

Amended minutes.  
RAS.

## ST MATTHEW'S HARWELL

2001

Minutes of a meeting of Harwell PCC held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September at  
7.45pm in St Matthew's Church Hall

Present:	Rev C Stott (Chairman)	W Sinclair
	E Gill	R Slatter
	C House	F Taylor
	T Hughes	M Thomas
	T Linnard	R Thomas
	A Macarthur	J Twigger
	C Silver	T Ullmer
	J Sinclair	A Walker

1. In the light of the tragic terrorist acts in America, the Rector opened the meeting by reading from Psalms 46 ("God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble") and Psalm 1 ("Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked .... For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.")  
Followed by prayer.
2. **Apologies for absence** were received from N Ponting and S Tunstall.
3. **The Minutes of the last Meeting** were signed as a correct record.
4. **Matters Arising:**
  - Altar Frontal** - W Sinclair reported that this was progressing well, and, that both Green and Red Frontals were now possible due to a further donation.
  - Village Bier** - A reply from Diocesan Church House was awaited to advise on the next step.
  - Harvest Arrangements** - The **social committee** will be organising the Harvest Lunch in the village hall on Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> October, assisted by volunteers on the day. During this meal and sale of produce, a "Traidcraft" stall will be run by the "Cornerstones Bookshop" from Grove.  
The Rector reported that the two recent working days were very successful and expressed his thanks to both Douglas Jordan and to Tony Hughes for organising this project.
5. **Financial Report:**

The Treasurer tabled a report and that recovery of tax on Gift Aided payments had increased this year.

**Stewardship Programme:**  
Leaflets are being prepared for this programme under the theme "Live Generously". It was proposed that the financial reports reflect separate figures for the work of ministry and maintenance of the church building.
6. **Buildings Committee Report:**

**Building work on the church** - Thomas and Jarvis have been appointed to do this work which should begin in October.

**Seating - PCC agreed** to propose a six-month trial of removing the back 2 rows of pews and replacing them with chairs. Flexible seating at the back of the pews would give versatility in terms of usage and space, although some concern was expressed that this option would still force people needing chairs to sit at the back of the congregation, thus limiting their choice. This proposal would be publicised before confirming a trial at the November meeting of the PCC and seeking approval from the DAC. It was felt that the alternative options under consideration were less practicable or acceptable, and in particular the one suggested by the DAC of removing the ends of the long pews had the disadvantage of being irreversible.

Some of our regular worshippers would welcome chairs with arms to enable them to stand more easily, and it was proposed to purchase six of these and **PCC agreed** to this request. A further trial of removing the front kneelers of both main aisles would be carried out for a six-month period. This is to create more space for disabled worshippers especially during communion services.

**Kitchen/Toilet Area** - After discussion **PCC agreed** to commission a detailed design for modifying the Kitchen/Toilet Area. Draft copy attached to minutes in porch.

**West End** - The committee recommended that we should not spend on new furniture at present and **PCC agreed**. Several suggestions were made as to how we could tidy up the area at the back of the Church.

The clock face could be moved into the vestry

The bookstand could be moved over by the wall safe - this would free up space at coffee time.

Bookstall would be accessible during this time.

**F Taylor** is to further investigate these ideas.

**Heating** - R Thomas recommended that we move the heater from inside the South Entrance door to the front of the North Aisle and install a heater in the vacant slot above the door to the extension. **PCC agreed** to purchase 2 new heaters to effect these improvements. The cost would be £800/£900 and would be funded from the Heating and Lighting Account. The rest of the amount in this account would be transferred to the Church General Fund.

7. **Progress of Youth Alpha Course & Alpha Course** - The Rector reported that the youth Alpha was going well and the young people were very enthusiastic. A BBQ has been arranged for these young people.

A few people had signed up for the Alpha Course and a taster evening is planned for Wednesday, September 19<sup>th</sup> in St Matthew's Hall.

A donation has been received towards a television for use on the Alpha Courses and Allan Macarthur was dealing with this.

8. **Jean Barton - PCC agreed** to support the application for Jean to attend a Selection Conference for Non-Stipendiary Ministry. If successful Jean has permission from the Bishop to stay in Harwell and Chilton following ordination.



9. **Vision and Priorities - Progress Report**  
The main objectives are to monitor and encourage.  
A committee has been set up with Tim Roberts as facilitator.  
They are looking at Foundations for a Vision of our 2 churches overall for 5 years, and the Environment in which our 2 churches operate - including the development of a new housing estate in Chilton.  
The findings to be reported back hopefully to the PCC's in November.
10. **Future of Church Secretary's Post** - Joy Hance has indicated that she wishes to step down from this post at Easter 2002, as she will be serving her "Title" elsewhere after ordination. The job description to be reviewed by the churchwardens of both parishes.
11. **Diocesan Leadership Training Programme for Clergy - Developing Servant Leaders.** This is a 12-month course and Chris Stott has been chosen as 1 of 144 clergy in the first batch. There are 2 residential courses, one in November and the other in January. The course also includes a "Practical" project. Chris, along with 11 others, has been invited to spend a day with the Bishop on September 26<sup>th</sup> in preparation for this course.
12. **Christmas Arrangements**  
Carols by Candlelight in Harwell December 16<sup>th</sup> at 4 and 6.15pm.  
Carols by Candlelight in Chilton December 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4 and 6.15pm.  
The Rector asked **Wendy Sinclair** if the Social Committee would be willing to provide refreshments as last year.
13. **Any Other Business**  
a) Church Hall Garden - **PCC agreed** that, subject to approval of plans, that the cubs could design a quiet area on the grass outside the emergency exits. The plans would be brought to the PCC in November. The cubs would fund this project, and maintenance would be planned into the programme.  
The Rector thanked A Walker for his work in keeping the hedge trimmed.  
b) Term of Office for PCC Members - members will continue to be elected annually and generally serve not longer than five consecutive years. This would not apply to Deanery Synod members or Churchwardens. As from 2002 those members who have served for five years would stand down for a minimum of one year. This would not preclude members declining to be re-nominated for office who had served less than five years. These proposals may be formalised at an AGM of the PCC if it is seen to be a workable proposal.  
c) PCC members Bring and Share BBQ on Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> September. A list will be circulated about food requirements nearer the time. Families of PCC members are most welcome to attend.  
d) Village Meeting - All **PCC Members** were encouraged to attend this meeting on September 20<sup>th</sup> in Harwell Village Hall at 8pm.

14. Rob Thomas closed the meeting with prayer at 10.02pm.

The date for the next meeting is November 13<sup>th</sup>.

Signed .....

Date .....