

Minutes of a meeting of Harwell PCC held on Tuesday 28 January 2003 in Harwell Church Extension

Present

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

1. Opening

Chris opened the meeting with a reading from Philippians 2, followed by prayer.

2. Apologies for absence

Jean Twigger, Steve Tunstall

3. Minutes of the last meeting

After correcting the list of those present (Clive S and Martin were absent), minutes of the meeting on 12 November 2002 (PCC02M6) were signed as a correct record.

4. Matters arising

- a) **Altar Frontals:** Elizabeth reported that she had had no reply yet from Suellen Pedley after a recent enquiry on progress.
- b) **Church Seating:** Tony H reported that the arm chairs had been delivered and were being enjoyed. The remaining task, to extend carpet under the area now covered by chairs rather than pews, was in hand. In this connection, Nancy mentioned as a possible contractor a Mr Chris Hancock. The faculty for the changes to seating (pew removals) has been **granted**.
- c) **Discoverers and Scramblers:** Marilyn reported that Simon Preston had agreed to help with Scramblers, and had just started doing so. In Discoverers, a rota for leaders was in place to Easter. One concern was the feeling of continuity that the children presumably miss with leaders changing each week. It was noted that Steve and Helen Tunstall's help with YF would be more disrupted than previously by Steve's frequent absences on business in the coming months. Additional help needs to be identified.
- d) **Church Hall Locks:** Tony H reported that the secondary locks had been fitted to the front door, and new keys were on order by Peter McNiven.
- e) **Gift to Joan Impey:** this was done, but after Christmas, owing to a mixup. A similar gift was made to Jean Barton, on the resolution of the Standing Committee.

- f) **Network Course:** Naomi is coordinating arrangements for this, to be held in February. So far, 15 people have signed up. Chris, Allan and Naomi will lead.
- g) **PCC Members' Contact Details:** Jim distributed forms for members to confirm their latest details, including email addresses where applicable. The results would be distributed to all members.

5. Buildings Committee Report

The report circulated in advance was presented by Tony H. He highlighted the fact that this year, it is planned not to hold a general working day, but instead to have a campaign of cleaning high woodwork within the Church.

Wendy asked about mismatching rendering patches on the outside of the Church. There were no plans to correct this, other than allowing them to mellow.

Buildings maintenance works for 2003 (including Church Hall) were proposed, with a total budget of £3790. This figure was **accepted by the PCC** for inclusion in the overall budget.

6. Vision Coordinator's Report

Tim reported, under **Communication**, that it was proposed to prepare cards summarising The Dream. Some words had been drafted, and were to be discussed by the coordinators before bringing them to the next PCC meeting for approval. Nancy reported that the next **Alpha Course** was planned for September 2003.

Associated budget proposals were £500 for Evangelism (principally Alpha) and £200 for training. These items would not necessarily represent expenditure out of line with previous years, but it was wished to identify the areas explicitly in the budget.

Rob reported on plans to take a group to the **National Evangelical Anglican Congress** later this year. Fifteen have expressed interest (including 4 from Chilton). To provide for help where needed with meeting the accommodation costs, a budget provision of £1000 was requested. Jim requested that the group present a report in order that the value of the activity could be assessed for future guidance.

7. Financial Report

Elizabeth presented the accounts for 2002 that will be subject to audit before presentation to the APCM. Against a budgeted deficit of some £8k, the income had in fact approximately balanced expenditure, so that the total balances in accounts rose by £400 over the year. The more positive out-turn than budgeted had been due principally to unpredictable gifts and legacies. In addition, more tax had been recovered.

7a. Budget for 2003

Clive H presented the budget prepared by the finance sub-committee. The overall plan is for income of some £63k, expenditure of some £73k, leaving a deficit of some £10k.

Resolution	The PCC approves the budget for 2003 as presented		
Moved	Tony Hughes	Seconded	Frances Taylor Passed unanimous

The budget referred to projected pay rates of £5.00/h for the Church Hall cleaner, and £5.25/h for the Church secretary. The former had only fairly recently risen to £4.60, and it was felt that a further rise to £5.00 was excessive. It was therefore proposed to retain the rate of £4.60 for the

moment, reviewing in April. **Agreed.** The secretary's rate was agreed to be £5.25 effective January.

Thanks were expressed to the Treasurer, the Finance convenor and all the finance sub-committee for their hard work and expertise in preparing the accounts and budget.

