

## St Matthew's Church Harwell

### Minutes of the Annual Meetings held on Tuesday 29th April 2014 at 7.45 p.m. in St Matthew's Church Hall

The Chairman, Reverend Jonathan Mobey, opened the meeting by reading Romans Chapter 12 v.9-21 which is entitled "Love". Jonathan remarked that this passage contains much to encourage and challenge us in the life of this church, and that this meeting is an opportunity to give thanks for what God has been doing in Harwell and further afield.

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

Jonathan also thanked the refreshments team for providing refreshments for the meeting.

The attendance was 26.

**Apologies** were received from Scott Cockburn, Joan Impey, Mike Pepper, Anita Pepper, Kathryn Roberts, Philip Roberts, Peter Barclay-Watt, Roy Slatter, Muriel Ponting, Norman Ponting, Margaret Hughes, Georgina Greer, Jim Sinclair, Wendy Sinclair, Clive House and Dawn Mobey.

## Annual Parochial Meeting

### Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2013 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 (The Rev. Jonathan Mobey) and Secretary (Jane Woolley).

### Election of Churchwardens

The Chair thanked Tony Hughes and Mel Gibson for their faithful service as churchwardens over the last year.

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 17<sup>th</sup> April 2013 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.

The Chair thanked the Secretary, Jane Woolley, for her work, including preparing the minutes. He also thanked the Administrator, Carolyn Vickers.

### **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **Election of Deanery Synod Members**

In advance of the meeting, Mel Gibson, Gordon Gill and Lizi Bowerman had been nominated and seconded. There were no other nominations and they were duly elected unanimously.

The Chair remarked that Gordon Gill has been serving as Lay Chair of the Deanery, and is prepared to continue in this role.

### **Election of PCC Members**

The Secretary explained that elected PCC members are now elected for a three year term, on a staggered basis. There are five vacancies to fill. Three are due to members' terms coming to an end and are for a three year term. Two are due to retirement two years early and are therefore "casual vacancies" for a two year term.

The Chair emphasised the importance and role of the PCC.

The Secretary relayed that no nominations had been received.

The Chair remarked that the five vacancies therefore remain, and that the PCC can co-opt people during the course of the year to fill vacancies.

The Chair thanked those who had just finished serving on the PCC, and also those who are continuing to serve on the PCC.

### **Election of JPCC members**

The Chair explained that the JPCC for the Benefice comprises the incumbent, any ordained ministers or licensed lay workers, the churchwardens and the PCC Treasurers from each parish, plus two other PCC members from each parish as appointed at this meeting. Recently, the latter members have been the PCC Vice-Chair and PCC Secretary.

The Chair explained that the posts of PCC Vice-Chair and PCC Secretary are actually only filled at the forthcoming May PCC meeting. However, Allan Macarthur and Jane Woolley respectively had indicated that they would be prepared to continue in these roles.

The proposal that the PCC Vice-Chair and the PCC Secretary be elected to serve on the JPCC was unanimously agreed.

## 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. Mel Gibson proposed the following to serve for the coming year. These names were agreed unanimously.

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

Mel Gibson commented that further volunteers for the 6.15pm service would be particularly welcome.

Jonathan Mobey added his thanks to the sides persons team and to Mel Gibson for overseeing that group.

The meeting subsequently came back to this item when Elizabeth Gill later raised the point that the Annual Report had omitted the names of sides persons who serve at the 8am service, and also at Cherry Tree Court. The Secretary pointed out that those people should also be appointed as sides persons at this annual meeting. The following were therefore also unanimously elected as sides persons:

Georgina Greer	Jean Twigger	Tony Twigger
Keith Tyler	Elizabeth Gill	

## 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 explained that the production of an Annual Report is a C of E requirement, and is also necessary as a way of describing how the church meets the public benefit requirements of being a charity.

The Chair thanked the contributors, and the Secretary for writing the report. He also thanked Liz Roberts for laying out the report so beautifully, and for subsequently producing a shortened, easy to digest version for the website/newcomers.

