

St Matthew's Church Harwell

Minutes of the Annual Meetings held on Wednesday 17th April 2013 at 7.45 p.m. in St Matthew's Church Hall

The Chairman, Reverend Jonathan Mobey, opened the meeting by reading Acts Chapter 16 v.11-15. This passage describes how the apostles spread the message about Jesus in Europe for the first time, and the conversion of Lydia. In the passage we hear how the apostles sought out the devout Jews at prayer down by the river i.e. they went to where the people were rather than expecting people to seek them out. We also hear that it was God who opened Lydia's mind (or heart) to Paul's teaching, which shows us that it is God who is instrumental in bringing people to Christ. We also see the ripple effect of Lydia's conversion in the rest of her household being baptised. These are all relevant messages for us as we seek to spread God's word in our own communities:

- We need to go to where people are, and all sorts of places are "the river"
- Divine activity will be at the heart of successful evangelism

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

The attendance was 28.

Apologies were received from Roz Shipp, David Evans, Scott Cockburn, Anne Gill, Gordon Gill, Joan Impey, Clive House, Heather House, Tim Roberts, Roy Slatter, Jim Sinclair, Wendy Sinclair, Betty McNiven, Peter McNiven, Margaret Gibson and Dawn Mobey.

Annual Parochial Meeting

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 18th April 2012 had been distributed. It was proposed by the Chair that these should be accepted as a correct record. This was unanimously agreed. The minutes were duly signed as a correct record by the Chair and Secretary. The Chair thanked Mel Gibson for his work in preparing the minutes.

Election of Churchwardens

The Chair expressed gratitude to Tony Hughes and Mel Gibson for their work as churchwardens over the last year. He said they were a delight to work with as they were competent, hard-working and totally reliable.

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:

Chairman:

Secretary:

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 18th April 2012 had been distributed. The Chair proposed that these should be signed as a correct record of the meeting. This was unanimously agreed. The minutes were duly signed by the Chair and Secretary as a correct record.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Election of Deanery Synod Member

Georgina Greer has stood down as Deanery Synod Member. The Chair thanked Georgina for her commitment to Deanery Synod work.

Georgina's resignation has resulted in a casual vacancy for one Deanery Synod Member for the remaining year of the three year term, for which nominations have been sought. The Chair explained that the Deanery Synod is currently re-formulating how Parish Share is calculated, so it is important that we are fully represented on it.

In advance of the meeting, Mel Gibson had been nominated and seconded in writing to fill this casual vacancy. There were no other nominations and Mel Gibson was duly elected unanimously.

Election of PCC Members

The Chair explained that the usual system is for PCC members to be elected for a three year term, and that it was agreed at last year's APCM that we would change to this from the current system of a one year term. PCC members can resign at any time, but the expectation now is that they serve for a three year term.

The Secretary relayed that the eleven people shown in the table below had been nominated and seconded in writing to serve on the PCC. The Chair moved that the meeting accept these candidates en masse, which was unanimously agreed.

The Chair thanked the PCC members for their willingness to serve – both those who are new to the PCC and those who are willing to serve again. He emphasised the importance of the PCC, not just as a legal entity, but in determining the direction the church takes, and in the custodianship of its buildings and finances.

The Secretary then explained that the PCC had agreed that the arrangement should be that a third of PCC members retire each year, and a further third elected to replace them (although any of those retiring members could stand again for election). This "rolling" system helps to reduce the risk of sudden, wholesale changes in PCC membership. This being the first year of the rolling system, it is necessary to allocate each elected PCC member a term of one, two or three years. The system for allocation is on a random, "names drawn from hats" basis.

The Secretary then oversaw the drawing of the names of elected PCC members from a hat, with the resulting number of years for which individuals have been allocated to serve shown in the table below.

