricted funds which it could use to pay its share of the cost of a Youth & Families worker.

Tony Hughes requested that there be a note in the budget statement about how the provisional figure there is made up and , when the time comes, the funding arrangements for a Youth & Families worker are clearly documented.

Chris Wheaton asked for clarification that the employment/expense of a Youth & Families worker has not yet been agreed. The Treasurer and the Chair confirmed this.

Resolution	To accept the proposed 2014 budget				
Moved	Mel Gibson	Seconded	Monika Buxton	Passed	11 in favour 1 abstention (Gordon Gill)

16. Do we want to improve the interior of St Matthew's, why and how?

Tony Hughes introduced this item. He said he felt that it is important to come to as clear a view as possible as to how we see the church building being used in the future, as this has a lot of implications for what we could do as regards the interior.

Tony also went on to make the point that there is also a human cost as well as a financial cost to any schemes, in that they would absorb people's time and energy. The resources put into building schemes therefore have to be balanced against the resources available to other fulfil other aspects of our overall mission.

Mel Gibson said that he felt that heating is a core issue. If greater use of the building is intended, it will be essential to have a fit for purpose heating system.

Gordon Gill said it would be important to bear in mind the wider context, in that it is being predicted that in ten to fifteen years' time, church membership across the Deanery will have declined such that only two church buildings out of the current nineteen will be sustainable as places of worship. St Matthew's is in a good position to be one of these, but that means that it will be the focus of a much wider

geographical area. This might also affect how the interior of the building needs to develop.

Gordon Gill also pointed out that the experience at Cholsey church (which had major interior alterations) was that this was very financially expensive, and, sadly, the building is only actually open for a few hours per week, which seems rather a waste. When asked why he thought this was the case, Gordon said that he felt Cholsey church had not managed to appeal to a sufficiently wide congregation. So there are lessons to be learnt from such experiences.

In view of the late hour, it was agreed to postpone further discussion until the PCC Away Day.

17. Future dates

PCC away day – Saturday 25 January, Court Hill Centre, Wantage

Action: Jane Woolley to:

- Email Combined PCC members to ask them to “bring and share” their lunch

18. AOB

Jonathan Mobey stated that we will formally be moving to be in the new Archdeaconry of Dorchester in March, but as from January have informally come under the pastoral care of the Bishop of Dorchester. However, until a new Archdeacon had been appointed, anything requiring permission from an Archdeacon would be referred to the Archdeacon of Berkshire.