

St Matthew's Church Harwell

Minutes of the Annual Meetings held on Sunday 29 April 2018 at 11.50am in St Matthew's Church

The Chairman, Revd. Dr. Jonathan Mobey, welcomed everyone to the meeting, which followed the morning church service, after a short break.

The attendance was 47.

Apologies for absence received: Jim and Wendy Sinclair, Joan Impey and Peter Barclay-Watt.

Annual Parochial Meeting

Jonathan Mobey thanked Christina Wood for serving 3 years as churchwarden, and particularly for her work on the seating and flooring project. Jonathan explained that Christina does not wish to stand again for churchwarden. However, Tim Paget is willing to stand again. Jonathan thanked Tim for his first year of service as churchwarden.

Jonathan Mobey presented Christina Wood with a thank you card and a bouquet of flowers.

Jonathan Mobey confirmed that **Tim Paget** and **Rebecca Lewis** have been nominated and seconded as churchwardens for the next year. There were no other nominations and they were elected unanimously.

Signed as a true record:

Chairman:

Secretary:

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Election of Deanery Synod Members

Jonathan Mobey explained that Sid Gale is willing to fill one of our 2 Deanery Synod member vacancies. Sid's is the only nomination form that we have received. Gordon Gill is currently our only Deanery Synod member.

Jonathan Mobey proposed that Sid Gale be elected and this was approved unanimously.

Election of PCC Members

Jonathan Mobey reminded the meeting who had served on the PCC during 2017-18. He thanked those who serve on the PCC and summarised some of the PCC's responsibilities.

The PCC Secretary explained that St Matthew's PCC can have up to 12 elected members. In 2017-18 we had 10 elected members and 2 vacancies. 5 of these elected members have now come to the end of their 3 year term. In addition, Sid Gale and Rebecca Lewis are now ex-officio PCC members (rather than elected PCC members) as a Deanery Synod member and churchwarden respectively. This makes a total of 9 vacancies (the original 2 vacancies plus the 5 retirees plus the 2 vacancies created by Sid and Rebecca).

The PCC Secretary had received nomination papers for the following 5 people for election to the PCC:

Lizi Bowerman, Jane Woolley, Tony Hughes, Eliza Wheaton, Christina Wood

Jonathan Mobey proposed that these 5 individuals be duly appointed to the PCC, and this was approved unanimously.

The PCC Secretary pointed out that this leaves 4 remaining vacancies. However, there were no further nominations.

Election of Sides persons

Jonathan Mobey thanked the sides persons for their assistance to the churchwardens and for their important role in welcoming those attending services.

Jonathan Mobey proposed the following to serve as sides persons for the coming year. These names were agreed unanimously.

Peter Barclay-Watt	Liz Hill	Juan Bowerman
Gill Gay	Ruth Slatter	Debbie Davies
Anne Cox	Mike Pepper	Kevin Davies
Graham Cox	Elaine Shrimpton	Matthew Davies
David Pyke	Tony Twigger	Ryan Davies
Jim Sinclair	Jean Twigger	Margaret Spindler
Madeleine Gibson	Elizabeth Gill	Margaret Gibson
Wendy Sinclair	Georgina Greer	Mel Gibson

Appointment of Independent Examiner

Jane Moreton has agreed to be the independent examiner for the PCC's 2018 financial accounts.

Jane Moreton was proposed by the Chair, Jonathan Mobey. Her appointment was unanimously accepted by the meeting.

Receipt of reports

The following reports had been made available in the weeks leading up to the meeting, in hard copy and on the church website, and were formally "received" by the meeting:

- Minutes of the 2017 annual meetings.
- The PCC annual report on 2017, including the Fabric Report and the Electoral Roll report, adopted by the PCC at its March meeting and signed by Revd. Dr. Jonathan Mobey as Chair.
- Financial report and Accounts for 2017, approved by the PCC at its March meeting.
- Deanery Synod report on 2017 proceedings.

The Church log book and terrier were made available for attendees to browse should they wish. None took advantage of this.

Jonathan Mobey thanked the PCC Secretary, Jane Woolley, for all her work.

The PCC Secretary spotted an error in the minutes of the 2017 meetings. The penultimate paragraph currently says ...”was the most likely project to be started and finished in 2016...”.

The error is that “2016” should say “2017”. The meeting accepted the minutes as a correct record with this amendment. The minutes of the 2017 meetings were then signed by Jonathan Mobey and the PCC Secretary.

Electoral roll

Jonathan Mobey reported that the church electoral roll was revised during 1 - 25 March 2018. The number on the roll in April 2017 was 121. The number on the revised roll as at March 2018 was 111. Mike Pepper, Electoral Roll Officer, and Jane Woolley, his Deputy, were thanked for their work.

Thanks

Jonathan Mobey said that he had thanked various people during the meeting so far. Jonathan then mentioned Peter Barclay-Watt, who is retiring from the PCC. Jonathan explained that Peter has served as PCC Treasurer for a number of years, for which we are very thankful. Jonathan Mobey mentioned that Lizi Bowerman has agreed to take over as Treasurer, if she is voted into this position at the May PCC meeting.

