

Minutes of a meeting of Harwell PCC held on Tuesday 7 May 2002 in Harwell Church Extension

Present

Chris Stott (chair)	Tim Roberts	Marilyn Thomas
Jean Barton	Clive Silver	Rob Thomas
Elizabeth Gill	Jim Sinclair	Steve Tunstall
Clive House	Wendy Sinclair	Jean Twigger
Tony Hughes	Ruth Slatter (secretary)	Tony Ullmer
Allan Macarthur	Martin Speed	
Nancy Preston	Frances Taylor	

1. Opening

Chris introduced and welcomed the new members to the PCC, and opened the meeting with a reading from I Cor 3:5, followed by prayer.

2. Apologies for absence

None.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

Minutes of the meeting on 12 March were signed as a correct record.

4. Matters arising

- a) **New altar frontals:** Wendy reported that the DAC had been informally contacted, but now the plans would be sent to obtain their approval before applying for the faculty.
- b) **Church hall garden:** Chris reported that he had received a letter expressing concern about the proposed name 'Peace Garden', as possibly giving the impression of sub-Christian ideals. Chris noted that the plans included a Cross symbol. In discussion it was proposed that the theme of peace could be expressed in terms of a plaque with a suitable inscription, perhaps referring to a Bible verse in keeping with the Peace title.

Action	Chris to speak with Alison Gale to firm up this idea.
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- c) **Arm-chairs for church:** Tony H reported that DAC approval was in progress of being sought, in preparation for a formal faculty application.
- d) **Golden Jubilee Songs of Praise:** a committee of four is planning this event on 2 June in the Recreation Ground from 6.00 pm.
- e) **Practice session for lesson readers:** in hand by Marilyn.

- f) **Church Hall caretaker:** Liz Roberts wishes to relinquish this duty from September. A successor is therefore required. Tony H has a name to suggest.

5. Election of officers

Resolution	The following were nominated: Churchwardens' deputies: Tony Ullmer, Alan Walker; Vice-chairman: Allan Macarthur; Treasurer: Elizabeth Gill; Secretary: Jim Sinclair; Covenant secretary: Geoff Jenkinson; Stewardship secretary: Norman Ponting; Electoral Roll officer: Wendy Sinclair; Joint PCC members: Churchwardens, Treasurer, Rob Thomas, Clive Silver.		
Moved	Tony H	Seconded	Jean T
		Passed	unanimously

Alan Walker subject to consent.

Thanks were recorded to Liz Roberts for all her work as the previous Electoral Roll officer.

6. Appointment of committees

The following were nominated:

Standing Committee	Rector, Churchwardens, Treasurer, Secretary.
Finance & Budget Committee	Clive House (convenor), Elizabeth Gill, Tony Ullmer, Allan Macarthur, Chris Stott, Tim Roberts.
Missions Committee	Tony Ullmer (convenor), Kate Ullmer, Clive Silver, Betty Pyke, Grace Mein, Aileen Newbold, Nancy Preston.
Buildings Committee	Tony Hughes (convenor), Rob Thomas, Frances Taylor, David Pyke, Allan Macarthur, Tony Twigger, Martin Speed, Doug Jordan (p/t), the Church Hall caretaker.
Social Committee	Wendy Sinclair (convenor), Frances Taylor, Jean Twigger, Joan Impey, Pat Connolly, Lucy Perry, Margaret Hughes (p/t).

Resolution	The above nominations be accepted.		
Moved	Allan	Seconded	Nancy
		Passed	unanimously

7. Appointment of Representatives to Organisations

Resolution	The following were nominated: Christian Aid: Chris Stott; Village Hall Management: Liz Roberts; Winterbrook Youth Club: Tony Hughes; Churches Together in Didcot: Joan Impey.		
Moved	Steve	Seconded	Clive H
		Passed	unanimously

8. Financial report and related matters

Figures for January - April were presented by Elizabeth. The Parish Share is expected to rise substantially in 2003. Unnecessary expenditure should therefore be avoided.

Signatories for the bank account were required to be elected.

Resolution	The Council approves as signatories for the current account of Harwell PCC: Christopher Stott, Elizabeth Gill, Allan Macarthur, and Ruth Slatter.		
Moved	Tony Ullmer	Seconded	Wendy Sinclair Passed unanimously

The Standing Committee has discussed the need for a replacement photocopier, and recommends purchase of a new model, Chilton to pay one third, and Harwell two thirds.
Agreed.

Tony U presented recommendations from the Missions Committee for Missions giving in 2002, as follows:

Home:	Gideons	£300
	CPAS	£500
	Scripture Union	£300
	Bible Society	£300
	Church Army	£100
Overseas:	Church Missionary Soc.	£1700
	Action Partners (C Perkins)	£700
	Dugdale Trust	£1700
	WEC International (Meaders)	£1700
	Missionary Aviation F'ship	£300
	USPG (Rachel Ullmer)	£700
	Unallocated	£200
Total		£8500

Resolution	The above recommendations to be approved		
Moved	Tony U	Seconded	Marilyn Passed unanimously

9. Buildings Committee report

Tony H distributed a list of Actions from the most recent Buildings Committee meeting.

Working days for the church were proposed to be Friday and Saturday 13-14 September.
Agreed. It was further suggested that similar working days be held for St Matthew's Hall on Friday and Saturday 5-6 July. **Agreed.** Volunteers would be sought for this work and in particular it was hoped that users of the hall i.e. GB, Scouts would come forward to help.