The Chair asked if there were any questions or comments on the report. The following comments were received:

### Cards replacing Ridgeway Broadsheet at Easter & Christmas should have a calendar insert

Jane Woolley said that she had received a letter from Joan Impey about the Ridgeway Broadsheet. The letter asked Jane to raise an issue at the APCM on Joan's behalf. This issue is that the report says that we have a monthly Broadsheet delivered to each home in the parish. Joan points out that in

fact at Easter and Christmas a card replaces that month's Broadsheet and that this contains more limited information about services/events. Joan proposes that a calendar of services/events should be inserted with each card. This is because not everyone has access to the website, and Joan knows of a number of people who have missed services and other events because they did not have the details.

Elizabeth Gill endorsed Joan Impey's comment.

Jonathan Mobey said that Joan Impey raises a valid point. Jonathan said that the matter would be referred to the PCC for consideration, which was duly noted by the PCC Secretary.

Tony Hughes said that there was a paper calendar for Easter but that a stack of these was placed on the table near the font and was not well known about. A copy was not included with the Easter cards. Betty McNiven commented that she was unaware of the availability of this calendar when she made up the bundles of cards for the distributors.

#### Mention of those authorised to lead services

Jean Barton commented that the annual report makes no mention of those authorised to lead services, whereas it does list all sorts of other people. Those involved are:

Peter Barton	Vicky Macarthur	Alex Reich
Kate Evans	Joan Impey	Gordon Gill

The Chair and the Secretary acknowledged this oversight and noted it for future reports.

#### Fledgelings

Anne Gill said that the number of adult attendees at Fledgelings fluctuates. At the time of the compilation of the annual report, weekly adult attendance was about ten. It has now risen to about 21.

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

### **Financial Report**

The financial report was summarised by PCC member, Chris Wheaton, in the Treasurer's absence.

The Financial Statement for the year ended 31 December 2013 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 2013. Chris Wheaton gave a short report on the finances.

Chris Wheaton commented that the generosity of the parish towards St Matthew's is outstanding. Planned giving increased by c.£8,000 during 2013, and donations and grants covered the whole of the cost of installing the digital projection system. Chris commented that 2014 has already seen further generosity in the form of pledges and donations towards the cost of employing a Children and Families' Worker. Chris also thanked the Scouts, Fledgelings, Ladies Group and Evergreens for their financial contributions towards the running of the Church Hall.

Chris Wheaton highlighted on the expenditure side that our Parish Share will be held flat in 2014. Nevertheless we are budgeting for an overall deficit in 2014 due to rising costs such as utility bills. We do have some reserves, but these are less than the Charity Commission recommends.

The Chair asked if there were any questions about the Finance Report. There were none.

The Chair gave a vote of thanks for all the hard work by the Treasurer, Peter Barclay-Watt, Book-keeper, Elizabeth Gill and Stewardship Secretary, Ruth Slatter.

The Chair said that it is essential for St Matthew's to grow numerically to remain on a good financial footing.

### **Appointment of Independent Examiner**

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

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

Tony Hughes gave the report on behalf of the Churchwardens. Tony explained that it is a statutory requirement on churchwardens that they present a report annually to both the PCC and the APCM. The full report is contained in the Annual Report.

Tony Hughes thanked all those who contribute to the upkeep of the church and the Church Hall in any way. Tony said that St Matthew's is generally in good shape, and that this was reflected in the last Quinquennial inspection in 2010. The church hall is also in good order.

Tony Hughes 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 went on to draw the meeting's attention to the fact that the PCC has been considering what improvements could/should be made to the church building. PCC members had a brainstorm about this at the January 2014 PCC away day. From a long list of possibilities, it was agreed that the highest priorities were heating and seating. By "seating" the issue is whether we should remove the pews and replace them with chairs.

