

Minutes of a Meeting of Harwell PCC
held on Tuesday 27th September at 7.45pm in Harwell Church Extension

Present

Cath Convery (part)	Tim Roberts	Frances Taylor
Kate Evans	Wendy Sinclair	Marilyn Thomas
Sid Gale	Clive Silver	Tony Ullmer
Georgina Greer	Martin Speed (Secretary)	
Clive House	Chris Stott (Chair)	

1. Opening

Chris opened the meeting with a passage from Exodus 17, followed by reflection and prayer.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Rob Thomas, Steve Tunstall, Ruth Slatter, and Madeleine Gibson.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on Tuesday 12th July 2005 were signed as a correct record.

4. Matters arising

- a) **Missions display board:** Chris updated the meeting on progress. Alan has been working on the board and hopes to have it finished very soon.

Action: **Chris** to continue to monitor progress.

- b) **GB Tree in the churchyard:** This item was carried forward to the next meeting.

Action: **Ruth** to report progress.

- c) **Church weekend:** Chris updated the meeting that Steve had provided details of the Green Hill outreach centre in Shipston-on-Stour. Whilst a good location in many respects it was noted that it could only accommodate 42 people (though there is space for camping). Tony suggested that Moorlands Bible college may be another alternative.

Action: **Tony** and **Chris** to investigate the Moorlands alternative.

- d) **Alpha:** the update from Chris was that it had been agreed to hold an evening course, and it had started last week, led by Nancy and Steve Ward. It was thought there are 6 participants.

- e) **Missions and charities card sale:** Cath informed the meeting that she was not going to have the time available to organise this event, and it will not therefore take place.

- f) **Christmas lunch proposal:** Tim spoke to his paper summarising the further responses he had gained following the discussion at the last PCC meeting. There was support for co-ordinating a scheme for people who might otherwise be alone at Christmas being

welcomed into individual homes, and also for a relatively small scale shared lunch in the hall organised by the visiting team.

Action: **Tim** to find a co-ordinator for the project and **Georgina** to discuss the shared lunch option with the visiting team at their meeting on the 18th of October.

- g) Pew sale:** No progress had been made to sell the pews for which there was already a faculty (Church authorisation) to dispose of. The meeting took note of the costs of storage for all the items not being used.

Resolution	The PCC supports the disposal of all the items currently in storage. (As detailed in the building committee report.)				
Moved	Kate	Seconded	Francis	Passed	

Action: (1) **Tim** apply for a faculty to dispose of the items
 (2) **Cath** to work with **Tony Hughes** to arrange the disposal (ensuring that the congregation has an opportunity to buy the items that have not previously been offered to them, such as the shorter pews.

- h) Application to feast fund for building funding:** Chris reported that an application for funding had not been made within the time available before the deadline for applications.
- i) Folding machine and Hymn book replacement progress:** Chris told the meeting that discussions about the best folding machine to purchase were still continuing.
- j) Church hall cleaning update:** Wendy reported to the meeting that checklist system that also recorded the hours worked (and thus formed the basis for payment) had been introduced for the hall cleaner and that it was working well.

5. Financial report

Clive H distributed a written financial report. Overall the situation was better than had been expected – with the projected end of year deficit currently £5 thousand, compared with a deficit of £9 thousand that had been budgeted.

The recipients for local care and the emergency budget will be agreed at the next meeting.

It was reported by Chris and Clive that they understood that there would not be an increase for the parish in the Parish Share required next year.

6. Buildings report

The buildings report from Tony Hughes was discussed.

The success of the building work was noted, and the secretary was instructed to pass on the warm appreciation of the PCC to Tony Hughes for the outstanding work he had done in achieving this.

The meeting addressed the issue of whether a further funding drive be undertaken regarding the outstanding shortfall in donations.

Resolution	The PCC will make up the shortfall of £3,500 from reserves (in line with the decision from May 2004 to underwrite the cost) and not launch any further fundraising activity.				
Moved	Tim	Seconded	Clive S	Passed	

Chris drew the attention of the meeting to the new wheelchair ramp funded by donor who wished to anonymous, and reported that he had written a note express his gratitude.

Cath reported to the meeting that she was working with Tony Hughes to see whether there was a cheaper alternative to the proposed baby changing unit.

Georgina identified that dirty nappies being left in the toilet bins between Sunday and their regular day for emptying – Friday – was causing a problem. It was suggested that a solution could be a sign instructing baby changers to take soiled nappies away with them, but it was decided that Jane Woolley (as the person in charge of the Crèche) should be consulted before any action is taken.

Action: *Tim* to take the matter up with Jane Wooley, and if she is in favour to make up a sign.

7. Report on Children and Youth Work

Marylyn reported on the current situation regarding Children and Youth work.

Scramblers: is benefiting from a new leader (Hilary Hartley), but numbers are low, and all are encouraged to pray that new young families attend the church.