Elected PCC member	Term
Scott Cockburn	1 year
Chris Wheaton	1 year
Lizi Bowerman	1 year
Liz Roberts	2 years
Jane Woolley	2 years
Allan Macarthur	2 years
Peter Barclay-Watt	2 years
Anne Gill	3 years
Monika Buxton	3 years
Vicki Luker	3 years
Roz Shipp	3 years

Election of Sides persons

Mel Gibson thanked all who had served as sides persons over the past year and for making a very important contribution to the services. Jonathan Mobey added his thanks to Mel's. Mel Gibson proposed the following to serve for the coming year. These names were agreed unanimously.

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

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 Chair thanked the Secretary for writing the report and asked if there were any questions. There were no questions.

The Chair moved that the meeting accept the Annual Report and this was agreed unanimously.

Financial Report

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

The Financial Statement for the year ended 31 December 2012 had been adopted by the PCC at its last meeting, and was presented along with the statement of the appointed Independent Examiner, Jane Moreton.

Peter Barclay-Watt expressed appreciation for Jane Moreton's work as Independent Examiner and her confirmed willingness to do the work again.

The Annual Report carries some commentary about the finances of St. Matthew's during 2012. Peter Barclay-Watt gave a short report on the finances.

The unrestricted funds in reserve have been dropping. They should be at about £50,000 or c.6 months' expenditure. Currently they stand at £23,000. The main item of expenditure is the Parish Share, which went up by 2.5% in 2012 and will increase by 5% in 2013.

The Treasurer asked if there were any questions about the Finance Report. The following queries were raised and answered by the Treasurer thus:

Q. "Gift-aided donations, general" is much smaller in 2011 than in 2012. Why?

A. Due to a one-off legacy in 2012 (so this category is subject to fluctuations)

Q. What are "Dominic School Fees" for?

A. Chris Stott (previous Rector) worked in Tanzania. The church cleaner there was a man called James Dominic and he eventually became ordained. Some St Matthew's parishioners have made contributions towards James Dominic's children's education over the years. There are about six parishioners who do so, some regularly, some on an ad hoc basis. Recently the largest element has been for his eldest child, Hilda, who is at medical school. His next eldest child wishes to do a nursing & midwifery course. The donations appear in the church accounts because then the donations benefit from gift aid. So the money isn't eating into church funds as such.

Q. Mission giving was down by £1,000 in 2012. As a church, shouldn't we continue to look outwards and perhaps actually increase our mission giving? We used to give 15% of church income, now we only give 12.5%. If our Parish Share is going to increase, shouldn't we also increase our mission giving?

A. It would be nice to get our mission giving back up to 15%, if we can afford it. Our benefice contributes more to church funds than our own costs, so in some senses we are contributing at a relatively high rate to outreach elsewhere.

Q. Why does Scouts' donation for church hall cleaning get a special mention in the accounts when the donation by Ladies Group does not?

A. Scouts' donation is specifically mentioned simply because they were late paying and so they are listed in the accounts as a "debtor".

Jonathan Mobey asked Peter Barclay-Watt to ask Elizabeth Gill if she could split out church hall donations from other church hall income in future.

Q. Does church hall income now match or exceed church hall costs?

A. Not yet. Church hall income has increased but its costs still exceed its income.

The Chairman gave a vote of thanks for all the hard work done by Peter Barclay-Watt. Peter said he owes a great debt of gratitude to bookkeeper, Elizabeth Gill.

The accounts were accepted by the Annual General Meeting

Appointment of Independent Examiner

Jane Moreton had agreed to take on the role for another year. Her appointment was 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 pointed out the presence of the following documents at the meeting, which are up to date and anyone should feel free to inspect them:

- St Matthew's Log Book
- St Matthew's Property Register
- St Matthew's Church Hall Log Book

Tony Hughes thanked all who have contributed to keeping church buildings and contents in reasonable working order. Many people have been involved, but in particular Tony thanked the members of the Buildings Committee as it is they who do most of the donkey-work to keep the buildings in good order.

Tony Hughes brought to the meeting's attention a possible chancel roof leak, in case it turns out to be serious. The area is due to be investigated properly shortly. Hopefully it will be rectifiable via some minor work, but it illustrates the sort of vigilance and potential cost associated with maintaining this sort of building. By-and-large, however, the church building is in good shape as these sorts of buildings go.