Churchwarden Tim Paget said that while Jonathan Mobey had been generous in thanking others during the meeting, the church family had much for which to thank *him*. He proposed a formal vote of thanks on behalf of attendees, and Jonathan received a hearty round of applause. Jonathan in turn thanked his wife and family for their support.

Implementation of the church vision: “Growing God’s Church, wider, deeper and closer”

Jonathan Mobey made a few brief remarks as follows:

Growing wider and closer

Hospitality and making people feel welcome are important for growing God’s Church wider and closer, and a practical expression of God’s heart. There are a large number of Church members involved in that in many different ways. Hospitality and Welcome will be a particular focus for the coming year.

Growing deeper

We grow God’s church deeper in a number of ways. One of those is via teaching/sermons. The leadership team will be asking Church members for suggestions for topics, themes, books or texts on which to draw for the summer term’s teaching.

Prayer is another aspect of growing God’s Church deeper. The leadership team will be hoping to engage Church members with the global Thy Kingdom Come prayer initiative – either as individuals, families or in home groups.

Key aspects of 2017

Key developments in 2017 were:

- The continuation of the Science & Faith project
- Appointing Melanie Shields and Sarah Barrett to the Children & Families Worker role

- Improving the seating (replacing pews with chairs) and carpeting the floor. Jonathan showed a photo of a recent Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Family Fish and Chips supper inside St Matthew's with tables laid out in a café style and a bouncy castle. This was only possible because we are now blessed with a more flexible floor space. This enables the Church building to be more easily used for outreach and other suitable events as well as for worship, which in turn makes it easier for the Church to be in the heart of the community. Jonathan recognised that change such as this can be sensitive and thanked Church members for their support in this endeavour.

Discussion

Jonathan Mobey then opened up the meeting to discussion and questions. No questions had been submitted in advance.

Q: Phil Roberts: How do you see the fabric of St Matthew's Church building in 10 years' time?

A: Jonathan Mobey: I see the seating and flooring improvements as just the first step. The next step is improving the heating. We also have funding to replace the inner wooden door in the porch with glass doors to improve the sense of welcome and to release space in that area. Beyond these changes, my personal vision is to improve the back of the Church. I'd ideally like to split the vestry into 2 levels – an upper and a lower room. In the lower room we could install a full kitchen, to replace the small kitchenette in the extension. The upper room could be at the same level as the office upstairs and be an extra meeting room, and we could move the staircase to a better location. I would also like us to upgrade our sound and visual system eventually e.g. to have a permanently wired in computer to run the visuals. This is very much my personal view and it may come to nothing.

Three attendees then commented positively on the impact of the more flexible seating arrangement in Church:

Lizi Bowerman: The use of the Church building for events such as for the CAP Family Fish and Chip supper is really good. After all, there are lots of stories about Jesus attending meals and celebrations. It would open up even more opportunities if we were to have a full kitchen as well. I find that thought very inspiring and exciting.

Kate Evans: In a few weeks' time we will be holding Mary Perry's ~~funeral-Thanksgiving~~ in Church. I was able to offer the family the option of ~~holding the wake~~ ~~having the refreshments~~ in the Church afterwards, which was well received. It would be better, though, if we had a full-sized kitchen.

Gill Gay: It would have been great to have had the option of staying in Church for the wake when it was my mother's funeral. It means you don't then all have to go somewhere else.

Q: Sid Gale: What will we do with the Church Hall if we make all these improvements to the Church building? Will it becoming a bit redundant?

A: Jonathan Mobey: I think it's fine to have both the Church Hall and an improved Church building. The acoustics in the Church Hall are a bit of an issue. But it does have the advantage of not being a place of worship. That can suit some groups better.

Rebecca Lewis then commented: If we have ambitions to grow Kids Church then a space like the Church Hall would be essential. Also, a Church Hall might feel a more comfortable place for parents who do not attend Church to drop off their child for Kids Church.

Q: Tony Hughes: Comment about focus on buildings versus people.

Tony commented that ~~it was interesting that~~ the discussion so far has focused on the buildings. We do put a lot of effort into maintaining and improving our buildings. But I worry that we might be neglecting the human and pastoral side of Church life as a result. That side is very important. Personally, I have been very involved in the buildings side and I haven't been able to spend as much energy on the people side as I ~~would have hoped~~ ~~perhaps should have done~~.

A: Jonathan Mobey: Yes, we must certainly ensure that the effort we put into our buildings does not detract from the impact we want to have on people. The ability to undertake pastoral and outreach work is enabled to some extent by having good buildings, though. The 'hardware' of the church must serve the 'software'.

Q. Phil Roberts: Do you see yourself as still being Rector in 10 years' time?

A: Jonathan Mobey: I have no plans at the moment to go elsewhere, although 10 years hence is a very long time, and I have been here 7 years already! Having said that, my predecessor was in post for 25 years...

Closing prayer

Jonathan Mobey closed the meeting in prayer at 12.45pm.

Signed as a true record:

Chairman:

Secretary