Discoverers: was reported to have relatively good numbers (with around 20 'on the books') and to be benefiting from the continued leadership of an experienced team. However it was noted that new leaders were needed to become involved now so that there would be a smooth transition when the current leaders moved on as could be expected when their children were no longer in this age group in a couple of years' time.

Pathfinders: has seven or eight young people who attend regularly, but prayers are requested for those making the difficult transition to this group. More leaders are also needed for this group.

YF: is reported to currently be very strong with as many as 25 teenagers attending at one time. This reflected the impact of groups such as Harwell Young Singers and Scouts linking young people into Church circles. The young people coming to YF are asking very open and challenging questions and should be remembered in your prayers as they deal with these issues.

Landlubbers Holiday Scheme: was reported to have been very successful with over 30 children attending over the 6 days. Marilyn stressed the importance of these events, which now had a regular following of children who did not normally attend Church. A follow up even is planned for half term - Friday 28th October.

Chris identified to the meeting the importance of finding a successor to Marilyn in the role of Children and Youth Co-ordinator. He also reported that discussions were taking place about the ways that all-age worship could be enhanced.

8. Harvest Arrangements

Chris reported the following arrangement had been made: Marilyn will be giving the talk at the Harvest service. The school will be contributing to this service (and also having a full school assembly at the Church on Friday.) Wendy is organising the Harvest lunch on Monday – and as many as possible would be welcomed. Clive S will take the donations to the Porch. Clive suggested that we may be able to arrange storage of some items if the Porch had a problem doing this – but it was suggested that he investigate whether this is necessary before any arrangements are made.

9. Christmas and New Year Services

Clive S reported that South and Vale Carers (the previous recipients of the Toy service gifts) did not want to have similar donations this year. This may mean that the Toy service planned for the 1st week in December will not take place.

Action: **Chris** to take the matter up with Margaret Hughes who is on their management committee.

Chris informed the meeting that the carol service was on the 11th, the crib service on the 24th. He raised the issue of whether there should be a change to the services on Sunday 1st of January to take account of it being New Year's day. The committee was in favour of services at the normal times (apart from no evening service).

10. Village Hall Minutes

Issues from the village hall meeting passed on in a paper from Liz Roberts (the Church representative to the Village Hall committee) were discussed. The suggestion that the Church makes an additional voluntary donation when booking the hall was not supported by the meeting, but it was suggested that a donation from the Local giving budget be considered at the next meeting. The suggestion that the working party on October 22nd and 23rd be commended to the congregation was supported, as was the suggestion that church people be encouraged to take part in the Village Pantomime (through the auditions on October 13th.)

11. Future Dates

14 September	Alpha Taster evening in Church Hall
2 October	Harvest festival
4 October	F.A.D. A Didcot based support group for the families of those who are addicted to drugs Celebrate their fifth birthday with an "Open Meeting" at 7:45pm in the Community Hall Didcot Baptist Church Centre
8 October	Voices for Hospices Concert: (Harwell Church)
9 October	David and Else Meader will be here.
12 October	Alistair McGrath will be giving a free talk at St Andrews Church on 'Passion for the Gospel' (Chris is going to attend and would welcome others)
21 – 25 October	Visit of David and Heather Sharland
17 th November	Harwell Young Singers Concert for Children in Need

12. Other Business

- a) **Disposal of items in the annex:** it was agreed that the piano and speakers in the annex could be disposed of (following the bequest of a keyboard by Betty Battershill).

Action: **Chris** to progress.

- b) Chris reported that he had taken on the role of **Chapter clerk for Wallingford Deanery.**
- c) **Fact sheets and a petition against the religious hatred bill:** It was agreed that fact sheet should be made available to those attending forthcoming services and a petition to the local MP be made available at the back of the church in opposition to the Racial and

Religious hatred bill, which it is argued in the fact sheets may interfere with freedom to preach Christianity.

Action: *Chris* to take make fact sheet and petition available.

- d) **An extra table available in church:** it was noted that a folding table taken from the Hall had been very useful at the back of the church and Wendy asked whether a similar one could be purchased specifically for this location. It was suggested that a table is loaned by the scouts instead.

Action: *Wendy* to take the matter up with Malcolm.

- e) **Web sites:** Cath reported information from the Churches in Didcot a finding that their web pages were mostly being visited by US commercial sites.

13. Close

The meeting closed with prayer at 9:50 pm.

14. Next Meeting

Tuesday 8th November at 7.45 pm in the Church Extension.

..... Chris Stott, chairman

..... Martin Speed, secretary

PAPERS

- PCC05M4 Minutes of previous meeting
- PCCP-M5-01 Christmas lunch proposal update
- PCCP-M5-02 Buildings report
- PCCP-M5-03 Village Hall Minutes
- PCCP-M5-04 Financial report