Tony Hughes asked if there were any questions. Chris Wheaton asked when the next quinquennial inspection is due. The answer from Tony was that it is due in 2015. Tony explained for those not familiar with this system, that every five years the PCC is obliged to have the church architect (who is officially appointed by the Diocese) to inspect the church building and write a report about any work that needs doing. This report gives a list of recommendations. The Buildings Committee then works its way through the list. Tony reported that all the essential recommendations from the last quinquennial inspection have been actioned.

The Chair thanked Tony Hughes for his diligence and expertise in leading the Buildings Committee and its work, and commented that it is not easy to look after a Grade 1 Listed Building.

Electoral Roll Report

Mike Pepper, Electoral Roll Officer, relayed that the number on the electoral roll in April 2012 stood at 139.

Mike Pepper explained that the church electoral roll has to be renewed every five years, with 2013 being such a year. This has duly been carried out, this time via putting a register at the back of the church to facilitate the re-signing up of those on the previous roll. Mike asked for any comments on this system. Vicki Luker commented that it seems a very sensible system. [Although this will be formally reported at next year's annual meeting, Mike relayed that the new number on the electoral roll as of April 2013 is 141 ie a net increase of 2].

The Chair thanked Mike Pepper for his on-going work on the electoral roll. The Chair also clarified that you have to be on the electoral roll to vote at the annual meeting, and that the number on the

electoral roll also currently feeds into the Parish Share calculation (the amount St Matthew's is due to pay to the Diocese to cover the cost of its clergy, and also for wider church costs).

Deanery Synod Report

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

The Deanery Synod met four times during 2012, in March, June, September and November.

MARCH

This meeting was held at St Matthew's Harwell. The Bishop of Reading, the Rt Revd Andrew Proud conducted a short service to licence Revd Jason St John Nicolle as Area Dean and commission Revd Josie Midwinter as Assistant Area Dean.

The financial accounts for 2011 were presented and passed.

It was reported that Jason, Josie and Graham Goy would discuss the process for producing the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Plan with the Revd Dr Michael Beasley, Director of Mission for the Diocese, Judith Scott, Lay Chair of the Diocesan Synod and the Ven Norman Russell, Archdeacon of Berkshire in May and report back to the Mission and Pastoral Committee.

JUNE

The June meeting was held at All Saints', Didcot. The main item on the agenda was the current status of the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Plan and looking at the challenges and opportunities. The plan has been split into two parts with the first part looking at ways to grow the churches in the Deanery and the second element was the decisions about future staffing with the likelihood of reducing from 8 posts to 6. It was decided that further meetings of the Mission and Pastoral Committee, along with any interested members, were needed to develop possible solutions for the cutting of posts.

The Wallingford Deanery has two clergy and two Laity places on the Diocesan Synod. For the new session,

Gordon Gill and David Dancy will be representing the Laity and Revd. Jason St John Nicolle and Revd Jeremy Goulston will represent the House of Clergy.

Graham Goy announced that after many years as Lay Chairman that he would be stepping down at the next meeting. He was pleased to announce that Gordon Gill had been nominated for this role and reminded Synod that members were free to nominate other members. The election would take place at the next meeting in September and only the House of Laity can vote.

SEPTEMBER

The meeting was held at St Mary's, Cholsey and was an extra meeting to discuss the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Plan before it was presented to the Archdeaconry Pastoral Committee in October. A proposed outline strategy was presented.

There are three areas for discussion; the new housing developments, the Sheffield Posts reducing from 8 to 7 and then possibly 6 and looking ahead to growing our churches in numbers and depths of discipleship.

It was decided to present the proposed outline and it was hoped that the Archdeaconry would share their experience and suggest solutions that the Deanery had not thought about.

Gordon Gill was the only nominee for the post of Lay Chair and was proposed and seconded and duly elected. Graham Goy was retiring as Lay Chair after 13 years and 3 months service. Graham

recounted memories of the time as Lay Chair working with 4 Area Deans and appreciated how over the years the roles of Area Dean and Lay Chair had become more a team working closely together.

