

St Matthew's Church Harwell

Minutes of the Annual Meetings held on Tuesday 27th April 2010 at 7.45 p.m. in St Matthew's Church Hall

The meetings were chaired by Rev Chris Stott and the secretary was Mel Gibson.

The attendance was 50.

Apologies were received from Peter Barclay-Watts, Alison Gale, Gordon Gill, Steve Manning and Anita Pepper..

The meeting opened with the singing of the hymn "To Him we come" and prayer.

Annual Parochial Meeting

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 31st March 2009 were distributed. It was proposed by Norman Ponting that these should be accepted as a correct record. This was seconded by Pat Connelly and unanimously agreed. The minutes were duly signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

Election of Churchwardens

Chris Stott said that everyone was truly grateful to Tim Roberts and Allan Macarthur for their continual hard work both in public roles and behind the scenes as churchwardens over the last year and noted that they did this while leading very busy working lives. He said that particular thanks were due to Tim Roberts who was stepping down after 5 years. In this time Chris said he had been unfailingly positive and cheerful, and Chris expressed the warm appreciation of everyone to Tim Roberts for all he had done.

In advance of the meeting, Alan Macarthur and Tony Hughes were nominated and seconded in writing to be elected as churchwardens for the next year. There were no other nominations. They were elected unanimously.

Signed as a true record:

Mel Gibson

Chairman:

Mel Gibson

Secretary:

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 31st March 2009 were distributed. Tony Hughes proposed that these should be signed as a correct record of the meeting. This was seconded by Sid Gale and unanimously agreed. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Matters Arising

No matters arising from the minutes were raised.

Election of PCC Members

Chris thanked all the PCC for their service over the last year, and particularly thanked Frances Taylor, Vicky Luker, and Matt Webb, who were stepping down this year, for their contribution.

Ten nominations had been received in advance for the twelve available posts on the PCC. No further nominations were forthcoming. The following were elected unanimously:

James Scott Cockburn	Gordon Gill	Roz Shipp
Kate Evans	Steve Tunstall	Jonathan Wood
Sid Gale	Tony Hughes	Jane Woolley
Mel Gibson	Vicky Macarthur	

Chris Stott told the meeting that Jonathan Wood had agreed to act as treasurer.

Election of Sides persons

Allan Macarthur thanked all who had served as sides persons over the past year and for making a very important contribution to the services. Tim Roberts proposed the following to serve for the coming year. These were seconded by Joy Doughty and elected unanimously.

Mary Hanley	Anne and Graham Cox	Jim and Wendy Sinclair
Liz Roberts	Geoff Jenkinson	Roz Shipp
Gill Gay	Pat Connolly	Liz Hill
Elizabeth Gill	Ryan Davies	Roy and Ruth Slatter
Jean and Tony Twigger	Betty Pyke	Mike Pepper
Betty and Peter McNiven	David Pyke	

Church Annual Report

The Annual Report, adopted by the PCC at its last meeting and signed by Chris Stott as chairman, had been distributed. It summarised the purpose of the PCC, gave the list of members, explained the use of subcommittees, recorded the church membership and attendance figures, reviewed the business considered by the PCC, and summarised the financial position.

A brief presentation on this was given by the Mel Gibson, the PCC secretary. He picked out a few items to focus on. These were: the suspension of the shared communion cup while the swine flu virus was prevalent; the children and youth work (noting that Fledglings had changed its times slightly to

accommodate Little Pippins using the hall); and the PCC's meeting to consider 'Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats'. He noted that the PCC had decided to focus on communication during the year and he said that as a contribution to this, work on a 'glossy brochure' of church groups was almost completed. However, he noted that the Youth Fellowship had not been happy to set up the web based communication that the PCC had envisaged.

There were no questions on the report.

Financial Report

The financial report was made by the Treasurer, Clive House.

The Financial Statement for the year ended 31 December 2009 had been adopted by the PCC at its last meeting, and was presented along with the statement of the appointed Independent Examiner, Alison Mignanelli.

Clive House said that his report was best kept brief and joked that it could be summarised as: "we've got enough dosh!" He drew the attention of the meeting to the bottom line of the general fund which showed a surplus of £2,070. Clive House then led the meeting through the main figures, thanking those who contributed to the 'planned giving' figure, and emphasising the importance of registering for Gift Aid if possible. Among the payments Clive pointed out that the £43,000 parish share was the largest amount, but that it was not going to increase next year. Clive then introduced the figures for the restricted and dedicated funds, noting the work done on decorating the chancel and replacing the organ blower. He explained that the negative values in these figures would be balanced when Gift Aid contributions were paid in the following year.

