

ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH HARWELL

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meetings held on Tuesday 27th March 2001 at 7.45 p.m. in St Matthew's Hall

The meetings were opened by the Chairman, The Rev Chris Stott, with the hymn "Give to our God Immortal Praise". A reading from John 15, "The vine and the branches" was read by Mary Carney, followed by Prayer.

1. **Apologies** were received from Muriel & Norman Ponting, Tony Twigger, Mandy Birkinshaw, Margaret & Tony Hughes, Clive Silver, Betty & Peter McNiven, Helen & Steve Tunstall, Douglas Jordan, Mary & Geoff Jenkinson, Tim Roberts, Jim Mein, Eva Stott and Betty Pyke.

31 Parishioners attended the meeting.

2. **The Minutes of the last meeting** on 5th April 2000 were accepted as a true record.

Proposed by Tony Ullmer Seconded by Alan Walker

3 **Election of Churchwardens**

The following were re-elected to serve: Wendy Sinclair and Allan MacArthur

The Chairman then thanked Wendy and Allan for all that they do week by week, often quietly behind the scenes.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. **The Minutes of the last meeting** were accepted as a true record.

Proposed by Frances Taylor Seconded by Clive House and carried.

2. There were no **Matters arising**

3. **Election of PCC members**

The Parochial Church Council Members elected to serve are: Elizabeth Gill, Clive House, Tony Hughes, Jim Sinclair, Ruth Slatter, Frances Taylor, Marilyn Thomas, Rob Thomas, Steve Tunstall, Jean Twigger, Tony Ullmer and Alan Walker.

Tracey Linnard expressed a wish to serve on the PCC as the young people's representative. As she is not at present on the Electoral Roll, it was suggested that after being on the Electoral Roll for the required length of time, she could then be co-opted to the PCC in this roll.

4. **The Deanery Synod Representatives** Jean Twigger was elected to join Clive Silver and Norman Ponting. All agreed.

5. **Election of Sidesmen**

Wendy Sinclair thanked all the sidesmen for their work during 2000/2001. The following were all re-elected:

Betty & Peter McNiven
Mary & Geoff Jenkinson
Mark Hillier & Mike Pepper
Clive & Doreen Silver

Muriel & Norman Ponting
Ruth Slatter & Pam Chung
Malcolm & Mandy Birkinshaw
Jim & Grace Mein

Pat Connolly
Trevor Powell
Graham & Ann Cox
Jim Sinclair

Betty & David Pyke
Tony & Kate Ullmer
Barbara Thacker & Elizabeth Gill (8am)
Mary Jackson (8am)

Proposed: Wendy Sinclair

Seconded: Roy Slatter

6. **Harwell Annual Report** this was distributed at the meeting.

Mark Hillier asked whether it might be possible to have the Report distributed the Sunday before the meeting so that it could be read and digested.

7. **Rector's Report**

It has been an interesting and challenging year for us. We are to lose our Assistant Minister's post in March 2003. Mary has worked tirelessly for both Harwell and Chilton and the wider community. The Rector offered his sincere thanks for all that she has given and still continues to give.

The future could be difficult. With reduced resources it may mean that we all have to use what gifts we have to the full.

The Rector thanked Joy Hance, the church secretary, for all that she does so efficiently on our behalf. Joy was then invited to tell us a little about her ordination course. Her present term has ended and she is just half way through her course. She has to complete two essays before the 1st of May. She very much enjoys her course. Joy told us "that she should know between now and Christmas where her placement will be." She expressed a wish to be fairly local as Nick is working at Harwell and her mother lives in Newbury. They may have to be re-located as Wantage do not have women priests. She will have to complete 35 hours a week somewhere other than Harwell or Wantage. Joy is also on the look out for cassocks, stoles etc. if anyone knows where these may be going spare.

The Rector thanked all who are serving on the PCC or in the life of our church. In particular he thanked Rob Thomas for all that he does.

