

Minutes of a meeting of Harwell PCC held on Tuesday 12 November 2002 in Harwell Church Extension

Present

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

1. Opening

Chris opened the meeting with a reading from Romans 10:11-17, followed by prayer.

2. Apologies for absence

Clive Silver

3. Minutes of the last meeting

Amendments required to PCC02M5, the minutes of the meeting held on 10/9/2002:

Item 8b: delete "Home Groups (including the former Welcome Group);".

Item 8d: Instead of "Pam Rolls, the coordinator, and Jean Barton, the co-leader..." read "Jean Barton, the coordinator, and Pam Rolls, the co-leader..."

With these amendments, the minutes were signed as a correct record.

4. Matters arising

- a) **New altar frontals:** The faculty has been granted, and Suellen Pedley has been asked to start work.
- b) **Arm chairs:** These have been ordered, and delivery is expected soon.
- c) **Changes to Church seating:** A faculty application has been submitted. Pews are being stored in Denis Lay's barn.
- d) **Discoverers leader:** There is still no permanent leader in place. Leaders are operating a rota system. Simon Preston has been approached to help with Scramblers.
- e) **Response to Diocesan initiative on Giving:** Clive H circulated a draft response. This was discussed at some length, especially the matter of the suggested target of giving 5% of personal income. Clive was asked to revise the response, basing it on what this parish does in the areas covered by the diocesan material. On the matter of target giving levels, we should note the existence of a variety of views on tithing, and request that the

diocesan policy not be expressed too legalistically. Clive should send off his revised draft without further PCC consultation.

- f) **Current Alpha Course:** Allan reported that this was going well. Six have continued in attendance, and the away-day (in Jean B's house) had just been held. Nancy circulated a written report summarising the outcome of all the courses held to date. There was a high rate of participants becoming regular church attenders. Many were also becoming involved more actively. Past participants were helping with the catering at the present course. Course leaders also were showing increased involvement in other church activities.

5. Financial Report

The usual form of report was distributed. The surplus was healthy, and expenditure running below budget. It is now predicted that the year will finish with a surplus, but this is expected soon to disappear in the light of anticipated increases in the Parish Share.

6. Building Report

- a) Tony H circulated a report on refurbishment of the West End of the church. PCC views were sought to avoid wasting effort on any proposals that would not ultimately be supported. The most difficult proposal is the moving of the antique clock and its display case. Wendy asked the committee to consider the possibility of interchanging the proposed positions of the clock and the bookcase. She also noted the need for a hanging space for banners not currently on display. With regard to the space presently occupied by the clock, it was noted that Discoverers and the Missions Committee would both be keen to use it if allowed.

Resolution	Moving the clock and its cabinet is approved in principle		
Moved	Allan Macarthur	Seconded	Clive House
		Passed	unanimous

- b) Tony H reported on the Church Hall keys. An audit of holders and users showed the need to cut 6 to 8 additional copies, at a cost of about £15 each. **Approved.** Tony also reported that a recent incident in which a set of keys were believed lost provoked swapping of lock mechanisms as a precaution, but this turned out in the end to be wasted. To forestall any need to repeat such action, it was requested that a supplementary lock be fitted to the front door, normally to be left unlocked but available to provide some security in such an emergency. **Approved.**
- c) Tony raised the question of the possible need for some sort of rail to assist people to mount the platform steps when going to communion in the chancel. In discussion, it was noted that attenders at the 8am HC had not recently expressed any difficulty. A chair placed for the purpose seems to be adequate. On other services where communion is held in the chancel, a sidesman can be on hand to help if needed. **Conclusion:** no action to be taken.
- d) **Yellow tape marking platform step edges:** after discussion, it was agreed to renew the present tape as required, and no resolution was agreed to replace the tape with a more sophisticated or attractive fitting.

7. Vision Coordinator's Report

Tim circulated a written report. Current **Outreach** activities include Alpha (reported separately), participation in the village Quiz Night, initiatives to help young mums, and supporting the Pippins Help a Village Child initiative. **Prayer** activities included a day of prayer for 11 September (which drew in some who were not usual church attenders), and increased interest

in the Prayer Chain. Under **Worship**, a Peace Service had been held. A study is being done on how different services come across to the congregation. **Finance** is without a leader. Marilyn has recently taken on coordination of the **Children and Youth** area. The current issues are declining numbers, and the need for leaders. A children's Craft Day was planned for 30 November; other ideas include a parenting course, more regular children's singing in church, and introducing a scheme whereby adults may take a prayerful interest in a particular child. Under **Management Structure**, it was reported that Chis' and Jean's activities and use of time have been reviewed. It is intended to use this to identify any needs for changes in their levels of commitment of time or responsibility. **Communication**: the need to strengthen general appreciation of the Vision and associated initiatives was discussed, without unanimity of views. This was referred back to the Vision group.

8. Bible Society Initiative *Faith Comes by Hearing*

Chris reported on this. The aim is to enable everyone to encounter the power and drama of the Bible. This particular initiative aims to engender a lifelong habit of daily Bible intake in a new way, offering tapes of CDs that provide Bible material presented in dramatic fashion.

Chris proposed offering this material to those interested during Lent 2003. **Agreed.**

9. Arrangements for Christmas Season

Candles, trees, mulled wine for the evening Carols by Candlelight, and floodlighting of the tower were all in hand. There would be no evening service on the night of Chilton's Carols by Candlelight, nor on the Sunday after Christmas.

10. Any Other Business

- a) Gift of appreciation for Joan Impey: a gift of £50 was agreed (in the form of vouchers); Clive S to organise
- b) Pippins Care for a Village Child: Nancy reported that an informal request for church support had been made. The children to be helped are identified by Home Visitors etc. It was proposed that a one-time gift of £100 be made out of general funds, and considered as an Outreach activity. **Agreed.**
- c) Chris suggested repeating the *Network* course held once before, which aims to help people identify their gifts. Agreed to do this in February 2003.
- d) Wendy asked if those presenting written papers to PCC could make every effort to distribute these ahead of the meeting.
- e) It was requested that the list of email addresses of PCC members be renewed. **Action:** secretary.
- f) A retiring collection on Christmas Day for Bible Lands was suggested. **Agreed.**

The meeting closed in prayer at 10.04 pm.

Next Meeting

Tuesday 28 January 2003 at 7.45 pm in the Church Extension

..... Chris Stott, chairman

..... Jim Sinclair, secretary