NOVEMBER

This meeting was held at St Mary Le More, Wallingford and began with the commissioning of Gordon Gill as Lay Chair by Archdeacon Norman Russell.

The meeting followed with a presentation from Gordon Gill about mission inspiring the Deanery to look at the areas of mission in our communities and suggesting tools to facilitate the ideas.

Naomi Gibson stepped down as Deanery Secretary after 7 years in the role and was thanked for her service.

Mark Bayliss reported the Deanery's inability to claim the full rebate this year due to 4 parishes being unable to meet their full parish share. The 2013 Parish Share figures were looked at. Moulsoford expressed their dissatisfaction about their high allocation which was way above the target figure again. After discussion the draft figures were accepted.

In light of the rejection of women bishops at the November General Synod meeting this, George Curtis asked that the following motion be presented:-

"The Wallingford Deanery Synod respectfully requests the Church of England Synod to re-addresses as a matter of great urgency the few remaining issues preventing the appointment of women bishops".

Following a vote, it was decided to present the motion and Jason agreed to find out the procedure.

The Mission and Pastoral Committee will meet in December to further modify the plan before it is presented again to the Archdeaconry Pastoral Committee.

Thanks are due to all those who give up their time to represent parishes on the Deanery Synod and the churches and parishes which have kindly hosted our meetings in 2012

Naomi Gibson
Deanery Secretary
November 2012

There were no questions on the report.

Reports from Selected Organisations

St Matthew's Bell Ringers – Philip Roberts, Tower Captain

I begin my report on a sad note, that of the funeral of Harry Wells on Friday 20th January 2012 (Harry was stalwart of Harwell tower for many years and it was he who taught me to ring). Later on in the year the funeral of his wife, Mary (another Harwell ringer) took place and a peal of Stedman Triples was rung in their memory, conducted by their son-in-law, John Hibbert. We have also had request to ring for funerals from other villagers' families, which we were pleased to do.

Last April saw the Radley course, and Kevin and Callum both gained a lot from it. This year's course is on Saturday 16 April and another one of our ringers, Steve, has a place. We also rang for St George's Day and will be doing so again this year. The clapper on the 3rd was re-brushed as part of Whites yearly maintenance. I have yet to arrange this year's inspection, although I have been told that the clapper on the 5th needs new brushes too.

On 2nd of June we rang a quarter peal for the Jubilee – Plain Bob Doubles, Treble, Elizabeth, 2nd Clive, 3rd Philip, 4th Janette, 5th Mark (conductor), 6th Keith. Also in June we again held our bell ringers BBQ and although hit was cold, at least it stayed dry.

In July there was a tower open day. This was in conjunction with gardens open in Harwell, when over 90 visitors came. Local ringers joined Harwell ringers to ring for Sophie Gibson's wedding and Harwell also took part in the 3 minutes Olympic ring on 27th July.

September saw the renewal of the gold tower maintenance award. The sound control has been installed and works well. We are just waiting on a decision on how best to operate it remotely from the ringing chamber.

Callum rang his first quarter peal on Sunday 28th October, again Plain Bob Doubles, Treble, Callum, 2nd Elizabeth, 3rd Debbie G, 4th Nick, 5th Mark (conductor), 6th Philip. Again the striking was very good. Well done Callum!

Ringing has also re-started on a Sunday evening, the 4th Sunday of the month (which is evening communion).

The ringing on Boxing Day morning, which was always a regular event on the branch calendar, was a great success with over 30 people attending. One person rang for the first time in over ten years!

Steve and Simon were elected and re-elected respectively as guild members at the New Year's Day ringing at Chilton and we wish them every success.

We entered a team in the branch 6 bell striking competition again this year with no great expectations (having come 5th last year). This year it was held at Milton prior to the branch AGM and after some superb ringing, it was no surprise that we came first (well, actually it was). The results were 1st Harwell 9 faults, 2nd Wantage 12.5 faults, 3rd Abingdon 16.5 faults, 4th Wallingford 20 faults and 5th were Blewbury with 35 faults. Harwell now represents the Old North Berks Branch at the guild event at Monks Risborough in October.

