

**Minutes of a meeting of Harwell PCC
held on Tuesday 8 July 2003 in Harwell Church Extension**

Present

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

1. Opening

Chris opened the meeting with a reading from John 17, followed by prayer.

2. Apologies for absence

None.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 13 May were signed as a correct record, after a minor correction: in Section 9, para. 1, sentence 3, replace 'These' with 'The latter'; and in para. 3, sentence 1, delete 'Parish Plan and'.

4. Matters arising

- a) Replacement Church Hall ^{keys} locks: delivery of these is expected within the next few weeks, after a delay because of difficulty in locating the correct blanks.
- b) New altar frontals: the green has been delivered, and the red is expected within a few weeks.
- c) The meeting at which Martin Cavendar of Springboard spoke was held on 10 June. It was widely appreciated. A key message was that we should be developing our own ideas for evangelism and outreach.
- d) Sid Gale had been nominated to the Buildings Committee subject to his consent: he has agreed.
- e) Christian Aid representative: Jean is still to approach Ann Ashton.
- f) Harwell Parish Plan: Tony H reported with reference to the items identified in the minutes of the last PCC meeting, which were supposed to be of potential interest to the Church to carry forward. One was provision of transport assistance to health care facilities. This already happens to some extent, and some people help with the Didcot Volunteers driving scheme. Another was addressing concern over drug abuse. Here, Tony recommended keeping a 'watching brief'. Jan Wooley will pass any information to/from

X the Parish Council. Another point concerned bidding for Lottery funding for youth holiday play schemes. Tony reported that Lottery funding for the Youth Club has already been granted. Although the Plan was drawn up by a wide-ranging group of volunteers, it is now 'owned' by the Parish Council, so that they will take the main responsibility for monitoring and promoting its execution.

- g) Cleaning week 9-14 June: Tony H reported that this went well; all that was planned, and more, was achieved. Thanks were expressed to all who took part. The newly donated book-sales display cabinet has been placed in service. A new bracket for mounting a second projector screen had been mentioned, but initial investigations revealed that some sort of removable base/platform was a better solution. Tony and Allan will investigate.
- h) New service sheets for Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer: Jean B has prepared drafts. There were not changes in the wording for Morning Prayer, but some changes for Evening Prayer. Samples were distributed in three different formats (different patterns of folding the paper). The format liked by the majority was that obtained by folding an A4 sheet in 3. It was agreed that 'ordinary' paper would suffice for the production. With regard to the wording, it was agreed that the prayer of confession be headed 'Confession', rather than 'We say sorry to God'.

5. Finance

Elizabeth distributed the monthly statement as usual. After six months of the year, it can be seen that income, at 40% of budget, is running slightly behind a steady profile, whereas expenditure is slightly ahead of the 50% mark. However, a large one-time donation has recently arrived, so there is no need for concern at this point, and the income tax refund is still to come. The present forecast for the Parish Share increase for 2004 is 5.4%, less than once feared.

Tony U presented further proposals regarding the proportional giving to missions. Chris Perkins will be engaged in 'private' study towards an MA in the UK, and can therefore do with less support than originally envisaged. Elsa and David Meader are coming home for a previously unscheduled trip, and have greater need. Specifically, it was proposed that the grant to Chris Perkins be £400, to her rather than Action Partners, and that Elsa be given a special extra grant of £400. The previously unallocated £100 is proposed to go to Rachel Ullmer. These proposals were **all agreed**.

6. Buildings Committee Report

- a) While investigating a failed heater in the Church, it was discovered that several had scorch marks on the reflectors. The cause was traced to faulty contacts in the internal wiring behind the reflectors. The original contractors, Dark and Taylor, have secured agreement from the manufacturers to replace the faulty units and cover the cost of reinstallation.
- b) The Church cleaning team have requested a professional clean of the carpets in the Nave and the downstairs Extension. The estimated cost is £300.
- c) A request has been received for removal of the wooden kneelers from some pews, to help the physically less able to enter the pews more easily. Tony proposes that the committee consider the matter, and bring to the next meeting a progress statement on the disability audit.
- d) Improvement of the West End (stage 3): a paper was distributed. After repositioning of the ancient clock mechanism, its former location is now available for use either by the missions display or Discoverers. The recommendation of the Buildings Committee is for the Discoverers to use this alcove, while the Missions display can use its present location, but be improved. **Agreed**. It was also suggested that coffee be served from the

space near the North door, but this was not universally accepted; instead, servers could choose the position according to taste or to the occasion. The remaining Stage-3 item is replacement of the table from which service books are given out by a flexible system involving units on castors. It is assumed that this will be carried forward in a later year, because there is no budget provision in the current year.

7. Vision Group Report

Tim reported that the group had considered

- how to encourage greater emphasis on the need for continual prayer. They are talking through the idea of providing a prayer calendar mentioning specific events and needs. a Sample will be drafted.
- the Finance project: a leader for this is still to be identified.
- the proposal for an employed Youth Worker. Chris and Marilyn are to meet a consultant from CPAS (Church Pastoral Aid Society) in October. Discussions will cover the different needs in Harwell and Chilton.

8. Deanery Synod Report

Clive S reported on the meeting on 16 June. Mr David Duvall had given a talk on making the most of musical talent in the local church. He is available for consultation if required.

The reduction in the planned increases for 2004 in the Parish Share was announced.

A strategy document from the diocese was distributed and spoken to, and copies were available for distribution to parishes (discussed separately). Clive felt it contained worthy 'slogans', but was short on practical suggestions.

The controversial proposed appointment of Bishop of Reading was only briefly discussed.

Chris remarked about the document 'Our Strategy' that it was primarily aimed at diocesan and deanery levels of church life. Others who had read the document agreed with Clive's reaction.

9. Report from the Village Hall Committee

A paper from our representative, Liz Roberts, was distributed. The points receiving discussion by the PCC were:

- the difficulty of finding a new Chairman, following resignation of Martin Ricketts. PCC members were made aware of the very great difficulty that had been encountered in seeking a replacement, and that desperate measures were proposed such as making participating Groups field a chairman on a rota basis. It was made clear that the lack of a chairman had not only practical consequences, but financial ones as well, preventing any application for funding as a charitable organisation.
- damage to the Freeman Hall partly caused by Scouts' ball games.
- trouble with the Youth Club, of which the senior section has closed following damage to a leader's home. The junior section continues, but with very small numbers.

On all these points, the PCC took note, but was unable to make any specific suggestions of solutions.

10. Future Dates

A church family picnic is planned at Chilton on 7 September at 12:30.

A children's Fun Day is planned for 6 September.

The next Alpha Course begins on 17 September.

Harvest Festival will be on 5 October.

On 1 November there will be a Bishops Prayer Day (form yet to be made clear).

On 2 November in Chilton there will be a service particularly aimed at those who have undergone bereavement.

11. Bishop of Reading Appointment

Chris made only brief comments, in the light of the recent development that the controversial appointee has withdrawn. The Bishop of Oxford has called for a period of calm reflection. A few PCC members made brief comments.

12. Close

The meeting closed with prayer at 9.45 pm.

Next Meeting

Tuesday 9 September 2003 at 7.45 pm in the Church Extension

..... Chris Stott, chairman

..... Jim Sinclair, secretary