

St Matthew's Church Harwell

Minutes of the Annual Meetings held on Tuesday 4th April 2006 at 7.45 p.m. in St Matthew's Church Hall

The meetings were chaired by Rev Chris Stott, and recorded by Jim Sinclair; the attendance was 35.

Apologies were received from Liz Roberts, May Hanley, Alison Manning, Tony and Margaret Hughes, and Alan and Vicky Mcarthur.

The meeting opened with the singing of the hymn "The love of Christ who died for me". Chris then read verses from 1 Thessalonians 1 and committed the meeting to God in prayer.

Annual Parochial Meeting

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 19th April 2005 were distributed. It was unanimously agreed that these should be signed as a correct record.

Election of Churchwardens

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

Nominations for Ruth Slatter and Tim Roberts to serve another year had been received in advance of the meeting. There were no other nominations. They were elected unanimously.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 19th April 2005 were distributed. It was unanimously agreed that these should be signed as a correct record.

Matters Arising

None was raised.

Election of PCC Members

Chris expressed thanks to those retiring. Eleven nominations had been received in advance for the twelve available posts. No further nominations were forthcoming. The following were elected unanimously:

Cath Convery	Kate Evans	Sid Gale
Clive House	Madeleine Gibson	Vicky Macarthur
Frances Taylor	Martin Speed	Wendy Sinclair
Jane Wooley	Nancy Preston	

Election of Sidesmen

Ruth Slatter thanked all who had served in this way over the past year, stressing the importance of the role, which creates the first impression given of our church. She proposed the following to serve for the coming year. These were seconded by Kate Evans and elected unanimously.

Mary Jackson	Tony and Jean Twigger	Tony and Kate Ullmer
Elizabeth Gill	Peter and Betty Mcniven	Alan and Shirley Walker

Graham and Anne Cox	Ryan Davies	Roz Shipp
Geoff and Mary Jenkinson	Betty Pyke	Liz Hill
Mark Hillier	David Pyke	Mike Pepper
Malcolm and Mandy Birkinshaw	Jim and Wendy Sinclair	
Pat Connolly	Graham and Anne Cox	

Church Annual Report

The Annual Report, adopted by the PCC at its last meeting and signed by Chris Stott as chairman, had been distributed and was presented by the PCC secretary, Martin Speed. 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.

No questions were raised about the report.

Financial Report

The report was presented by the Treasurer, Clive House. Clive gave thanks for the hard work of Elizabeth Gill as bookkeeper and Alison Manning as Independent Examiner. The Financial Statement for the year ended 31 December 2005 had been adopted by the PCC at its last meeting, and was presented along with the statement of the appointed Independent Examiner, Alison Manning.

Clive summarised the report for the meeting and highlighting a number of points. His theme for his presentation was that the report was *encouraging* because although the Church had spent more money than its income, it had managed to reduce the over-spend significantly compared to the previous year and because there had been a 17% increase in planned giving. He also noted an encouraging 'levelling off' of the previous rise in expenditure, particularly in the 'Parish Share' contribution.

Among the restricted funds, Clive drew attention to encouraging generosity of the congregation represented by the donations to the kitchen and toilet refurbishment fund (and pointed out that gift aid tax contributions, which would be paid this year, would balance the small deficit that remained in the account this year.)

Clive closed his presentation by highlighting that assets currently stood at £31,288, and that although this had been reduced, it was by less than had been budgeted, and it still represented six month's worth of expenditure, which was the recommended level.

There were two questions to Clive from the meeting. It was asked how the planned giving was up yet the tax recovered was down. Clive explained that this was because the tax was recovered in the year following the giving. The final asset figures were questioned because of the larger decrease in overall assets (on page 4) than was reflected in the current cash balance (on page 1). This was thought to be explained by the funds spent from the restricted kitchen and toilet refurbishment fund which were reflected in the overall assets, but not the top level cash figure. However, Clive will check this with the bookkeeper and examiner and report back if this is not the case.