Tony Hughes said that the Buildings Committee (which he chairs) will be looking into the heating issue. Its thinking will be informed by the report on the energy efficiency of the church prepared by Sustain. In terms of the seating question, an initial task is for someone to look into what sort of chairs would be best to replace the pews with. This task has not yet been allocated to anyone, and is to be discussed at the next PCC meeting. If there are any volunteers for it, please contact Tony. Another preliminary task is to do a "market study" of what potential there is for the church building to be used more widely in the community than currently. This is bearing in mind that the population of the parish is due to increase significantly.

Tony Hughes asked if there were any questions.

Heather House asked about the feedback on the trial of removing the front row of pews (the feedback actually took place during 2014). Tony Hughes said that there had been about 30 responses to the trial feedback solicitation. Two-thirds were in favour of keeping the chairs in the front row, and the PCC had resolved to make the arrangement permanent. The PCC delegated the Buildings Committee to propose what to do with the surplus pews.

The Chair thanked Tony Hughes for his report and for his and the Buildings Committee's work over the past year.

## Electoral Roll Report

In the absence of the Electoral Roll Officer, Mike Pepper, the Chair relayed that the number on the electoral roll in April 2013 stood at **141**, a net increase over 2012 of two people.

[Although the following will be formally reported at next year's annual meeting, Jonathan Mobey also relayed that the new number on the electoral roll as of April 2014 is **138** i.e. a decrease of three people due to three deaths.]

Anne Gill commented that this number seems good in relation to what she understands the trend to be at other churches. Jonathan Mobey commented that numbers on the electoral roll can sometimes effectively be inflated or deflated for one reason or another. Jonathan wondered whether an incentive to deflate numbers on the electoral roll had now been removed since those numbers no longer feed into the parish share calculation.

The Chair thanked Mike Pepper for his on-going work on the electoral roll.

## Deanery Synod Report

The report was given by Gordon Gill as follows:

### “Digest of the Proceedings of the Wallingford Deanery Synod from January 2013 to February 2014”

Harwell Parish is one of 19 parishes and Anglican churches in the Wallingford Deanery. The churches are organised very roughly into 8 benefices or teams, each with a stipendiary member of clergy at the head, Jonathan being ours here in Harwell and Chilton. The Deanery Synod comprises the clergy from each benefice and several lay representatives. Together we determine aspects such as parish share and mission across the deanery.

The Deanery is in effect two houses, clergy and laity. Two members of clergy and two members of laity from each deanery are elected to diocesan synod where there is a third house, the house of bishops. Representatives of the three houses are elected to the General Synod of the Church of England.

**The Deanery Plan.** The Wallingford Deanery Synod continues to address the future consequences of a shortage of ordinands in the Church of England which may lead in the future to a reduction in the number of stipendiary vicars in the Deanery from 8 to 6.

Any reductions will be felt most in Didcot where the Church's mission in the planned expansion of houses must be addressed. The Deanery, under the joint leadership of the Area Dean and Lay Chair, has forwarded a plan to the Diocese suggesting that one vicar retiring or moving from Wallingford and one from Didcot might not be replaced; but asking for an extra specialist person to be appointed to cover the Church's mission in Didcot during the expansion.

You might ask why we are reducing clergy at a time of population growth in the deanery. The population of the deanery is 45,000. Nationally if we look at the church there are some areas where a population of 45,000 has one stipendiary member of clergy and ministry is supported by house for duty priests, non-stipendiary ministers and lay ministers. In the Wallingford Deanery there are 8 stipendiary priests, 3 stipendiary curates, 1 house for duty, 3 NSM's, one OLM (Pam Rolls) and half a dozen retired licensed priests. Our intention is to help the national church encouraging priests to move to places where there are large mission fields.

The Wallingford Deanery Plan is summarised as follows:

*‘Harwell and Chilton would remain largely unchanged, as would the Churn Benefice. In due course, the three stipendiary posts in Didcot would be reduced to two; one way to do this would seem to be to combine Didcot All Saints' with Didcot St Peter's, and to keep Ladygrove (a joint Baptist/Anglican church) as a separate post. Currently, there are three stipendiary*

*posts in the east of the Deanery: Cholsey with Moulsoford, and two posts in the Wallingford Team Ministry. The proposed Plan would reduce these three posts down to two: either Cholsey and Moulsoford would be brought into the Wallingford Team; or Brightwell cum Sotwell would be taken out of the Wallingford Team and attached to Cholsey with Moulsoford.'*

Changes can be implemented gradually and provision made for appropriate transitional arrangements. No clergy person is made redundant.

