

St Matthew's Church Harwell

Minutes of the Annual Meetings held on Sunday 30 April 2017 at 11.50am in St Matthew's Church

The Chairman, Revd. Dr. Jonathan Mobey, welcomed everyone to the meeting, which followed the morning church service, after a short break.

The attendance was 40.

Apologies for absence received: Jane Woolley, Clive and Heather House, Jim and Wendy Sinclair, Tim Roberts.

Annual Parochial Meeting

Jonathan Mobey thanked Christina Wood and Mel Gibson for serving as churchwardens for the past year.

Jonathan Mobey informed the meeting that **Christina Wood** and **Tim Paget** have been nominated and seconded in writing to be elected as churchwardens for the next year. There were no other nominations and they were elected unanimously.

Signed as a true record:

Chairman:

Secretary:

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Election of Deanery Synod Members

The only nomination received had been for Gordon Gill (proposed by Jane Woolley and seconded by Peter Barclay-Watt). Gordon is currently Lay Chairman of Deanery Synod.

Jonathan Mobey proposed that Gordon Gill be re-elected and this was approved unanimously.

The meeting was told that two vacancies remain on Deanery Synod.

Election of PCC Members

Jonathan Mobey reminded the meeting who had served on the PCC during 2016-17.

St Matthew's PCC can have up to 12 elected members. We currently have 9 elected members who are part way through their 3-year term. So there are vacancies for up to 3 further elected members.

The Secretary had received nomination papers for the following people for election to the PCC:

Andrew Keene (had been proposed by Jane Woolley and seconded by Tim Roberts)
Becca Lewis (has been proposed by Jane Woolley and seconded by Christina Wood).

Jonathan Mobey proposed that both these individuals be duly appointed to the PCC, and this was approved unanimously.

Election of Sides persons

Jonathan Mobey proposed the following to serve as sides persons for the coming year. These names were agreed unanimously.

Nicola Barclay-Watt	Liz Hill	Debbie Davies
Peter Barclay-Watt	Ruth Slatter	Kevin Davies
Gill Gay	Mike Pepper	Matthew Davies
Anne Cox	Elaine Shrimpton	Ryan Davies
Graham Cox	Tony Twigger	Margaret Spindler
David Pyke	Jean Twigger	Margaret Gibson
Jim Sinclair	Elizabeth Gill	Mel Gibson
Madeleine Gibson	Georgina Greer	
Wendy Sinclair	Juan Bowerman	

Appointment of Independent Examiner

Jane Moreton has agreed to be the independent examiner for the PCC's 2017 financial accounts. Jane was proposed by Mel Gibson and seconded by Allan MacArthur. Her appointment was unanimously accepted by the meeting.

Jonathan Mobey reported that the independent examiner had asked for the meeting be told how well Brenda Pyke organises the church financial accounts. Brenda was thanked for her work.

Receipt of reports

The following reports had been made available two weeks before the meeting, in hard copy and on the church website, and were formally "received" by the meeting:

- Minutes of the 2016 annual meetings.
- The PCC annual report on 2016, including the Fabric Report and the Electoral Roll report, adopted by the PCC at its March meeting and signed by Revd. Dr. Jonathan Mobey as chairman.
- Financial report and Accounts for 2016, approved by the PCC at its March meeting.
- Deanery Synod report March - November 2016.

Tony Hughes made the church log book and terrier available for attendees to browse should they wish. None took advantage of this.

Jonathan Mobey asked if there were any queries or comments arising from the reports. There were none.

Jonathan Mobey thanked the PCC Secretary for putting together the annual report.

The minutes of the 2016 meetings were then signed by the Jonathan Mobey and the PCC Secretary as a correct record.

Jonathan Mobey reported that the church electoral roll was revised during 19 March – 2 April 2017. The number on the roll in March 2016 was 118. The number on the revised roll as at April 2017 was 121. Mike Pepper, Electoral Roll Officer, and Jane Woolley, his Deputy, were thanked for their work.