Acceptance of the Financial Report was moved by Tony Ulmer, seconded by Grace Miller, and passed unanimously.

Appointment of Independent Examiner

Clive expressed gratitude of the Church to Alison Manning for her service in the role of independent examiner. Alison was proposed to serve for a further year, and elected unanimously.

Report on Fabric and Ornaments

A written report had been distributed, and presented by Tim Roberts. He drew attention to the newly refurbished kitchen and toilet area, highlighted the need to replace the screens in the Church Hall, and reported on the progress to dispose of the pews that had been previously removed from the Church.

He alerted the meeting to a new problem which had recently emerged regarding the lead on the bell tower, which was likely to represent the need for a costly repair.

Tim expressed particular gratitude for Tony Hughes' contribution, with the buildings committee to the fabric of the Church, and particular thanks also to Wendy who had taken on the cleaning of the Church Hall on a voluntary basis.

There was one comment from the meeting in response to the report. Brian Zimmerman requested that when the screens in the Church hall are replaced that the scouts should be involved in specifying their replacement – and in contributing to the cost.

Electoral Roll Report

Wendy Sinclair, electoral roll officer, reported that the roll stands at 169, after 7 additions and 6 deletions during the recent annual revision.

Deanery Synod Report

The Deanery Synod report was presented by Clive Silver, one of the three representatives to Deanery Synod.

Clive said that there were three meetings in the year. The first was the inaugural meeting of the new (2005 – 2008) synod, and was primarily concerned with the election of officers, and after the formal meeting providing an opportunity to meet the representatives of the other Churches. The second meeting was less satisfactory as budget issues over ran, making the planned discussion of the Deanery plan impossible. However in the most recent of the three meetings, in March, there was a healthy and productive discussion of this.

Reports from Selected Organisations

For the **Bell ringers**, Anne Gardner gave a positive report. She said that there are currently 13 active bell ringers (meaning that normally all 8 bells can be rung) that the standard of ringing has been going up and that a quarter peal could be rung to mark special occasions (such as the Queen's birthday on the 21st June.)

Brian Zimmerman reported on the **Scouts** group in the village, which currently has 106 members. He told the meeting how each of the sections was helping young people in 'achieving their full physical, intellectual and spiritual potentials' through regular meetings and special events such as summer camps or dingy sailing evenings. He thanked the current leaders for their hard work and commitment, but highlighted the need for new young leaders, especially in Beavers, Cub Scouts and Explorers.

Chris Stott reported on the work of the **Visiting team**. He outlined the 'holistic' nature of their work – sometimes praying with people and at others dealing with practical support, such as hospital transport, help with shopping, or lifts. He thanked the visiting team for their invaluable work, and asked everyone to draw their attention to situations where they could help.

The Rector's Remarks

The rector's remarks were framed to parallel Paul's thanks to God for the people of Thessalonica: for "their work produced by faith", "their labour prompted by love" and their "endurance inspired by hope". Chris said that we also have much to thank God for. He singled out Jean Barton, Naomi Gibson, Pam Rolls, and Rob and Marilyn Thomas as particular examples of work to give thanks for. He also mentioned the successful Christian Extension Studies course and the planned trip to the Holy Land and described how the work of the vision group had been handed over to the 'team-time' group of ministers, churchwardens, lay ministers and the administrator.

Other Business

Children's society collection: it was asked whether there would be a specific collection for the Children's society to take the place of the collection that would normally take place at the Christingle service (which was cancelled this year). It was agreed that this would be taken to the PCC for consideration.

Communications for the missionaries David and Heather Sharland: it was asked whether David and Heather had obtained the communications 'solution' they needed. Chris reported that around £600 had been raised by the appeal and provided to them. He assumes this means that they will now have purchased the equipment they need.

Close

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

The meeting closed with prayer at 9.05 p.m.

Chairman: Chris Stott

Secretary: Martin Speed