We regularly get 8-10 ringers on a Sunday morning with varying numbers on a Thursday (8-16, or more, depending on local visitors). Another learners course has just finished and we look forward to ringing with Michelle, Rob and Angela but there is an old saying in bell ringing: We could do so much more with another ringer!


We heavily support eh Monday night practice at Chilton and we gain a lot from them too.

Finally, I would like to thank all of our ringers for turning out for Sunday's practices and other occasions, for without them the bells of St Matthew's would fall silent.

There were no questions on the report.

Children's/Youth Groups Report – Vicky Macarthur

Vicky Macarthur introduced herself as Chair of the Youth and Families sub-committee of the Joint PCC. Vicky pointed out that this area is covered in the Annual Report and so she would concentrate here today on the aspects not covered in that Report. Vicky covered the groups meeting on Sundays at both churches (St Matthew's, Harwell and All Saints', Chilton) and also the goals of the sub-committee. Her Powerpoint slides are reproduced below. In particular, Vicky highlighted the opportunities for new leaders to join Scramblers and Pathfinders. Mike Pepper (Pathfinders) commented that he found Pathfinders were amazed at how God was working in their lives and encouraged church members to pray for Pathfinders members and to support them anyway they can.

<p>Harwell and Chilton Churches</p> <p>Sunday Groups</p>	
1	2

<p>Children, Youth and Families Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Direct and support the work of the church to encourage C,Y&F to develop a relationship with God.• Direct and support the spiritual development within C,Y&F• Ensure the needs of C,Y&F are represented in all aspects of church life• Identify opportunities for the church to be involved in aspects of community life relevant to C,Y&F	<p>Crèche</p> <p>0 to 3 year olds in Harwell</p> <p>Quiet since a recent exodus to Scramblers!</p> <p>Please encourage any young families you know to come along and make use of the facilities!</p>
3	4

<p>Scramblers</p> <p>3 to 7 in Harwell</p> <p><i>"The children who come seem to enjoy it, as do the leaders. (children's material has good explanations of what some things mean which you always wondered about but were too embarrassed to ask!) Lately we've been doing 'Talking with God', 'God's promise' and 'Jesus the Healer'.</i></p>	<p>Discoverers (Harwell)</p> <p>7 to 11 year olds in Harwell</p> <p><i>"As well as having great fun with various activities, the children have been able to give some very thoughtful insights into bible passages, bring sensitive prayer requests to the group and ask important questions. It has been a place of learning and developing faith for leaders and children alike and an exciting area of growth"</i></p>
5	6

Check it out

10 to 14 yr olds in Chilton

"We try to follow the theme of the sermons so studied the fruit of the spirit before Easter. I am encouraged that they come along to the group despite having many pressures of homework and being of the age that a lie in is very tempting on a Sunday morning."

7

Discoverers (Chilton)

3 to 9 years Chilton

"During the last year the children have been studying Samuel, miracles of Jesus and joined in with the rest of the church studying Genesis. The children have worked well together to create decorations for the church at Christmas and working together to cook pancakes. We now have two children attending from the Chilton fields development, which is encouraging."

8

Pathfinders

11 to 14 year olds Harwell

What is going well?

Connecting and engaging with the children. Allowing discussion to discuss what children raise. Creativity. Different leader's styles leads to diversity. Safe, supportive environment to discuss and explore things safely.

What would like to see happen in the group?

Talking them deeper to making a commitment, moving from second hand to firsthand knowledge of God.

9

YF

14 to 18 year olds in Harwell, Chilton 'and beyond...'



10

There were no questions on this report.

