

**Minutes of a meeting of Harwell PCC
held on Tuesday 8 March 2005 in Harwell Church Extension**

Present

Sid Gale	Tim Roberts	Ruth Slatter
Georgina Greer	Clive Silver	Chris Stott (chair)
Clive House	Jim Sinclair (secretary)	Steve Tunstall
Tony Hughes	Wendy Sinclair	Jean Twigger

1. Opening

Chris opened the meeting with a reading from Exodus 3, followed by prayer.

2. Apologies for absence

Jean Barton, Kate Evans, Allan MacArthur, Nancy Preston and Rob Thomas all sent their apologies.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 25 January 2005 were signed as a correct record, after making the following amendment:

Item 9, 2nd paragraph, last line: "... Tony will have served on the PCC for 6 years."

4. Matters arising

- a) GB Tree in churchyard: the Parish Council has responded, agreeing to remove the old tree and to plant a new tree supplied by us. Ruth advised that Betty McNiven had recommended choosing a *Pyrus Salicifolia*. She favoured moving the position somewhat (to minimise risk of any infection), and to ask for as much of the old root system as possible to be removed.

Action: Ruth to liaise with the Council groundsman.

- b) Church Weekend: Chris reported that the proposed venue, Slavanka in Southbourne, had been said by others to have greatly improved; however, it has not yet been possible for anyone to visit. It was **agreed** that we could make a booking without doing such an inspection.

Action: Chris to obtain details and to book at his discretion.

- c) Paper folding machine: the present basic model is still not performing well, and Naomi is unwilling to proceed with incorporating hymns in the service sheet on a regular basis until an improved facility is available. Chris reported that the candidate machine identified by Naomi would cost £880 including VAT, or could be had on a lease-purchase scheme at £30 per month over 3 years.

Clive S proposed that we proceed to purchase this machine. In debate, it was questioned whether the case had sufficiently been made: were there other machines at different prices that would be more or less capable? Had the savings versus the investment cost clearly been compared? The financial position was also advanced as

grounds for caution. On a vote 4:8, Clive's proposal was defeated. We would reconsider after obtaining a clearer, restated case for the investment, and a further report on the outcome of the Giving Initiative.

- d) Church cleaning co-ordinator: no one has yet been identified to take over this role, so Debbie Davies is still acting.
- e) Missions display board: Clive S and Allan have consulted, and talked with Kate Ullmer. Clive has ideas for a particular display re Christine Perkins, and Allan has other ideas on renewed styles of presentation.

5. Financial report

Clive H distributed the audited accounts for 2004.

Resolution	That the accounts as presented be adopted for presentation to the APCM		
Moved	Sid Gale	Seconded	Steve Tunstall
		Passed	unanimously

The Giving Initiative had so far resulted in 32 returned pledges, of which 5 were new, and 24 were for increased amounts. The pledged amounts totalled nearly £24,000 per year. There are 76 documented regular givers, so the number not returning pledges so far was significant. It is therefore difficult to estimate firmly the overall impact; it was probably safe to assume that the giving from those who had not made returns would see a modest increase.

In the year to date, giving was up 15% on the same period last year. If this trend continued, the budgeted deficit of £9000 would be reduced, but not by a great deal. Clive H's feeling was that the ultimate solution to our perennial shortfall was not increased giving by the existing donors, but recruitment of new givers.

It was questioned whether the pending appeal for specific giving for the Kitchen/Toilets project might inhibit some from making increased pledges for regular giving.

The need for additional regular giving would be emphasised at or near to the Annual Meeting, making sure to express appreciation to those who had already responded.

On the question of Missions Giving, Clive S reported that the Missionary Committee had expressed disquiet about the proposal to fund support for local charitable groups out of the Missions Giving allocation. There was also some confusion over our intention to support the forthcoming mission Soul in Didcot (SID). Tony Ullmer had the impression that we decided to give £500, but the PCC was unaware of any firm amount having been approved.

6. Vision Group report

Tim reported that the Vision Group had not met since the last PCC meeting, but that it intended to do so before the APCM, and would distribute a report to PCC members. Tim is looking for a champion for the newly identified focus area Building Community.

7. Willow Creek Conference Report

This conference took place at Cheltenham towards the end of February, and had the thematic title "Lead with Diligence." Some 2600 people attended, including 9 from Harwell and Chilton.

Clive H and Tim gave summaries of the material presented.

8. Annual Meetings Preparation

Jim had drafted and circulated the Annual Report. After several minor amendments, the report was **adopted** for presentation to the APCM: moved by Tony Hughes, seconded by Jean Twigger, passed unanimously.

Allan had drafted a Fabric and Ornaments report. After several minor amendments, the report was **adopted** for presentation to the APCM: moved by Tony Hughes, seconded by Clive Silver, passed unanimously.

Other reports required, and the people responsible, are as follows –

Finance	Clive H
Electoral Roll	Wendy
Vision Team	Tim
Selected Organisations	<i>not yet selected</i>

Action Chris and Jim to choose 2 or 3 organisations to report, and to line up presenters.

With regard to the nominations required for PCC members, it was noted that Jean T, Tony, Nancy, Jim and Allan have all signalled that they do not intend to stand again. Assuming continuity otherwise, we need to identify at least –

- one candidate for churchwarden
- one additional Deanery Synod rep. (Georgina would be willing in principle)
- up to 7 additional PCC members
- someone willing to be PCC secretary

9. Buildings Committee report

Tony reported regarding the proposed Kitchen/Toilet improvement project. It appears that agreement has been reached on the question of the emergency exit provision. On the matter of the disabled toilet, there is no change; however, one final attempt to agree a solution in line with the first-choice layout design was currently being made by the architect.

Some odd maintenance jobs had been done since the last meeting, including re-varnishing of all the small tables (used by Scramblers, crèche, etc.) by Roy Slatter.

10. Future Dates

- Sermon series relevant to General Election to be given in April
- United Service for Christian Aid in Harwell, evening of 10 April
- Christine Perkins visit 17 April, including tea in afternoon
- 17 September Kate & David Evans will organise a concert on the occasion of their 25th Anniversary – this could be partly evangelistic.

11. Other Business

None.

12. Close

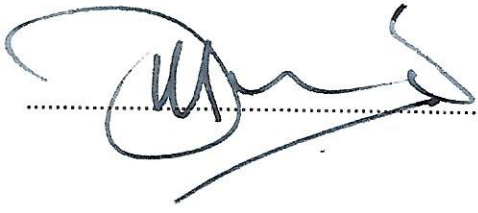
The meeting closed with prayer at 9.45 pm.

CJSalt *10/5/05*

13. Next Meeting

Annual meetings 19 April 2005 at 7.45 pm in St Matthews Hall

First meeting of new PCC Tuesday 10 May 2005 at 7.45 pm in the Church Extension.

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Chris Stott, chairman

~~Jim Sinclair~~, secretary

Maria Speed