**An Outline Vision for the Church in the new housing around Didcot.** Didcot is due to see massive housing growth over the next 10 years. 3000 homes are planned for Great Western Park; another 2000 for Valley Park; and another 2000 for North East Ladygrove. The issue is how the Church moves amongst these residents. Our intention is to try to seek funding for a full time 'Pioneer Minister' to work in Great Western Park either to 'plant' a Church together with a number of lay assistants bringing with them a 'seed' congregation, or to work on their own perhaps with the aim of building up a new congregation from scratch. Funding for their salary and housing, until the new initiative is self-supporting, might be provided by a Diocesan New Communities Group; there might be a requirement for local funding to supplement this.

Since this report was written there has been a development that I can update you on. The Revd Mark Bodeker has been appointed to Great Western Park for the next 3 years. Mark is very able to develop this mission. I have known Mark for 25 years, he comes from an evangelical background, coming out of All Souls Langham Place and then into a charismatic evangelical church. The last few years Mark has been in industry.

**The implementation of the New Diocesan Parish Share.** The Synod agreed that our policy is to implement the Diocesan formula that every parish covers its costs of ministry, but as a Deanery we decided to implement this at the benefice level. The benefice will work out the implementation at the parish level. This will also apply to parish shares in the costs of the 'Church of the Future', which includes the training of new Ministers. The distribution of the 'Glebe Income', our share of the proceeds of Church investment, will be made using the same formula.

For these purposes, Ladygrove Church and Didcot All Saints' will be treated as a single benefice. The Churn Benefice has 1.2 shares to include the costs of a 'House for Duty' post.

It is the aspiration to bring in the new scheme over 5 years, with appropriate capping during a 5 year transitional period. Some benefices in the Deanery will in effect, be subsidizing others, as an act of Christian charity. It was agreed that benefices, which have in 2013 paid more than their proportion of ministry costs should be challenged to contribute at the same rate in 2014; and that those who have in the past not made such a contribution should be challenged to a 6% increase in 2014. The situation will be reviewed on an annual basis.

**Evidence around Church Growth.** The paper 'From Anecdote to Evidence, Findings from the Church Growth Research Programme 2011-2013' was presented to the February 2014 Synod meeting. It shows that certain churches stand out as having experienced significant growth. These include some parish churches, church plants and fresh expressions of Church (new worshipping and witnessing communities which seek especially to engage with non-churchgoers). Cathedrals are shown to have experienced overall growth in numbers over the last decade and especially in weekday attendance.

The paper includes case histories from where growth has been achieved by the Church and deduced the factors associated with this:

***Good leadership***

***A clear mission and purpose***

***Willingness to self-reflect, to change and adapt according to context***

***Involvement of lay members***

***Being intentional in prioritising growth***

***Being intentional in chosen style of worship***

***Being intentional in nurturing disciples***

All of the above factors can be linked to growing churches. Deanery Synod members have been asked to report back to the Synod meeting in May the reaction of PCCs to this encouraging report.”

There were no questions on the report.

Jonathan Mobey thanked Gordon for his work, in particular as Lay Chair of Wallingford Deanery.

## **Reports from Selected Organisations**

### **Scouts – Brian Zimmerman**

Brian Zimmerman started his report by thanking the church for use of the church hall for six Beaver/Cub/Scout/Explorer meetings per week. Brian then continued to relay a flavour of the troops' activities during 2013. His Powerpoint slides are reproduced below.



## **Scout Group Report**

2013-14 Continued Growth of Group

110 Youth members through all sections

Additional Beaver section started in Autumn.

