

St Matthew's Church Harwell

Minutes of the Annual Meetings held on Tuesday 22nd April 2008 at 7.45 p.m. in St Matthew's Church Hall

The meetings were chaired by Rev Chris Stott and recorded by Martin Speed. The attendance was 34.

Apologies were received from Liz and Tim Roberts, Mandy Birkinshaw, Clive Skinner and Heather House.

The meeting opened with the singing of the hymn "Christ Our King in Glory Reigning". Chris then read verses from 1 Peter chapter 4 and committed the meeting to God in prayer.

Annual Parochial Meeting

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 24th April 2007 were distributed. It was proposed by Frances Taylor that these should be accepted as a correct record. This was seconded by Grace [missing surname] and unanimously agreed. The minutes were duly signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

Election of Churchwardens

On behalf of everyone, Chris thanked Tim Roberts and Allan Macarthur for their diligent work as churchwardens over the last year.

In advance of the meeting Alan Macarthur and Tim Roberts were nominated and seconded in writing to be elected as churchwardens for the next year. There were no other nominations. They were elected unanimously.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 24th April 2007 were distributed. Jim Mein proposed that these should be signed as a correct record of the meeting. This was seconded by Grace [surname needed] and unanimously agreed. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Matters Arising

No matters arising from the minutes were raised.

Election of Deanery Synod representatives

Chris thanked Clive Silver for his long service in the role of Deanery Synod representative and for all he has contributed. Two nominations had been received in advance of the meeting for the three posts available. There were no further nominations. The following were unanimously elected:

Georgina Greer

Steve Tunstall

Election of PCC Members

Chris thanked the PCC for their service over the last year. Seven nominations had been received in advance for the twelve available posts. No further nominations were forthcoming. The following were elected unanimously:

Kate Evans

Clive House

Frances Taylor

Sid Gale

Tony Hughes

Vicky Macarthur

Jane Woolley

Election of Sidesmen

Chris thanked all who had served as sidesmen over the past year. He said that it was a very important job helping prepare for worship and their warm welcome made a big impression (one that had recently been particularly commented on by a recent visiting speaker). Allan proposed the following to serve for the coming year. These were seconded by Pat Connelley and elected unanimously.

Mary Hanley	Geoff Jenkinson	David Pyke
Liz Roberts	Mark Hillier	Jim and Wendy Sinclair
Gill Gay	Malcolm and Mandy Birkinshaw	Roz Shipp
Elizabeth Gill	Pat Connolly	Liz Hill
Tony and Jean Twigger	Ryan Davies	Ruth and Roy Slatter
Peter and Betty McNiven	Betty Pyke	Mike Pepper
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. 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. A brief presentation on this was given by the PCC secretary, Martin Speed

In relation to the annual report there was a question regarding the composition of the Team Time group. This was reported to be: The Church Wardens, the ministry team and the Church Administrator.

The meeting asked Chris to pass on their particular thanks to Naomi for all that she does in the role of Church Administrator.

Financial Report

The report was presented by the Treasurer, Clive House.

The Financial Statement for the year ended 31 December 2007 had been adopted by the PCC at its last meeting, and was presented along with the statement of the appointed Independent Examiner, Alison Mignanelli.

Clive referred first to the simple spend and income figures provided in the annual report. He explained that these showed the finances had broken even, but that the situation was actually better than this, in that £10 thousand had been transferred to dedicated accounts that hadn't been in the original budget: these were a transfer to the tower fund (covering the balance left after fundraising and grants) and a transfer to a fund for refurbishment of the clock. This position was the result of donations being higher than expected while expenditure was broadly in line with the budget.

Clive also went through the full financial statement and explained that because the tower fund had taken the accounts over the £100 thousand threshold in the guidelines, the accounts were on an 'accrual' basis rather than a 'cash' basis. This meant that money 'owed' to the Church was included as an asset and money the Church owed was included as a liability. In practice this meant that the anticipated income from gift aid to be paid next year was included as well as the actual income paid in this year. This meant the full financial statement showed a surplus – roughly equivalent to this expected income.

Clive said thank you to Elizabeth Gill as bookkeeper and Alison Manning as Independent Examiner for their hard work in preparing the accounts in the new format.

The income from 'lead graffiti' in the accounts relating to the Tower Project was queried. Tony Hughes explained that some of the lead from the roof that had graffiti on it (dating back over a century) had been given to those who expressed an interest (such as those whose family name was included) and they had made a donation to the tower fund equivalent to at least the scrap value of the lead.

Peter Cox proposed that the meeting accepts the accounts and this was seconded by Jim Mead and accepted unanimously.

Appointment of Independent Examiner

Chris reported that Alison Mignanelli was prepared to act as independent examiner for a further year. Her appointment was proposed by Kate Evans, seconded by Pat Connelley and unanimously appointed by the meeting.

Report on Fabric and Ornaments

A written report had been distributed in the booklet with the annual report, and highlights from this were presented by Alan Macarthur.