The second phase of the experiments on seating arrangements in church is now underway. The temporary licence formally runs out in June. We do have the option of extending this for up to 15 months. It was **agreed** to seek such an extension. Tony H will attempt to again survey congregational opinion re the seating beginning early in June. All PCC members were asked to seek opinions from members of the congregation.

Frances presented the following steps for improving arrangements at the **West End of the Church**:

- Remove small cupboard from wall - used to store service order sheets (Surplus to requirements - possibly use elsewhere).

- Remove sliding glass cupboard beneath - used to store hymn books (Still required at present but needs new location).
- Move tall oak, cupboard into space created - currently stores prayer books (Room to store service order sheets).
- Remove shelving adjacent to wall safe.
- Relocate bookstall to this area - possibly obtain shelving more in keeping with the building and other furnishings.
Current position of bookstall is inaccessible when coffee is being served, the very time that people are milling about; it needs to be accessible and obvious.
- Remove all unnecessary items from table and other surfaces (the cloth has been removed but the table can still look messy at times).

Above proposals were **agreed**.

Other areas currently being considered which would take time and/or money are:

- Sorting out the vestry - disposing of corner cupboard and pew.
- Removal of old clock and case from corner under the stairs and relocating in vestry.
- Using the clock area to create a Missions corner with existing table and notice board fixed to wall.
- Obtain suitable reception desk/table and matching furniture for refreshments with storage facilities beneath (preferably on castors for flexibility). This would give more room, less clutter, and a more unified and pleasant appearance on entering the church.

Tony U said the clock area was not ideal for the Missions corner. Martin made a request for space, possibly a notice board/display area, to be made available for Discoverers' work. Some reservations were expressed about this if it became untidy after a time.

Clive S asked for a visual presentation to help assess the last of the proposals. In further discussion, concern was expressed that we should not rule out permanently the idea of using the vestry for children during the service. The general opinion was that this, being a very costly idea, was not likely to be approved for some years.

10. Review of Services in Holy Week and Easter

All services were very different in content, but each brought something that was generally appreciated. The Good Friday service was not suitable for children and a suggestion was made that we could perhaps have an earlier family service, followed by a devotional service for those who would prefer it.

11. Alpha Course update

Nancy reported that the second daytime course was taking place and that the AwayDay would be on Saturday 25 May. A joint supper is being planned for 10 July when it is hoped that all people from past Alpha Courses will get together, invite more people to come and to encourage them to attend the Alpha Course beginning in September.

12. Request for Rector's sabbatical

Chris has been given permission from the Bishop and asked whether PCC would support him pursuing the possibility of sabbatical leave in 2004. A period of three months was proposed, probably from May to July 2004. Elements would be:

- Retreat - the Iona community was being considered;

- Study - considering the Church Army centre in Sheffield, studying Evangelism in a post-Christian society;
- Holiday - possibly to Israel.

PCC **supported** this request. Chris to develop plans.

13. Diocesan Convention

Ruth said that there are still places available for the convention, 11-13 July 2002. She encouraged more people from Harwell and Chilton to plan to attend, if only for one day. Thursday and Friday are for seminars and workshops, of which there is a wide choice. The Archbishop of Canterbury will be speaking on the Saturday and it may be the last opportunity that we get to hear him preach before he retires. Also our own Bishop of Oxford will be presiding over the final Eucharist.

14. Church Planting conference

Nancy reported that she, along with Jean and Peter Barton and Steve Ward, would be attending a Church Planting conference on 20 June. They will be looking at, among other things, ways of planting on a new housing estate, bearing in mind the new housing estate about to be built in Chilton.

15. Farwell for Joy Hance, Sunday 15 September

There will be an act of worship in Church followed by a bring-and-share supper in St. Matthew's Hall. The event will start early in the evening and children will be most welcome. The *Baggs Tree Buskers* will be playing and we hope that as many people as possible will come along to join in the fun.

16. Rector's secretary

Chris had not so far found a replacement for Joy. It was agreed that advertising in the Church notice sheet could be a next step.

17. Church picnic following Jean Barton's Ordination

Jean is to be ordained on Sunday 30 June in Christ Church Oxford. There are some tickets left, and any who would like to attend should see Jean. There will be a combined Chilton and Harwell picnic lunch in Harwell after the morning service on 7 July.

18 Church Home-groups

Jean B reported that she along with Nancy Preston and Steve Ward had met to organise some **joint meetings** for the home groups. They hope to have three meetings, on 12 June in Harwell, 3 July in Harwell, and 4 September in Chilton. Topics for discussion will be *Friendship and Evangelism in the Workplace, Worship and Prayer*, and *Friendship and Evangelism in the Community*.

Steve Ward is hoping to have a Barbecue sometime in August.

19. Any other business

- a) **Village Hall** - Liz Roberts, the PCC representative on the Village Hall committee, reports that the Hall is short of money, and the organisers are somewhat despondent. To keep

the Hall going it needs to be used more. In order to carry out improvements they are in need of money. Liz has suggested that as a church we should be seen to do something to help. After discussion it was decided to ask Liz precisely what the money would be used for and then to pursue the ways that we may be able to help financially.

- b) Clive S reported that the Deanery Synod was seeking a representative from each Benefice to a combined Deanery standing committee / pastoral committee. Clive was willing to act in this way; Chilton PCC had agreed. The PCC also supported him in this.

The meeting closed with prayer at 10.15 pm.

Next Meeting

Tuesday 9 July 2002 at 7.45 pm in the Church Extension.

..... Chris Stott, chairman

..... Jim Sinclair, secretary