Sectional Meetings Monday Tuesday and  
Wednesday evenings

Active Leader Team of 17 with several  
additional adult helpers

Managed by Executive committee







...EVERYDAY ADVENTURE

## Major Activities and Events 2013-14

May to July  
Summer sailing

August  
Scout Summer Camp  
Brownsea Island

Significant Group involvement in  
2013 Harwell Feast

July - Whole Group  
One World County Camp

June Scouts to Aqua-Camp

Explorers extensive  
fund raising campaign for  
SAS Children's Villages

Beavers two sleepover's

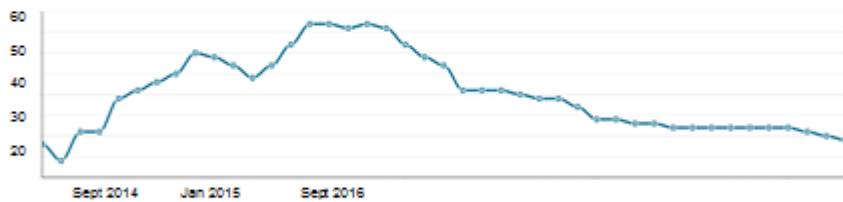
Explorers visit Eastern Europe  
with Stopover at  
SAS Children's Village in Hungary



...EVERYDAY ADVENTURE

## Growth in Beavers – Impact on Cubs

Last year membership 23 - Now 47



As new Beavers progress there will be requirement for second Cub pack  
Planning for later this year.  
Ideally preceding Scouts meeting on Wednesday evenings.











scouts.org.uk



Jonathan Mobey commented that the Zimmerman family are at the heart of Scouting in Harwell, and he welcomed the partnership between Scouts and St Matthew's over and above Scouts' use of the Church Hall.

There were no questions on the report.

Evergreens – Gill Gay

Margaret Gibson read out Gill Gay's report as Gill was unable to attend the meeting.

“Evergreens is a club essentially for the older people of Harwell. We are a church-based organisation holding a church service in the summer of each year. We have members from outside the village of Harwell who help to swell our ranks and we currently have about 80 members on our books – the bonus being that once you are over 90 years of age you don't pay to join.

We have a varied and interesting programme of speakers interspersed with outings three or four times a year. I have a very active and valuable committee to support me. There is no age limit to our membership. In fact we would welcome a few younger members as some of our members are becoming a little disabled and need help. So a few younger members would be useful in helping to put out chairs and tables at the beginning of the meeting. I will now bore you with a resume of last year's activities.

Although the first three months of last year was cold we had a good response to our first meeting of 2013. A representative from the Northmoor Trust came to speak to us on how they are developing the site at Little Whitenham to accommodate groups of people, mostly school children, to encourage wild life conservation.

In February I see from the programme that we were due to have Flt. Lt. Andrew Payne speak. Obviously February is not a good month for the RAF. Still we were entertained very well by Alan and Tom who sang to us accompanied by Tom on the guitar.

March was our AGM followed by Chrissie's Owls flying around. Chrissie talked a lot about her feathered charges and I now know that their ears are not symmetrical and that they have to move their head to see things as their eye sockets are needed in their entirety to accommodate their eyes, leaving no room for manoeuvre.

In April a coach load of Evergreens descended upon Devizes. I hope Devizes approved?

May had Mr Leaman speaking about his work with Guide Dogs for the Blind. As a result we hope that enough people will fill a coach so that we can all visit the Guide Dogs' breeding centre this year in April.

In June we held our annual combined service with Chilton Evergreens, led by our Rector Jonathan, followed by our annual tea party. My sister Diane brought along her trio as entertainment.

July found us sunning ourselves at a very hot Bournemouth. Lots of us paddled after we had managed to walk over the baking sand while others sampled the delights of the town. Anyway we all did our bit for the Bournemouth economy.

In August we had a rest, interrupted by a coffee morning held at Dromore, courtesy of Georgina on yet another lovely sunny morning.