The Wednesday morning Alpha course has been very encouraging. At present we are running an evening Alpha Course in St Matthew's Hall on Wednesday evenings.

We also have a financial challenge as costs are ever rising. Healthy churches thrive on generous giving, and careful stewardship of our resources.

A paper "Sharing Life" has been produced which sets out the priorities and values for evangelisation in the Diocese of Oxford for the next decade. The "Sharing Life" leaflet has 4 main headings.

1. Centred on God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
2. Orientated towards the world and its needs
3. Connecting to people, both their communities and their culture, in new ways
4. Serious about Christian discipleship.

After discussion about this paper it was suggested that some people might like to read the paper for themselves. A few copies are available at the back of the church. There are six groups presently exploring these points under the chairmanship of Rob Thomas.

The Rector read John 10:10 from the Bishop's paragraph on the front of the paper. "I have come that they may have life, and may have it in all its fullness."

8. **Joint PCC Report** - There have been no meetings this year. All Combined PCC reports have been included in other minutes.

9. **Harwell Financial Report and Accounts** - These were circulated. Elizabeth Gill, the treasurer, asked us all to examine our giving each year as we are looking at a deficit of £5,000 this year. The Accounts were, **Proposed** by Alan Walker and **Seconded** by Mark Hillier. The Rector thanked Elizabeth Gill for the very competent and efficient way she handles our accounts. He also expressed his grateful thanks to Clive House the Finance Committee Chairman.

10. **Appointment of Independent Examiner** - Alison Manning is happy to continue in this position.

10. **Fabric and Ornaments Report** - this report was circulated. Allan MacArthur thanked everyone who had worked so hard during this year to keep abreast of minor repairs. He agreed to look into the provision and location of Fire extinguishers in Church and also look at the siting of the "Toilet" notices, which are often obscured when the side door is open to the creche.

12. **Electoral Roll Report**

Liz Roberts reported that we have 181 members on the roll this year. There will be a major revision of the Electoral Roll next year. Liz urged us to encourage people to be on this "roll" which enables them to vote at AGM's.

13. **Deanery Synod Report**

This was read out in the absence of Clive Silver. Many topics were discussed throughout the year including Genetically Modified Crops, The Pastoral Plan, and the Re-Marriage of divorcees in Church. The Deanery is to lose 3 stipendiary ministers, the first of which is the Harwell and Chilton Curacy in 2003. The Re-Marriage of Divorcees in Church is to be discussed at the July meeting of the PCC.

14 **Reports from organisations**

Missions - this report by Tony Ullmer. The mission's team from Harwell and Chilton meet every month on Monday mornings. These groups are not only supported financially, but also through regular prayer. A total of £8,800 is allocated for 2001 both at Home and Oversea.

Church Cleaners - Debbie Davies gave this amusing report. There is a small band of cleaners all dedicated to keeping St Matthew's looking clean and tidy. The cost to the church is roughly £40 per year as most cleaners supply their own materials. There is a need for more cleaners. Most ladies keep going until they move away or suffer ill health. Debbie concluded her report by saying, "this time in church can be valuable as a quiet time to draw alongside the Lord."

Visiting Team - The Rector reported that the team is very much appreciated and going from strength to strength. They meet once a month for lunch, sharing and spiritual support. They provide hospital transport and a listening ear to anyone who needs company or is in need of any kind. All the team members are volunteers at no expense to Church finances. Both Harwell and Chilton teams attended an excellent Pastoral Care course run by Yvonne Davies.

15. **Any Other Business**

Alan Walker enquired as to how long it would be before a replacement is needed for our Church Secretary. Joy Hance will be ordained in September 2002 and is happy to continue in this post until summer 2002, or when she is asked to move on.

After discussion about the re-siting of the organ it was agreed that it would go on the agenda for PCC to consider.

Jack Perry expressed his sincere thanks to the Clergy and Laity who work so well to make St Matthew's such a lovely church.

16. The meeting closed with prayer at 9.32pm.

Signed..... Date.....