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## ST MATTHEW'S HARWELL

Minutes of a meeting of Harwell PCC held on Tuesday, July 10th 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	S Tunstall
	T Linnard	J Twigger
	A MacArthur	T Ullmer
	N Ponting	A Walker
	C Silver	R Slatter
	J Sinclair	

1. The Rector opened the meeting by welcoming Tracey Linnard and Steve Tunstall who were present for the first time. The reading was taken from Acts 4, followed by prayer.
2. **Apologies:** there were no apologies.
3. **The Minutes of the last meeting** were <sup>is a number</sup> approved subject to Item 6.  
**Buildings committee:** Frances Taylor and Norman Ponting is also a co-optee. Item 12. **Mary Carney:** to read "Farewell presentations are being planned. Tony Hughes is to liase with Mary Carney about any preferences that she has for a farewell gift. The Rector is to liase with Chilton about the form of farewell functions at the end of July."
4. **Matters arising from Minutes:**
  - 4(a) **Altar frontal** - Wendy Sinclair reported that this was in hand. PCC agreed with the proposal to keep the white cover on and to have a cover that drapes over the top.
  - 4(b) **Font** - this has been delivered and will be used on Sunday 22nd July for the first time.
  - 4(c) **Working Day:** this has been arranged for Friday 7<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September. Douglas Jordan has again kindly agreed to oversee this work. Please tell Tony Hughes if you know of any jobs that need to be done. **Tony Hughes** to let Joy Hance know details of times etc for the Broadsheet.
  - 4(d) **Meetings to discuss future of the two parishes:** 8/5/01(12)  
Two meetings have been held with the Churchwardens and Non-Stipendiary ministers to plan for when Mary Carney leaves at the end of July. It is hoped that we can run services etc. as at present, and then review the situation after 12 months. There will be a

meeting in August for a smaller group to discuss our vision for the future.

**5. Financial Report**

The Treasurer tabled a half-yearly report and showed that we are breaking even so far. She reported that the parish share would rise by £2,000 next year.

Norman Ponting reported that Covenants are coming to an end and that Geoff Jenkinson will be issuing new forms soon.

**6. Building Committee Report:**

Tony Hughes reported that it was proving difficult to find a replacement builder for David Cox who had previously worked for us. Several quotes had been sought but only one had come back. PCC agreed that if competitive quotes are not forthcoming after further prompting, then we should go ahead with the quote from Mr Clarke who has already worked on the Chilton tower and was known to be a good worker.

PCC agreed that work already planned and agreed should go ahead with the addition of the markings for the front of the platform steps.

After much discussion the PCC agreed to bring the disabled toilet/kitchen facilities and the re-ordering of the west-end of the church back to the September meeting.

**7. Sharing Life - Progress Report**

The working group is proposing a 3-year plan. The proposals for year one are as follows:

- To improve our informal networking with community activities in the two villages.
- To strengthen our welcoming arrangements in both churches.

A specific suggestion, which the PCC's could implement, is for all PCC members to commit to regular private prayer for the life and outreach of our churches. PCC agreed to these proposals.

Frances Taylor tabled a report from **The Worship Working** group. PCC agreed to invest in appropriate software for the church office to enable the secretary to print out Liturgy and Hymns from CD-ROM and also for a paper folding facility.

It was also agreed that we hold a service of informal evening worship at Chilton on each 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday. This could be led by home groups etc. Joy Hance has offered to co-ordinate these services. PCC agreed this for one year and then to a review.



8. **Youth Alpha Course**

Steve Tunstall reported that a regular group of 9-10 youngsters are attending this course on Sunday evenings. He was very encouraged by the enthusiasm of the group. They plan to have a "Spirit" day and barbecue at the end of the 6 weekly sessions.

A further adult Alpha Course has been planned beginning with a "taster evening" on September 19th. The Rector asked for prayer for the planning and for the course.

Following the recent adult course in Harwell a "home group" has been formed and meets on Tuesday evenings.

Sir David Frost will be hosting an Alpha course to be shown on TV beginning on July 29<sup>th</sup>.

9. **Diocesan Convention - Purpose and Design**

All Christians from the Diocese are welcome to attend this convention. The course will run from 10am on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July - Sunday lunchtime 14th July 2002. Thursday and Friday will particularly focus on Leadership and PCC members are encouraged to attend.

10. **Printing of Broadsheet**

PCC agreed to new proposals for the printing of the Broadsheet after the previous printers went out of business.

11. **Marriage in Church after Divorce**

This was a difficult topic to debate and after much discussion no unanimous conclusions were reached, but the following views were expressed:

- places big pressure on the incumbent should they have to make the decision
- parish guidelines would need to be set up, following General Synod's decision
- could bring division in the local community
- there is an enormous amount of hurt through divorce
- could bring opportunity for hope, forgiveness and new starts
- many inconsistencies already exist and will continue after a decision by the Church of England
- "What would Jesus do?"
- Marriage preparation is very important.
- How do we say something to society at large about the vows we make, while pastorally responding to those whose marriages have broken down. It was noted that according to civil law, but not ecclesiastical law such marriages were already legal.

12. **Mary Carney's Farewell**  
Mary's last Sunday is on July 29<sup>th</sup> when there will be a reception for her after the morning service in Harwell. In the evening there will be a joint Songs of Praise service in Chilton, followed by a Bring and Share supper, to which everyone in both parishes is welcome. The Institution Service for Mary in Ambroseden, is on Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup>.
13. **Harvest Arrangements**  
**Wendy Sinclair** has agreed to oversee the Harvest Lunch and Sale.
14. **Any other business**
- i) **Village Bier**  
The Rector expressed his thanks to Ted Lay who has refurbished the old village bier. PCC agreed that it should have a place in church behind the font, subject to the obtaining of a faculty.
  - ii) PCC agreed that Jean Barton should stay for a further year on placement and be allowed to lead and preach at services with the permission of the Bishop.
  - iii) PCC also agreed that Bruce Keeble, a retired Baptist Minister will be able to assist with services in Chilton as and when required.
  - iii) Jim Sinclair requested that the Holy Communion service sheets be reprinted to prevent confusion with the present ones.
15. The Rector closed the meeting at 10.03pm with prayer, which included thanking Mary for all that she has done during her ministry here in Harwell.

The Date for the next meeting is September 11<sup>th</sup>

Signed .....

Date .....