Clive House said thank you to Elizabeth Gill as bookkeeper, saying that she did all the hard work for him. He also thanked Alison Mignanelli for acting as Independent Examiner for the accounts for this year and the previous two years.

Questions or comments on the accounts were invited. Clive House was asked to explain the 'sinking fund' and said that this was associated with Fledglings and intended to support people with special needs. One person commented that the expenses for the Clergy seemed very low (saying that this was obviously not a criticism). Clive House explained that some of this was shared with Chilton.

Chris Stott told the meeting that Clive House was stepping down after 10 years in the role of treasurer. He said how grateful everyone was for his excellent work, overseeing the finances, chairing the budget meetings and the meeting expressed its warm appreciation for this.

Appointment of Independent Examiner

Clive House and Chris Stott reported that Alison Mignanelli had decided not to act as Independent Examiner for a further year. They said that Jane Moreton had agreed to take on the role. Her appointment was proposed by Steve Tunstall, seconded by Jim Sinclair and unanimously accepted by the meeting.

Congregational survey

Chris Stott introduced Hazel King from Chilton to the meeting as the lead person on the Congregational survey, which had been undertaken as part of Pam Roll's training for local ministry. Hazel King briefed the meeting on the results which she said had been summarised in the broadsheet in March.

She reported that 153 forms had been distributed and 52 returned, a response rate of 34% (and she noted that this meant that the views could not be seen as representative – for example, the returns may be heavily biased towards one age group, and because respondents had not been asked to indicate their age group as part of the survey there would be no hint of this in the returns.)

The majority of respondents attended church weekly and were not involved in any other church activity or group (though Hazel King noted that in contrast to this a substantial minority of respondents were involved in three or more activities.)

The majority of respondents were happy with communications and services, and did not want change. Individual comments or suggestions for things that individuals would like to see changed tended to be difficult to reconcile.

Hazel King said that after they had considered the findings, the leadership team would consider what action they should take in response.

In conclusion she thanked all those who had completed the survey and invited questions from the meeting. She was asked whether she was surprised by any of the results, and she replied that she had been surprised by the response rate but not by any of the findings. She was also asked whether there was any previous survey against which the results could be compared. She did not know of one.

Chris Stott thanked Hazel King on behalf of the meeting for her presentation and undertaking the survey, and he also thanked Naomi Gibson who had entered the responses on to the computer.

Report on Fabric and Ornaments

A written report had been distributed in the booklet with the annual report, and highlights from this were presented by Tim Roberts.

Tim Roberts said that following the parish share much of the expenditure of the church went on maintaining the buildings, and that lots of work went into ensuring that this money was spent wisely. He reported that considerable effort had gone into ensuring the Chancel painting was undertaken by the right people, using the right paint, with the right approvals, and that replacing the organ blower box had been hard work to arrange and manage. He thanked those who had undertaken this work, mentioning Tony Hughes, Roz Shipp, Frances Taylor, Mel Gibson, and David Pike by name.

Tim Roberts asked for questions or comments on the Fabric Report or plans for 2010, but none were forthcoming.

Chris Stott thanked Tim Roberts for his report.

Electoral Roll Report

Mike Pepper, the electoral roll officer, reported that there were 143 people on the roll after 2 had moved away and 4 new names had been added (but that last year's report had been incorrect and should have been 141 members). Mike Pepper noted that some regular church goers were not on the electoral roll and asked the meeting to encourage all those not on the roll to be added. Mike said he would distribute the forms.

Deanery Synod Report

The Deanery Synod report was presented by Steve Tunstall, one of the two Deanery Synod representatives (Georgina Greer being the other). Steve Tunstall reported that there had been four meetings in the year at broadly quarterly intervals. The content of the meetings varied quite substantially, sometimes focussing on formal items of business, and at other times comprising less formal information.

Steve Tunstall identified a number of items from the meetings for mention: there was a report about plans and progress in a renewal campaign from St Peters in Didcot; the new less formal arrangements and pastoral committee for Didcot group ministry were shared; the 'Living Faith' vision was used as the basis for planning outreach and evangelism in the Deanery; Edward Carter reported on his sabbatical investigation in the variety of ways a stranger is welcomed in different churches; and there was a report on the General Synod.

Steve Tunstall noted that the next General Synod was to include the issue of women bishops and asked that if any members of the church had strong feelings they should make them known.

There were no questions and Chris Stott thanked Steve Tunstall for his report.

Child Protection Report

Georgina Greer, child protection officer for the parish, gave a brief report to the meeting.

Georgina reported that 28 CRB applications had been processed in the last 4 months. She said that the House of Bishops has decided new disclosures should be obtained every 5 years and she will be contacting the 26 people that this now relates to in the first three months of this year. She also reported that from June volunteers working with young people will need to be registered with the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA). Guidelines regarding this are available from Georgina if required.

Chris Stott thanked Georgina Greer for her work in this very important work and invited questions, but there were none.

Reports from Selected Organisations

Josh Manning presented a report on the *Youth Fellowship* (YF) in place of his father who was unable to attend the meeting because he was at a business meeting. (To enable Josh to return to his exam revision, his report was made after the fabric report earlier in the meeting, but it is reported here in line with the agenda and with the other 'selected organisation' reports). He reported that YF members were aged 14 to 18, and that between 15 and 23 attended the meetings each week. The group discussed challenging questions such as: 'if you knew Jesus was back next week, what would you do differently?' or 'who would Jesus vote for?' Last Christmas YF organised the Crib Service in the church, and they have started sponsoring a child in a Nicaraguan shanty town. Members of the group go to the Vertigo youth services in Oxford and many are going to the 'Big Church Day Out', a national event with Christian bands, drama and teaching. The older members of the group are keen to introduce the newer members of the group to these sorts of events.

George [?] ^{Long} the leader of the Explorers group made a report on behalf of the *Scouts*. He thanked the Church for their support, particularly in providing the hall for meetings and storage. He reported that there were not 60 scouts split into two groups, a Beavers group of 22 and a Cubs group to 20, and around 25 in the Explorers group. He said that the leadership group had grown to 18, but that more were needed (and anyone interested should speak to Brian Zimmerman.) There had been an initiative to bring on young leaders, and invited two of those in this programme to report on what they did. Josh Manning said that he was working with the scouts and that this was giving him an opportunity to develop his leadership skills, for example by leading games. Debbie Vickers said that she was working with Cubs and enjoyed taking on the challenge of leading them in games and in a conservation event. George invited questions or comments, and one person offered a heartfelt 'well done' for the 'magnificent job' the scouting team were doing. Chris Stott concluded the report by expressing particular thanks on behalf of the meeting to Brian Zimmerman who he said had given so much leadership and inspiration over so many years to the scouts.

Alan Macarthur reported on *Alpha courses*. He said that over the last 10 years the church had run around 7 courses. The last, in September of last year, he said had a particularly lively and vocal group and resulted in very positive feedback, with 6 of the group going forward to be confirmed. He reflected on the tremendous growth in Alpha, from its start in the 90s with 15 to 20 people attending meetings at a single church, to the situation now, where 2.5 million people have attended a course. He welcomed the fact that it was not limited to Anglicans, and expressed the opinion that it is the balance of discussion with community (talks and a meal) that makes the course successful. He said that there would be another course in Harwell soon.

A written report about the *bellringers* had been received from ~~the~~ Philip Roberts, the Tower Captain, and Chris Stott read this to the meeting. The report mourned the death of Doug Jordan, saying how important he had been to Harwell Tower. A sponsored quarter peal to raise funds for new rope

pulleys initiated by Doug Jordon raised sufficient money to install them in November. A peal was rung in December in Doug Jordon's memory. The report also reported: that a priority had been to train new and lapsed members; that the team came third in a branch striking competition in March at Cholsey; that a quiz night and safari supper contributed to funds; that a Tower open day is planned for July 25th; that CRB checking has been put in place for all those involved in teaching young ringers; and that a method of soundproofing the tower during rehearsals is being considered. The report also recorded some maintenance tasks that had been completed.

The Rector's Remarks

Chris Stott opened his remarks with a text from Chronicles 31:20 about Hezekiah, King of Judah. Though living in troubled times he had courage and did the right thing, was faithful before God, was obedient to the law, sought God and worked wholeheartedly – and prospered. Chris Stott said this seemed a fine example, and also that when he looked back over his time at Harwell there were examples of people like Hezekiah in our church. He paid tribute to Doug Jordan, a 'most faithful and loyal churchwarden' for 25 years, the builder of the extension, and always enthusiastic cheerful and positive – motivating people to participate. Chris Stott said he was grateful to God for all those who serve in the present in a myriad of ways and that he wanted to say a big 'thank you'. He mentioned Pam Rolls, due to be ordained on July the 3rd and Carolyn Vickers the administrator. Chris Stott said that this year will bring changes and uncertainties, but that we need to be prayerful sustaining the sacred centre, and trust in God's faithfulness.

Kate Evans thanked Chris for all he has done for the people of Harwell and for his faithfulness in times of trouble or joy – "we will miss you."


Close

Chris Stott closed the meeting in prayer at 21:23 pm.

Signed as a true record:



Chairman:



Secretary: