

St Matthew's Church Harwell

Minutes of the Annual Meetings held on Sunday 8 May 2022 at 11.50am in St Matthew's church

The meetings were attended by 29 people.

As the Chair of the PCC during the interregnum, Dr Tony Hughes, welcomed everyone to the meeting, our first fully in-person Annual Meeting for two years because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Jean and Peter Barton, and Deborah Evans.

Annual Parochial Meeting

2. Election of churchwardens

Tony Hughes thanked Allan Macarthur and Eliza Wheaton for serving as churchwardens for the past year.

Tony Hughes said that Allan Macarthur and Eliza Wheaton have been nominated and seconded as churchwardens for the coming year. There were no other nominations. A show of hands indicated unanimous support for their appointment. Tony Hughes declared Allan and Eliza to be duly appointed.

Signed as a true record:

Chairman:

Secretary:

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Election of PCC Members

Tony Hughes displayed a list of current PCC members, including ex-officio members.

Tony Hughes thanked PCC members for their service over the past year.

Tony explained that Michelle Walker has come to the end of her 3-year term as an elected PCC member and is not standing for election again.

A church with an electoral roll of 51-100 people can have up to 9 elected PCC members. There are 4 remaining elected PCC members part way through their terms and so there are 5 vacancies.

Jane Woolley, PCC Secretary, confirmed that there have been no nominations for new elected PCC members. Tony Hughes said that this was regrettable and that it is desirable to have as many elected representatives as possible to share the workload and represent the church members, particularly during the interregnum.

Tony Hughes appealed to church members present to consider whether they would be willing to serve on the PCC. If so, they could be co-opted or elected by the PCC subsequently.

2. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Tony Hughes explained that Jane Moreton has kindly agreed to be the Independent Examiner for the 2022 financial accounts.

Tony Hughes proposed that Jane Moreton be appointed as Independent Examiner, and this was approved unanimously.

Tony Hughes thanked Jane Moreton (in her absence) for being willing to carry out this task once again.

3. Receipt of the reports

The following reports had been made available in the weeks leading up to the meeting and were formally "received" by the meeting:

- **Minutes of the annual meetings held in May 2021**
The meeting accepted the minutes of the May 2021 meetings as a correct record and a hard copy was signed by Tony Huges and Jane Woolley as PCC Chair and PCC Secretary respectively
- **The annual report for 2021**, including the Electoral Roll report, approved by the PCC at its March 2022 meeting and signed by Revd. Dr. Jonathan Mobey as Chair of the PCC at the time. See item 4 for more on the Electoral Roll
- **Fabric report for 2021**
Tony Hughes said that the church and church hall log books are available if anyone wishes to inspect them
- **Financial report and Accounts for 2021**, approved by the PCC at its March 2022 meeting.
- **Deanery Synod report on 2021 proceedings**
- **Safeguarding report for 2021**

These reports were noted.

4. Electoral Roll

Tony Hughes relayed that the number on the Electoral Roll as of April 2022 stood at 77, as compared with 73 in April 2021.

Tony Hughes relayed that Mike Pepper is our Electoral Roll Officer. Tony asked people to contact Mike Pepper if they wished to join the electoral roll.

5. Thanks

Tony Hughes expressed the PCC's thanks to everybody who has contributed to the life of the church over the year, and prior. Tony said that thanks were due to Revd. Jonathan Mobey for all he has done as Rector in his time with us. Tony said thank you to all the leaders and preachers for our church services, and pointed out that we are very fortunate to have such a strong team during this interregnum. Tony also thanked the leaders and preachers team for all they do to nurture our wellbeing.

Tony Hughes thanked collectively all the people who contribute to the life of the church in all sorts of different ways e.g. cleaning, refreshments, serving on the PCC, sidespeople, music, flowers, etc. without whom we could not function effectively.

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

Tony Hughes explained that, over the last year, the benefice had decided to form the Greater Didcot Christian Children and Youthwork Trust in formal collaboration with 7 other churches in Didcot.

Tony Hughes introduced PCC member, Gordon Gill, who gave an update on the Youthwork Trust.

Gordon Gill explained that the Youthwork Trust is aimed at secondary school age children, and those in Year 6 at primary school who are about to transition to secondary school. Gordon said that this is a natural build on the work of our Children and Families workers, who focus on younger children and their families.

Gordon said that the Youthwork Trust had acted on the advice of equivalent groups elsewhere to engage the young people in setting up and shaping activities. The key message from the youth was that they wanted to be equipped to be disciples and to disciple their friends. They chose the name ECHO as the working name for the Trust. They wanted the Christian faith to echo through their schools, and they asked for the strapline, ‘cannot be contained’. Bishop Steven, on visiting the Youthwork Trust, said that the word catechesis is an ancient Biblical name for equipping disciples. In the very centre of the word is 'eche' from which the word echo derives. In Greek the word is kataecho.

Discipleship is at the centre of the activities which currently include:

- a Youth Café running twice a week - for discussions about faith and also about anxieties caused by social isolation, etc.
- sports outreach - which young Christians can invite their friends to

Gordon Gill played a short video to show the activities in action.

7. Discussion and questions

Tony Hughes asked if anyone had any questions about the Youthwork Trust for Gordon. Rob Thomas remarked how encouraging the presentation was.

Tony Hughes asked if there were any other questions or points people would like to raise about anything else.

Roy Slatter said that he would like to see the storage area behind the organ in a much better state; it is very untidy. Gill Gay echoed this sentiment. Ruth Slatter commented that the altar frontals are stored there and that it is hard to change the frontals when the storage area is so messy.

Tony Hughes invited Allan Macarthur, one of the churchwardens, to relay what the plans are around this. Allan said that there are indeed plans to re-order the storage area behind the organ, particularly in view of the need for storage by the Fledgelings group. Progress so far has been limited to clearing out the large cupboard near the entrance to the office upstairs. The plan is that buildings-related equipment will be moved into that cupboard and surplus items will be disposed of. Progress on this has been slowed down because of the Covid-19 pandemic but can now resume.

Roy Slatter thanked people for their attempts so far to improve this storage area. He said that he hopes that there will be significant progress by next year.

There being no other issues raised, Tony Hughes passed on a written comment from a member of the congregation. This was to the effect that there should be some form of church communication other than the internet where people can hear about news items, prayer requests, etc.

Action: **Tony Hughes** to relay this comment to Deborah Evans, Church Administrator, to think about

Action: **Jane Woolley** to put this on the agenda for the Combined PCC meeting in July

Liz Roberts and Joan Impey commented about mechanisms for relaying prayer requests specifically.

Tony Hughes closed the discussion and questions section of the meeting.

8. Closing prayer

Tony Hughes invited Pam Rolls to close the meeting in prayer at 12.40pm.

Signed as a true record:

Chair

Secretary

Date

Date