8. Lent Home Groups

Jean B gave an account of plans for an increased emphasis on home group meetings during Lent. She reminded us that The Vision explicitly refers to small groups being a key part of church life. The target for Lent is to have at least 75 people meeting in at least 5 groups. Present plans include groups to be hosted by Allan & Vicki, Nancy and Tim, Steve & Hayley, Debbie Davies, Kate Ullmer, plus the Wednesday morning group in the Hall.

Some study material issued by CWR is proposed. Encouragements to attend would be made by means of cards in pews, word of mouth invitation, announcements in Church, interviews, sermon mentions, etc.

8a. Faith Comes By Hearing

Chris noted that this Bible Society audio-visual material, encouraging daily exposure to the Word of God, would be launched in Harwell on 16 February (sermon mention; opportunity to request material by filling in cards).

9. Deanery Synod

Clive S reported on two recent synod meetings.

From the November meeting, summary points are:

- Bigger Committee more interesting;
- All Parish Shares have been paid, deanery will get rebate. All parishes now at correct level other than Ladygrove, which is still subsidised;
- Bishop Dominic would run Lent Course in Abingdon (but now cancelled).

The full synod met at Chilton in January. Main discussion was on an Anglican-Methodist Covenant. All Harwell reps were there. Rachel Walker, wife of the vicar of South Moreton gave C-of-E point of view, David Kershaw gave the Methodist contribution. The Covenant endorses the idea of joint worship and sharing of communion between members of the two churches. It does acknowledge two differences: that the Anglican recognise only their ordained clergy as capable of presiding at a Eucharist and the Anglicans have not yet appointed women to leadership positions in the C of E.

10. Review of Christmas Season

The services were generally appreciated. Carol services attendances were up again, especially the evening. Inviting WI members to join the special choir had been very successful.

The Christingle service had been well received again. However, the allied opportunity to give for the work of the Church of England Children's Society had been not much advertised, and takings were lower than usual. Alternative dates for this service were discussed, with no clear outcome.

The problems of poor vision for those sitting (a) in the Chancel, (b) in the side-aisles towards the front were discussed. A proposal was made to have orchestra and choir seated in the Chancel, leaving the platform (N transept) free for congregational seating.

Some extremely positive remarks were received about the special Tower lighting

Shirley Walker has offered to make a large crib scene for next Christmas, consisting of figures clothed in coloured hessian. The PCC responded positively. Chris suggested for location the corner (over the stone tomb covering) behind the main South entry doorway. If an alternative were needed, Tony H suggested the present location of the antique clock.

11. Rector's Sabbatical

Jim presented a letter from the Bishop of Reading, in which the general principle of clergy study leave, and Chris' plans in particular, were both warmly endorsed. The council were reminded of the preparations, both financial and practical, that would be necessary.

Chris described a further opportunity that had arisen for him to benefit from outside input and training. He has been selected as one of 8 from a previous clergy training programme to visit Willow Creek in the USA for a conference, 4-11 August 2003. The budget committee, previously notified of this, had suggested funding half of the costs. **Agreed.**

12. Future Dates

Dates for PCC meetings after May 2003 have not yet been proposed. The APCM is 1 April.

16 March is the date of Bishop Dominic's farewell, in Reading. Chris outlined for the council's interest the current method for selecting suffragan bishops.

13. Other Business

- a) Churches Together in Didcot are holding a Prayer and Pancakes evening on Shrove Tuesday, at the Manor School in Lydalls Road. Malcolm Birkinshaw is our link person.
- b) A meeting on the Iraq situation is to be held at St Augustin's East Hendred on 7 Feb, with speaker Dr Gary Sheffield of the Defence Studies Department of Kings College London. Rob and Chris are going, others are welcome.
- c) Following the success of the church visit to London a couple of years ago, another trip is proposed, probably to combine a Thames boat trip with a visit to St Paul's Cathedral, where Robin Greer's son in law is Canon, and could probably arrange a special tour and possibly a service in the Crypt. Shirley and Alan Walker would be willing to coordinate it. There was general approval.
- d) Special gifts as invited to support the costs of special lighting of the Tower raised £220.

The meeting closed at 9.48 pm with prayer.

Next Meeting

Tuesday 11 March 2003 at 7.45 pm in the Church Extension

..... Chris Stott, chairman (signed 11/03/2003)

..... Jim Sinclair, secretary