

Tony H

ST MATTHEW'S HARWELL

Minutes of a meeting of Harwell PCC held on Tuesday 13th November²⁰⁰¹ at
7.45pm in St Matthew's Church Hall

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

1. The Rector led our opening worship using a booklet previously used on a Sharing Life Day, which included a reading from John 17, and responses.
2. **Apologies for absence** were received from N Ponting, S Tunstall, C House and R Thomas.
The Rector read a letter from Norman Ponting expressing his wish to stand down from PCC, either immediately or at the next AGM in April. Thanks were expressed to Norman for his tireless work for the Church and PCC, always carried out in a most pleasant and cheerful manner. **The Rector** to write a letter of thanks.
3. **The Minutes of the last Meeting** on September 11th were signed.
4. **Matters Arising:**

Altar Frontal - W Sinclair reported that this was progressing well, and, that both Green and Red Frontals were now at the final design stage.

Village Bier - Mr Ted Lay thought that to place the Bier behind the font was not a good idea as it would be difficult to access it should it need to be on display elsewhere. PCC agreed that the Bier should be kept in a barn for safe-keeping.

Church Hall Garden Plans - Mr Peter Martin came to address PCC on behalf of the Cubs at 8pm. He left drawings of suggested plans for PCC to consider and assured us that the cubs were financing this project and also the upkeep. Concerns raised were: Safety, Vandalism, Hedge clipping and the needs of toddlers.

Armchairs - Mary Saunders advised that a faculty would be needed.
Specification of chairs will be needed for this and **Jim Sinclair** agreed to check with the suppliers the availability of fabric type to match existing chairs.

5. **Financial Report:**

A paper was presented showing that giving through the envelope scheme is up and that Tax reclaims have increased.

Some concern was expressed about the cleanliness of the Church Hall. It was suggested that a letter be sent to all users encouraging them to clean up after themselves and to leave the place clean and tidy for the people who next use the Hall.

Fees - Fees for funerals and weddings have not increased for a number of years and **PCC agreed** to increase the fee for the bells from £40 to **£70**; for the organist from £30 to **£45**; and for the choir fee to remain at **£40**.

6. **Vision and Priorities Report**

The Rector gave a presentation from the vision group, facilitated by Tim Roberts.

Why do we need to do this work? There are many changes within our community and nationally, and since we lost Mary Carney in July changes have been made within our own church community. The presentation focused on the Values and Vision Statement. The Vision Group were asked to consider two particular issues, which were not mentioned in the Values and Vision Statement:

- a) world-wide concern for missions and charities
- b) Pastoral care of the elderly and infirm.

It was also suggested that once the final plan had been agreed, it might be appropriate to conduct a self-appraisal as to where we are at the moment. The next meeting will take place in December when the committee will be looking at the long-term, more detailed, plan.

7. **Youth Alpha and Alpha Course** - in the absence of Steve Tunstall the Rector reported that the youth group course had been completed but the young people from both Harwell and Chilton were continuing to meet on Sunday evenings. Some of them had expressed a wish to be confirmed. The current Alpha course was progressing well with a helpful Away Day the previous Saturday.

8. **Review of Harvest Activities** - Wendy Sinclair reported that the Harvest Lunch and Sale raised a total of just over £417 for Tear Fund. Thank you to Wendy and her team for all their hard work. Thank you also to Clive Silver who took two carloads of foodstuffs, specially collected at Harvest time, to the Porch in Oxford. This included a generous donation of goods from Harwell Nursery School.

9. **Dr. Rob Thomas - Licensed Lay Ministry Description** - Rob's license has been renewed and PCC were happy to endorse this.

Jean Barton will be attending a Selection Conference for Non-Stipendiary Ministry on February 11th 2002. Prayers were asked for her.

10. **Building Committee Report:** Tony Hughes reported that Thomas and Jarvis haven't yet begun the work they agreed to start in October, but he will be getting in touch with them.

Tony said that the marking tape on the steps at the front of the church had met with approval and that it was helpful. Thanks to Graham Cox who helped Tony with this project.

Seating - PCC agreed to propose a two-phase trial. **1st phase** is a 3 months trial beginning in January to remove the back two short pews on both sides of the centre aisle and replace with chairs. The kneelers from the front of the church would also be removed. The **2nd phase** is to replace two long pews in the middle of the church, in front and behind the central pillars, with the two shorter ones from the back and place chairs or leave space for pushchairs and/or wheelchairs on the side aisle.

A temporary license would be required from the Archdeacon for this trial period. It was agreed that any alterations during these trials would be reversible. These trials would be reported on at the PCC meeting in March.

Proposed: C Stott Seconded: A Macarthur and carried.

Removal of the pew in the vestry was proposed by C Stott and Seconded by F Taylor and carried

Some concern was expressed that for Family Communion services there would not be a barrier between the children and those taking communion. The **Sunday school leaders** will consult with the **churchwardens** to see if there may be alternative seating arrangements for these services.

11. **Zacchaeus Petition on Poverty to House of Commons** - It was suggested that it would be helpful to place further information regarding this petition along with the form, so that people knew exactly what they were signing.
12. **Golden Jubilee - June 2002**
Douglas Jordan has been asked to open the tower on the Saturday, June 1st with teas, and had agreed.
The Rector suggested that on Sunday evening June 2nd, a Songs of Praise, similar to the one for the Millennium Celebrations, would be appropriate. T Hughes thought it would be good to invite Chilton to join us. The Rector would take the invitation to Chilton PCC next week. We can make use of the marquee that the Feast Committee will be hiring for the weekend. This was agreed.
13. **Sharing Life Update** - in his absence Rob Thomas tabled a paper listing the 1st year's programme outlining the following 6 areas for priority.
 1. Communication and Networking
 2. Welcome Pack - Liz Roberts is to update the information.
 3. Harwell Village Appraisal
 4. Golden Jubilee (3-4 June 2002)
 5. Welcoming Arrangements - training sessions in both churches.
 6. Ministry of HealingThe Welcome Group and Visiting Team are already enveloping some of these priorities.

Diocesan Convention 2002 - High Wycombe 11-13 July

It is hoped that all members of the PCC will be able to attend and also potential future leaders. Bookings can be made from January 2002. All bookings have to be made on the Web so you can book yourself in or Ruth Slatter will do it for you. The first two days will be primarily about leadership, the Saturday will be open to all and will be a Celebration.

14. **A.O.B.**

Token of thanks to Joan Impey - Prop C Silver; Sec T Hughes and carried

Deanery Synod Rep - N. Ponting will need to be replaced.

Swanwick Convention - Tracey Linnard reported briefly that 3 members of S School had attended this course and were very enthused by the training they were given..

Common Worship - Our experiment with Eucharistic prayers is due for review at our January PCC.

15. The meeting closed with **prayer** at 10.27pm

Date of next meeting 22nd January 2002

Signed.....

Date.....