Thanks

Jonathan Mobey thanked God for all those who help out with all sorts of aspects of church life e.g. running services, cleaning the church, running groups, those holding official posts inside and outside the parish. He emphasised that many of the jobs which keep the church operating are behind the scenes and not “high profile”. Jonathan did not name everyone individually because there are so many involved. He paused for prayer, asking that all within the church family may be equipped and united to be effective in God's service.

Update on progress with, and future plans for, the implementation of the church vision: “Growing God's Church, wider, deeper and closer”

Jonathan Mobey explained that buildings improvements and activities were equally important in working towards the church vision. He showed two graphics – see Fig 1 and Fig 2 below.

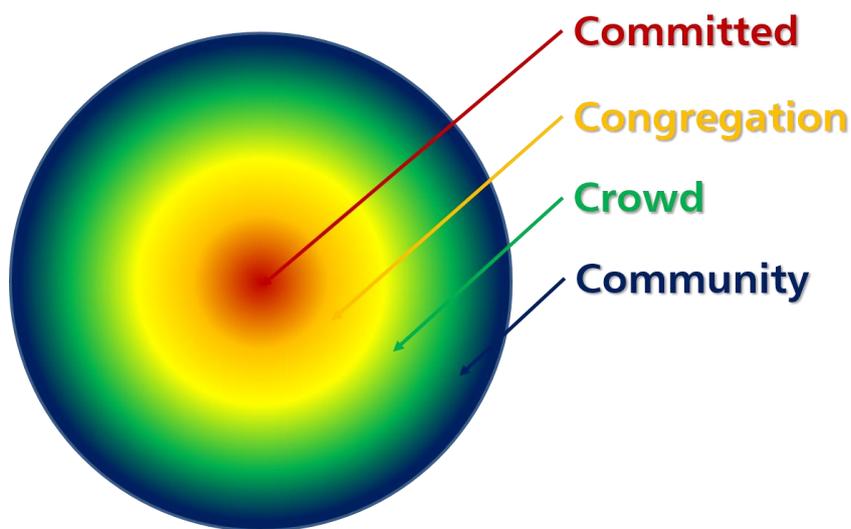


Fig 1: Audiences

Similar to an archery target in the colours of a rainbow (and showing a natural blurring and fluidity of borders, rather than sharp definition) the first graphic depicted concentric circles starting with a small central red area, which Jonathan referred to as the ‘committed’, perfect commitment to and communion with Christ being the goal of life. The next circle out – and therefore larger – was the ‘congregation’ – those who regard themselves as disciples who seek to nurture their own faith and support that of others at the same stage of the journey. The next circle out from this – and therefore larger still – was the ‘crowd’; these are those who might be peripheral to the day-to-day of church life but were nevertheless comfortable within the church and with its congregation. The next circle towards the outer edge represented the ‘community’ – for example the wider parish who may not have anything to do with us unless the church goes out to them, or personal circumstances cause them to make contact with the church. Funerals, baptisms and other life events were often the starting points for moving inward from the ‘community’ circle towards the centre, by first becoming part of the ‘crowd’.

If the ‘committed’ and ‘congregation’ worked well together and actively engaged outside its own small circle, individuals would be attracted and drawn towards the centre.

Jonathan Mobey offered some statistics, saying that our 'committed' + 'congregation' number would be about three times the number at all services over an average Sunday. While there are many weekly attendees, it seems that most will worship with us on an average of 1 out of every 3 Sundays. A further estimation of the number of 'committed' + 'congregation' would be Jonathan's email database to receive occasional newsletters about upcoming activities and items of news. This he puts at around 400 recipients for the benefice. The figure for the 'crowd' is very difficult to estimate.

The second graphic (Fig 2) showed the same concentric circles in which the church's role with regard to each audience was described in farming terms: The congregation had to provide a service to the community, an offering which represented the "tilling" of the soil. Once these individuals were attracted by the loving service, there was the opportunity to carry out evangelism which Jonathan Mobey referred to as "planting". Once the seed of faith was planted, it could grow by discipleship, described as "watering".