Church Logo

Jonathan Mobey explained that the Joint PCC (JPCC) is a joint forum for representatives of St Matthew's PCC and All Saints' PCC to make decisions about matters at a benefice level. There are sub-committees appointed by the JPCC to look at the following matters:

- Communications & Operations
- Outreach & Support
- World Mission
- Worship Services
- Youth & Families

The Communications & Operations sub-committee has been looking at visual communications and, in particular, the logo we use. A key question they have been considering is: Should we have a different logo? Should it be more up-to-date looking? The sub-committee, and Lin Kerr in particular, have been exploring a couple of possible options for a new logo. Lin is a graphic designer and an artist.

Jonathan Mobey showed some examples of logos from other Christian organisations by way of context and noted that quite a few did not feature the cross. He then presented the two options designed by Lin – one features the cross and the other is a more abstract “molecule” design – and talked a little about the symbolism contained in each. In both cases the proposed colour is green, representing our rural locations, life and growth.

Jonathan Mobey explained that at this stage he was not encouraging comments, just bringing people up to date. There will be a process for feedback from the congregation to the PCCs. The two options will also appear in the service notice sheets for a few weeks so people can see what they look like in practice.

Rector's Remarks

The Reverend Jonathan Mobey said that we have much to give thanks for as we look back over 2012. There are great opportunities with the development at Chilton Field and we are already reaching out to the new residents there. A third of Great Western Park (GWP) housing will be in Harwell parish. So how are we going to respond? The C of E is bidding to run the secondary school in GWP, and there is also the possibility of a “church plant” in GWP. We also need to reach out to those in the existing community e.g. via Scouts, bell-ringing, funerals, weddings, etc. Another key question is how do we grow our income? So there are lots of challenges, but we can trust the God wants us to step out and to take risks. The Holy Spirit gives disciples boldness to keep going in the face of persecution. We too should be stepping out in boldness.

Jonathan Mobey asked if there were any comments or questions about where we are going as a church?

Q. What is the vision for Connect? It is that eventually the Chilton Field community take over responsibility for Connect themselves? How are we going to cope if we also need to do something similar at GWP?

A. (Jonathan Mobey) Connect is the gathering at Chilton School every Sunday afternoon, and includes a “Thought for the day” talk and a meal. The vision for Connect needs clarifying via the steering group. Possibly some attendees will end up attending All Saints’; some will stay committed to the group but not attend church as such. I see Connect remaining similar to what it currently is and would like to see ownership from the ground. We already have a couple of key families beginning to join in with the organisation. It is early days and fewer than a quarter of the eventual houses are yet occupied. In the longer term, I would like to do something similar to Connect for existing residents of “Harwell West” [Gaveston Road/Westfield/Orchard Way area of Harwell village].

A. (Jean Barton) My experience is that those involved in organising and running Connect want to be there and are happy to give their time. We have to trust that if God wants us to do similar at GWP, he will provide the resources.

A. (Vicki Luker) I can see where the question is coming from – it’s the same faces helping out at all the events we run. We need more faces for it to be sustainable. Perhaps All Saints’ congregation could take further ownership of Connect so that St Matthew’s congregation can be released to focus on “Harwell West”?

A. (Jonathan Mobey) We do certainly need to grow the core [of church membership] as well as the fringe.

Any Other Business

On behalf of the parish, Peter Barclay-Watt expressed a big thank you to Jonathan Mobey. Peter commented how hard Jonathan works, how much we appreciate his leadership and his encouragement of discipleship, and how we recognise the need for his endeavours to spread God's message outside of the existing congregation. Peter also thanked Dawn Mobey for all she has contributed to church and village life.

Jonathan Mobey thanked the PCC Secretary, Jane Woolley, and the Combined PCC Secretary, Peter Cox (the latter is a new role).

Philip Roberts raised the matter of John Brown's request for bollards which he can put outside his bungalow (opposite the church hall) on Sunday mornings. Roz Shipp reported that she is looking into providing him with some.

Tony Hughes thanked church administrator, Carolyn, for keeping the administration of the church going. Tony remarked that much of what Carolyn does generally goes without remark, but deserves our thanks nevertheless.

Close

The meeting closed with prayer at 21:35.

Signed as a true record:

Chairman:

Secretary: