

## St. Matthew's Church Harwell - Annual Report 1999

### 1. Background

St. Matthew's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the Rector in promoting the whole mission of the church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The goal of St. Matthew's adopted 5 years ago is:

"A church filled with people, longing to know more of God's love, reaching out with that love"

In addition to the Church building, the PCC also has responsibility for the St. Matthew's Church Hall, which it wholly owns.

### 2. Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. Beginning April 1999, the following served as members of the PCC:

*Rector:* Revd Chris Stott (Chair) *Asst Minister:* Revd Mary Carney *Wardens:* Jim Sinclair (Vice Chair) Wendy Sinclair *Deanery Synod Reps:* Clive Silver, Norman Ponting, Ruth Gilson *Elected Memebers:* Liz Roberts, Betty Pyke, Jean Twigger, Marilyn Thomas, Monica Kowalski-Buxton, Alison Manning, Frances Taylor, Rob Thomas, Tony Ullmer, Alan Walker, Tony Hughes *Co-opted Members:* Kate Andrews, Tim Roberts

### 3. Committees

The PCC operates through a number of sub-committees. There is also a *Joint PCC* with Chilton, which has met once this year to discuss the Diocesan Strategy for Evangelisation for 2000-2010 - the Harwell members have been the Churchwardens, the Treasurer, Ruth Gilson and Rob Thomas

*Standing Committee* - required by law and consists of Rector, Churchwardens, the Treasurer and the PCC Secretary.

*Finance and Budget* - Chair: Alison Manning

*Missions* - Chair: Tony Ullmer

*Social* - Chair: Wendy Sinclair (combined with Chilton)

*Buildings* - Chair: During the year Tony Hughes took over from Rob Thomas

### 4. Other Representatives - appointed by the PCC

Covenant Secretary - Geoff Jenkinson

Christian Aid - Chris Stott

Village Hall Management Committee - Liz Roberts

Winterbrook Youth Club - Tony Hughes, Christina Perrett

Churches Together in Didcot - Monica Kowalski-Buxton

### 5. Church Attendance

There are 177 parishioners on the Electoral Roll, of whom 35 are not resident in Harwell/Rowstock. The Broadsheet is mailed to non-residents and other interested people.

### 6. Review of the Year

The PCC met 6 times during the year. Here is a summary of items discussed:

*Heating and Lighting Project:* During the year final arrangements for the project were completed and the work was done by Darke and Taylor. We are most grateful for all who gave generously to enable this Project to be completed, and in particular to Rob Thomas and Jim Mein for all their hard work.

*Millennium:* The PCC further discussed how the Millennium of Christ should be celebrated, and how the Church should be involved in the Village celebrations. It was planned to have a special Millennium Service, a Youth Service, and Open Air Songs of Praise on the Recreation Ground and a Flower Festival, to which leaders of the community would be invited to a reception. It is hoped that Church members will take a full and active part in the Harwell Feast, the parade of floats, and the Street Party to be held in August. The Extra-Bellringing has been well received, as has the flood-lighting of the Church tower organised and paid for by the Bellringers. A trip has been organised to Lambeth Palace and the Millennium Wheel.

*Confirmation:* 13 candidates were confirmed in March 1999

*Ordinand:* Joy Hance went through the selection process and was accepted for training as a Non-Stipendiary Minister. Her three-year training started in September.

*Visiting Team:* During the year the PCC discussed and approved the setting up of a Visiting Team, with Margaret Hughes as the Co-ordinator. Other members of the team are: Pat Connolly, Joan Impey, Jean Twigger and Norman Ponting. The PCC also approved guidelines for the way that this team operate. The Rector attends the monthly team meetings.

*Parish Holiday:* Two focus groups were set up to assist with the planning of the Parish Holiday at Brunel Manor, Torquay, during half-term week. Nick Hance acted as co-ordinator, along with Linda Lambon (from Chilton). All those who went (75 in all) really enjoyed it. The weather was excellent, the programme varied, and people appreciated the variety of spiritual input at different times during the week.

*All Things Considered:* A further All Things Considered Course was planned, and began in September 1999. It is anticipated that 5 members of Harwell Church will be confirmed in April.

*Disability Audit:* During the year a small working party began to look at issues relating to Disability and our church buildings. They are currently canvassing further opinion. They will shortly be presenting a report with a view to our church becoming more user friendly by 2004, as required by the Disability Act.

*Child Protection:* The House of Bishops' and the Diocese of Oxford require us to review the whole issue of our work with children and young people in the light of a need of a child protection policy. The PCC has appointed a small working party to produce a policy and to advise the PCC on the way forward.

*Strategy for Evangelisation 2000-2010:* The Diocese of Oxford has initiated a consultation with parishes over a strategy for evangelisation for the next ten years. It is hoped that each PCC will produce targets for the church and parish in relation to four key principles:

- Centred on God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Orientated towards the world and its needs
- Serious about Christian Discipleship
- Connecting to People, both their Communities and their Culture, in New Ways

The Joint PCC have begun this process, and it is expected that during the coming year a working party under the chairmanship of Rob Thomas will report back to our two PCCs.

## **7. Financial Highlights**

The major use of funds this year has been for the Heating and Lighting project. The generosity of the congregation enabled the project to be fully funded by donations and the original £35,000 designated by the PCC plus a small surplus remains to meet retentions.

1999 has seen an increase in the income of the church; this is due to a general increase in giving and also because of a large donation.

Expenditure has also risen, mainly due to an increase of 6.5% in the parish share which is paid to the Diocese.

The financial position for the year is a surplus of £~~21~~711, however if the donations of £10,964 and related tax of approximately £3,100 were excluded this would become a small deficit.

In the year 2000 the parish share will rise by a further 12%, #£2385, and the challenge is to meet this, and the other running costs out of regular income.

On behalf of the Harwell PCC

Revd Chris Stott (Chairman) 5.04.2000