He reported that the church property is in a good state of repair and that the log books are up to date and available for inspection.

He spoke of the large amount of work needed to keep the buildings going in such good repair and that it took a lot of people. He mentioned:

- The buildings committee
- The cleaners
- The flower arrangers
- Those who looked after the sound system and lighting issues
- Those who did the readings
- Those who made coffee
- The intercessors
- Those who helped on working days and
- Those who looked after the linen.

Alan thanked Tony Hughes for leading the buildings committee, and particularly singled out the work of David Pyke and Doug Jordan. He also thanked Debbie Davis for leading the cleaning and flower display teams, and mentioned the very positive feedback the flower arrangements attract.

He also thanked Wendy for her work looking after the Church Hall.

Alan acknowledged the scale of the work that had been achieved in completing the Church Tower project and thanked all those who had been involved, especially Tony Hughes, Roz Ship, Gordon Gill and Tim Roberts.

There were no questions about this report.

Electoral Roll Report

The chairman, on behalf of Mandy Birkinshaw, the electoral roll officer, reported that the roll stands at 144, down 3 from last year following 2 additions and 5 deletions. On the roll are 16 non-residents of the parish.

Deanery Synod Report

The Deanery Synod report was presented by Georgina Greer, one of the three representatives to Deanery Synod. Georgina reported that there had been three meetings, in June, December and March.

The June meeting had been held at Streetley as it's last meeting as part of the Deanery and the main speaker had been from the Cursillo organisation. The December meeting was held in Wallingford, welcomed the Revd. Edward Carter as Area Dean and the Diocese and General Synod reports were presented. The March meeting welcomed Bruce Keeble following his ordination, and the February synod items were circulated.

Child Protection Report

As child protection officer for the parish, Georgina Greer reported that child protection continued to be regarded as very important and that standards of checking were being maintained. She reported that 18 CRB checks had been undertaken in Harwell in the year. She reported that the forms were being revised and that references were now required in advance of the application, adding to the length of time an application took.

Reports from Selected Organisations

Anne Gill reported on the work of the *Fledglings group*. She said that it aimed to provide an extended family for those caring for young children and in its second term now had 22 carers attending from both Chilton and Harwell. She said that they were fortunate to have toys available in the Hall and the gift of a carpet. She thanked her four 'amazing' volunteers and described the supportive environment they produce and reported some of the positive comments from those who had joined the group. Anne reported that as part of this work a service had been held for young children and their carers which she said had generated very positive comments. She asked for support in prayer, and also said that a few more helpers would be appreciated.

David Evans gave a report and demonstration of the *church website*. He demonstrated the way that it can be used to view rotas (using the log on 'member' and the password as given out at the meeting.) He showed that the information can be viewed in a number of ways, including a view by service to see all of those involved, or a view by individual to see all their appearances in any rota. He explained that greatest benefit of the website was in providing a definitive rota that at any time took account of all the changes that had been made. He reported that there had been 11,000 visits to the website in 2007. On behalf of everyone Chris thanked David for all the time he has spent on the website. Tony Hughes asked about the arrangements for keeping the site up to date, and David explained that Naomi regularly updated it. If anyone wanted a change made they could send an e-mail to the office. Gordon Gill said that he had visited many church websites in the course of his work, and that he had found ours a particularly good one.

Gordon Gill gave a report on *small groups*. He explained that his focus had been on the lent course and explained that the material he had provided had followed the journey Jesus had made from Galilee to Jerusalem and that in parallel everyone had been encouraged to read 'Journey to Jerusalem' by David Winter which followed the same journey. To try to embrace the whole church in this topic, the sermons over lent each dealt with an aspect of this journey. The overall plan of the study was to move from considering the scripture (what the bible says) through 'the setting' (considering our context) to a 'solution' (agreeing a plan.) Gordon reported that the feedback event had been very positive and the next stage would be based on this.

The Rector's Remarks

Chris said that the reports to the annual meeting showed the extent of the activities of the church. He thanked those responsible and encouraged everyone to support each other. He thanked all those in the team that led the services, and singled out Joan for particular thanks for her contribution in the previous year.

Chris referred to a book by Graham Tomlin called 'The Provocative Church' which encourages looking beyond 'becoming a Christian' towards each individual increasingly coming under the rule of God and through this establishing God's Kingdom on earth.

Chris asked what the church would look like if Jesus truly was Lord and suggested the following – that it would be: Prayerful, Worshipful, Compassionate, People-orientated, World-encompassing, and Distinctive and Attractive. He related these goals to the challenge of the new homes on Chilton Fields and Didcot West.

Other Business

Jim Mein observed that there was one person who had with warmth and humanity brought all this work together, and on behalf of everyone he thanked Chris for all he has done.

Close

Joan closed the meeting in prayer at 9:25.

Chairman: Chris Stott

Secretary: Martin Speed