

T. Hughes

ST MATTHEW'S HARWELL

Minutes of a meeting of Harwell PCC held on Tuesday, January 23rd 2001 at 7.45pm in St Matthew's Church Hall.

Present:	Rev C Stott (Chairman)	W Sinclair
	Rev M Carney	F Taylor
	E Gill	M Thomas
	C House	R Thomas
	T Hughes	J Twigger
	A MacArthur	T Ullmer
	N Ponting	A Walker
	C Silver	Ruth Slatter
	J Sinclair	

1. The Rector opened the meeting with a reading from 1 Corinthians 12, followed by prayer.
2. **Apologies:** were received from Ruth Gilson.
3. **The Minutes of the last meeting** were approved subject to the deletion of 'No action will be taken at present on the infestation behind the organ' to read 'No treatment will be done on the roof timbers of the South Transept because Rentokil advised that it was not necessary.'(6)
4. **Matters arising from Minutes:**
 - 4(ii) **Photocopier** - Stewart Gibson had informed us, that our present photocopier is out of date and, should it break down, that it is not possible to get spare parts. The present service contract is now obsolete. There were suggestions that we could lease a new one for a 5year period, or have a refurbished one with a 3year warranty. The matter is to be referred back to the Finance Committee for further investigation and come before PCC at the next meeting. A future plan of action should then be put in place.
 - 5) **Financial Report** - The final payment has been paid for the 'Heating & Lighting' Project. **Stewardship** - A letter is to be sent out to all on the Electoral Roll and copies of this letter will be made available at the back of church for new members of the congregation. **Tax Recovery** - Norman Ponting produced a paper clarifying the position with regard to recovery of tax by charities. He recommended that all donors sign a new tax recovery form, as this will simplify matters when the present covenant system has run its 4year course.
 - 11) **Training Course for Pastoral Care Team** - This course, run by Yvonne Davies, has enjoyed 2 sessions so far. The teams from Harwell and Chilton, are joining with teams from Blewbury, Hagbourne and elsewhere. A total of 29 people are attending.

12) **Mission Issues** - The planned trip to Tanzania by Sarah Thomas has had to be cancelled owing to lack of support for the project. Sarah is actively looking at the possibility of going with BMS to India in June or July. Interviews for this project do not take place until April.

13) **Altar Frontal** - Wendy Sinclair reported that this was in hand. Further research was needed.

5. **Financial Report** - E Gill presented a full report up to 31st December 2000. Planned giving is up but we had a deficit at the end of this last year. The Treasurer reminded us that The 'Parish Share' has risen again this year. A belated donation of £500 has been received toward the cost of the Heating and Lighting. Should it not be needed for this project, it can be designated for other use at the discretion of the PCC.

Clive House presented the proposed budget for 2001.

The PCC approved a rise of 2.5% for the Church Secretary from 1.1.01.

It was agreed that Alison Manning is to be our Independent Examiner.

The Rector thanked Elizabeth Gill for all that she has done as Treasurer over the past year.

Budget Proposed by A MacArthur and Seconded by N Ponting.

6. **Building Report** - Tony Hughes submitted a written report for the year 2000, outlining the recommendations after the Quinquennial report and the advice given by Mr Philip Waddy. The PCC agreed that a further working day should be arranged sometime during the summer of this year. The date to be advised after consultation with Mr Douglas Jordan. To comply with the disability audit recommendations, Architect's advice is to be sought for the alterations to the kitchen/toilet area and the West End. Treatment of woodworm in the organ will be carried out early this year. PCC agreed a budget of £4,200 for the work to be carried out this year. It was also noted that the outer church door was difficult to close and action was to be taken on this problem.

10. **Soundnation 2001** - a Report from Malcolm Birkinshaw.
This project is concerned with the evangelisation of young people by young people and was initiated by Didcot Baptist Church who invited other local churches to get involved. Harwell YF took up the challenge and subsequently St Matthew's became more involved with the programme. A team from Viz a Viz who specialise in young peoples work is training the local leaders. Preparation has been going on since September 2000 and the event takes place in March. Teams from Viz a Viz will be visiting local secondary schools during the week to take RE lessons and assemblies. It is hoped that young people will attend 'drop

in café' venues, once a week, for 5 - 10 weeks and discover more about where they are in their Christian life. The project is being funded by individual donations.

7. **Strategy for Evangelisation ("Sharing life"):** Rob Thomas reported that 6 groups (including groups for prayer, worship, training and community links) have been set up and meetings will begin over the next few weeks. There is to be an update to a Combined PCC meeting after Easter. The leader of each group will be invited to give a report on how they see this programme moving forward.
The Rector reported that there is to be a new Enquirers group during Lent, and a Confirmation Service at Harwell on the evening of the 13th May. There will also be meetings in Chilton during Lent. The welcome group has recently run a successful 'Alpha' course and 8 - 10 people attended regularly.
8. **Churches Together in Didcot & District** - The Rector reported that there are plans for an ecumenical church on the new development in Didcot. Joint discussions are to take place in the future. This would be an important link with teenagers as both the secondary schools are based in Didcot. It was agreed that we continue as Associate Members of the Churches Together in Didcot & District and send the outstanding fees of £50 for the past two years.
9. **Portable Font** - It was agreed that Crowdys of Faringdon be asked to make a portable font as per their submitted drawing, in light oak similar to existing recently made furniture in the church, at a cost of £548.00 including VAT to be paid for by an anonymous donor.
11. **Review of Christmas Services** - It was agreed that the carol services were well attended and the Rector expressed his thanks to Wendy Sinclair and her social committee for their work preparing refreshments. The Floodlighting around the church was beautiful this year and much appreciated by all. The collection at the Christingle Service was £61.00, and the attendance was disappointingly low.
12. **Any Other Business**
 - i) Mobile Telephone Masts - All interested Churches have been invited to express interest on this to the Archbishop's Council. PCC agreed that it should be done.
 - ii) Yew Tree - Wendy Sinclair reported that the tree is still alive and still growing very slowly.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm.

The Date for the next meeting is March 13th.

Signed

Date