

## ST MATTHEW'S HARWELL

### Minutes of the Annual Parochial Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 26 April 1999 at 7.45 pm in St Matthew's Church Hall.

The meetings were attended by 40 people and were opened by the Chairman, the Rev Chris Stott, with the hymn "Crown him with many crowns" and a reading from Colossians, Chapter 1.

#### Annual Parochial Meeting

1. **Apologies** were received from Rev Mary Carney, Joy & Nick Hance, Jean & Tony Twigger, Geoff & Mary Jenkinson, Bill Connolly, James Mein, Kate Evans, Ruth Gilson, Marika Woods and Sue Cutting.
2. The **minutes of the last meeting** on 31 March 1998 were signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Doug Jordan

Seconded: Norman Ponting.

3. Jim & Wendy Sinclair were **re-elected unanimously** as churchwardens, and thanked for their many hours of often "behind the scenes" dedication and commitment.

#### Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. The **minutes of the last APCM** on 31 March 1998 were accepted, subject to the deletion of Betty McNiven from the Welcome Team (5.3).

Proposed: Jim Sinclair;

Seconded: Wendy Sinclair.

2. There were no **matters arising**.
3. The meeting elected unanimously Ruth Gilson, Norman Ponting and Clive Silver as **Deanery Synod representatives** (no other nominations).
4. The meeting elected unanimously the following as members of the **Parochial Church Council**:

Kate Andrews (treasurer designate)  
Marilyn Thomas  
Betty Pyke  
Tony Hughes  
Monika Kotlowski-Buxton  
Liz Roberts  
Frances Taylor

Rob Thomas  
Alison Manning  
Alan Walker  
Jean Twigger  
Tony Ullmer

5. **Election of Sidesmen**

The following were thanked for their work during the last year and re-elected:

Ted Blissett  
Bill & Pat Connolly  
Ann & Graham Cox  
Mark Hillier  
Geoff & Mary Jenkinson  
Grace & James Mein  
Norman & Muriel Ponting  
Betty & David Pyke  
Tim Roberts  
Clive & Doreen Silver  
Barbara Thacker  
Kate & Tony Ullmer

Three vacancies had arisen, one of which was filled by Ruth Slatter.

6. **Rector's report**

See appendix I (for the master record - please note not supplied in short form minutes to be distributed at APCM 2000).

7. **PCC annual report**

See appendix II (for the master record - please note not supplied in short form minutes to be distributed at APCM 2000).

8. **Joint PCC report**

No meeting had been held during the past year, although Harwell was legally obliged to have a Joint PCC with Chilton. Combined meetings had, however, been held.

9. **Financial report**

Mark Woods, the outgoing Treasurer, presented the financial situation for the year, saying that his job was to be a "gatekeeper" of the finances. Without the understanding of the creditors, who tolerated the payment terms he imposed; the help of the people who counted collection money after every service; and the assistance of Geoff Jenkinson, the Covenant Secretary, to name but a few of the many congregants involved in finance for the church, his job would have been much harder. Mark presented three sheets (appendix III for the master record - please note not supplied in short form minutes to be distributed at APCM 2000) with the following comments:

- income is reducing significantly. The Parish Share is increasing and will continue to do so at a rate of 6% pa over the next ten years to cover clergy pensions.
- costs will increase: we have to have more income if we are to achieve our church goal.
- due to the heating and lighting project, reserves will be halved by the time the next Treasurer reports. As a result, the interest will also be halved.
- Audrey Slatter of Chilton had once again acted as the Independent Examiner of the accounts of various clubs and societies affiliated to the church (referred to as sub-groups cash accounts).

The Rector led warm applause for the valuable contribution, not least computerising the accounts, of Mark Woods.

#### 10. **Appointment of Independent Examiner**

Clive House had stated that he was willing to continue in this role for a further year.

Proposed: Tony Ullmer;

Seconded: Wendy Sinclair

Clive was thanked for his assistance. The Rector also singled out for special thanks Alison Manning as Chairman of the Finance & Budget Committee.

#### 11. **Churchwardens' Fabric report**

Attached at Appendix IV (for the master record - please note not supplied in short form minutes to be distributed at APCM 2000) and presented with the comment that it was apparent that our church was "loved and looked after". In respect of the heating and lighting renewal, James Mein and Douglas Jordan were thanked for their daily monitoring of the work in progress. There would be a cleaning working party after the electricians have left.

The Rector thanked Rob Thomas and his Buildings Committee for the "superb" project management of the renewal scheme.

## 12. **Electoral Roll report**

Attached at Appendix V (for the master record - please note not supplied in short form minutes to be distributed at APCM 2000). Statistics were presented, indicating areas of the village (+ Rowstock) where the church seemed - officially, by registration on the electoral roll, at least - to be underrepresented, yet showing that, seen against the national picture of Anglican membership, we have over twice the proportion of the population on our Electoral Roll as might be expected. The latest (1995) figures from the Church Commissioners, however, give about half the population nationally as being baptised Anglican. The difference between that 50% at or around birth and the 4% who take Anglicanism into adulthood is illuminating. The Electoral Roll Officer, Liz Roberts, ended her report with the comment that "our own backyard beckons".

## 13. **Deanery Synod report**

This was presented by Tony Ullmer and highlighted several issues of interest discussed over the last year, including

- the Police Restorative Justice Consultancy, in which victims of crime, the offender and other members of the community meet to address the effects of wrongdoing;
- the Youth A-Part campaign to encourage youth participation in worship;
- financial debate on the best means of determining Parish Share contributions - the Electoral Roll numbers still seem the best formula.
- the arrival of a new Director at Abingdon Christian Training Scheme, supported financially by Wallingford Deanery, Becky Fisher.
- marriage preparation courses and how they are handled in-parish: professionally run, or by pastoral workers.

The Rector thanked Tony for faithful service as one of our Deanery representatives over many years.

## 14. **Reports from organisations**

- Evergreens: there are 69 members, ranging in age from 60 to 90+. Meetings see speakers from church-internal organisations, such as Decade Ministries, and outside authorities, such as the Police and UKAEA; in the summer a mystery tour is organised and at Christmas, a lunch. The Committee, led by Pat Connolly, regards itself as having taken on a rewarding calling, and asks for prayer for continued meaningful fellowship.

- Bellringers: Doug Jordan thanked his ringers for all their support over the past year, especially as most have another job in the church as well as ringing. There are 16 members of the band, and 2 beginners, and visiting bands are regularly welcomed. Harwell is a popular venue for these, for the welcome, the excellent bells, and the splendid hall with adequate parking close to the tower. Plans for the Millennium Eve and Day were outlined, including taking part in a nationwide initiative to have all the ringable bells in the country rung at 12 noon on January 1st. The ringers would be floodlighting the tower over the period at their own expense.
- Discoverers: 4 teachers ( Marilyn Thomas, Anita Kill, Martin Speed and Hazel Connolly), along with helper Sarah Thomas, care for around 14 children, of whom two-thirds come from church families. A typical session was described, along with parties and activities for Christmas and Easter. Marilyn would be handing over leadership to Martin Speed from September 1999 and would end her association with youth work entirely in the summer of 2000. Marilyn closed with a request that we pray regularly for children's activities as being important in the life of our church.

15. **Any Other Business**

- Ted Ireson: A heavy-duty stapler was needed in the office for services, such as the recent confirmation service, when the order of service contained many pages which were rustled, dropped and resorted by the congregation!
- Roy Slatter - would the cleaning working party (in August 1999) consider whether any of the items in the cupboards and other storage behind the organ could be disposed of? The area always looks messy, he commented; it was pointed out that that was the only available storage area for large items anywhere in the church.
- Betty Pyke would anyone who is renewing their specs consider leaving the old pair in church for others to use who have forgotten to bring theirs? This could be invaluable for the evening services when people might not be able to participate at all otherwise.

16. The **meeting closed** at 9.30pm with thanks for attendance, prayers, and the Grace.

Liz Roberts