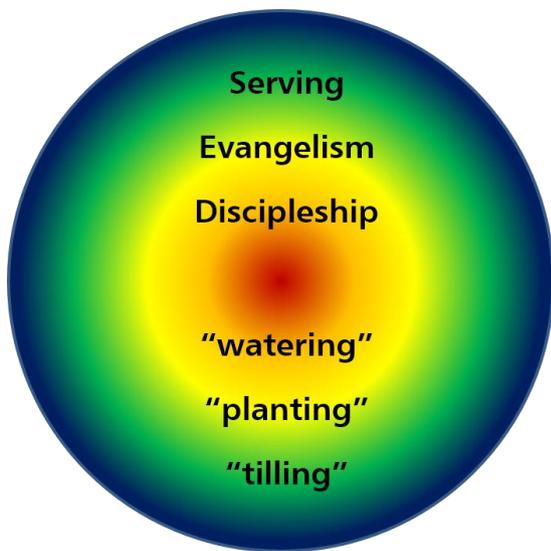


Fig 2: The role played by the church amongst each audience

Against this backdrop, Jonathan Mobey summarised 2016 as a year of consolidation with some new features:

Building improvements

Jonathan Mobey said that all the plans for improving the St Matthew's building focussed on it being more accessible, more comfortable, and more flexible. He spoke about the three strands of this: heating, seating/flooring, and internal redecoration and said that the projects were in front of the Diocesan Advisory Committee from which permission was needed to go ahead. There were currently some obstacles to be negotiated. The timing of each strand is addressed in a question in Any Other Business, below.

There had been compliments for the reordering of the Chancel which had been completed at the beginning of 2017.

Mel Gibson was leading a team to work on the reordering of the main entrance to replace the ancient inner door with a glass one and remove the wood and glass inner porch structure. A generous legacy had been left to enable this, subject to permission from church authorities.

Activities

The now firm feature of our Children and Families' Work, the Holiday Club, was mentioned as going from strength to strength, as was Generation Gold and various nurture courses. New outreach activities had been started during 2016, such as the Science and Faith project; the partnering - with three other local churches – with Christians Against Poverty to support a Debt Centre for the Didcot area, and the Walking Group.

Any Other Business

Churchwarden Christina Wood said that while Jonathan Mobey had been generous in thanking others during the meeting, the church family had much for which to thank *him*. She proposed a formal vote of thanks on behalf of attendees. Jonathan in turned thanked his wife and family for their support, saying that a minister's children, and the impact that the job has on them, were often overlooked.

Q: Might the Harwell Feast be used more effectively as a means of engaging with the wider community?

For example, a quiet space amongst the busyness and commercialism of the Feast could be offered, possibly following the 'Prayer Spaces for Schools' model.

Jonathan Mobey said the Feast was definitely a good opportunity to engage and the PCC could consider the suggestion.

Q: Might the PCC agenda might be made more public across the church family for the encouragement and support of those who volunteer to stand?

Jonathan Mobey said he would ask Jane Woolley, Secretary to the PCC, to liaise with Vicky Johnston, Parish Administrator, about flagging up PCC discussions in the notice sheet in advance of meetings (where space allowed).

Q: Was there was any timescale yet for the major building improvement works, such that the congregation would have to move to the village hall for the duration?

Jonathan Mobey asked Tony Hughes as Chair of the Buildings Committee to respond: It was most unlikely that that the heating could be completed during 2017; the seating and flooring changes were possibly achievable this year, but not easily achievable. Internal redecoration was the most likely project to be started and finished in 2017 and might start in September/October.

Close

The meeting closed at 12.38 preceded by prayer that we be helped to use our minds and conversations to discern God's guidance in bringing about the good God had planned for our parish.

Signed as a true record:

Chairman:

Secretary