There was another outing, this time to the seal and otter sanctuary at Marchwood in Hampshire in September. In October Judy and Normal Goodall spoke to us on what it was like to be a games maker at the 2012 Olympics. They came complete with many memories and artefacts for us to look at. I am not sure whether I would have liked to have lived in a tent for so long, but the talk was very interesting. But it did not inspire me to volunteer for Brazil 2016.

In November we spent our money at either Swindon town or the shopping outlet. For most it was an enjoyable experience and again we did our bit for the economy of the region.

The annual dinner was held in December. This year it was decided to have a hot meal instead of the usual cold table. It seemed to have been appreciated by most of our members so I think we will repeat the experiment this year. I also introduced waiter and waitresses from the youth, mostly one for each table which seemed to ease the burden on the committee. The

youngsters all said they enjoyed doing the work and have already asked me to be included this year.

During the year we have held coffee mornings to replace the annual sale, which was thought by the committee members to be a lot of work for very little reward. Also it has meant that we have only had to hire the village hall once thus reducing the cost. This year we are hoping to encourage more people to come to the coffee mornings. The coffee morning re not just for the Evergreens but for everybody so perhaps you could pass the word around.”

There were no questions on this report.

Jonathan Mobey thanked those involved in Evergreens for their work. The date of the Evergreens annual service of worship was mentioned as being on 19 June this year.

### **Rector's Remarks**

The Reverend Jonathan Mobey said that he wanted to focus on one of the words from the passage from Romans 12 which he had read at the start of the meeting – the word “hospitality”. Jonathan said that he thinks that hospitality is a key term in our faith. Jonathan mentioned a picture by Rublev called “Trinity” which depicts three angels who visited Abraham at the Oak of Mamre:



This picture has been interpreted as depicting divine hospitality being offered.

Jonathan Mobey also mentioned that in Holy Communion we are invited to “eat.....and drink.....” Jesus also spoke of the Kingdom of God as being like a feast that everyone is invited to. Jonathan went on to say that he is sure that we have all been engaged in hospitality at one time or another, and that it can feel like hard work. You have to make sacrifices to be hospitable. The church is called to give hospitality, though. In this vein, the welcome on arrival at services by sides persons is very important.

Jonathan Mobey declared that in all we do as a church we should think in terms of hospitality, and being inclusive to all. This may mean that we have to make sacrifices in our church life. But it is

important to be outward focused. We need to look to those who could be invited to share the Bread of Life – faith in Jesus, who is described as the Bread of Heaven and the Bread of Life.

Jonathan Mobey concluded by saying that he would like to hear people's thoughts on hospitality over the next few weeks.

Jonathan asked if there were any questions.

Q. (Carolyn Vickers) What's the latest on employing a Children and Families' worker (C&FW)?

A. (Jonathan Mobey) We have raised sufficient pledges/donations to warrant advertising the post. The application deadline is 21 May. Jonathan has received three applications already and an enquiry from a fourth person. He is encouraged by the quality of the applications received so far. The interviews will be held on Sunday 1 June. Probably three applicants will be invited for interview. All these will be invited to attend church on 1 June and to run a children's group session. The children will be asked to give feedback on the sessions. The candidates will be invited to attend a buffet lunch.

Jonathan asked people to pray for the endeavour. He also commented that the C&FW will be a catalyst but will still need all the volunteer helpers they can get. Jonathan said he is very optimistic that the appointment will be a really good thing.

Chris Wheaton commented that it is important to keep fund-raising so that we don't need to dip into our reserves to pay the C&FW.

### **Any Other Business**

Tony Hughes proposed a vote of thanks from the meeting to Jonathan Mobey, the whole ministry team and the licensed lay workers. Tony commented that we all depend on them and that, with the exception of Jonathan, all these people are unpaid.

The response to Tony's proposal of a vote of thanks to Jonathan Mobey was a long and resounding round of applause.

Gordon Gill drew the meeting's attention to the Oxford Diocese's "Grand Day Out" on 21 September 2014.

### **Close**

The meeting closed with prayer at 21:30.

Signed as a true record:

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Chairman:

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Secretary: