

Those of us who have had the dubious pleasure of being tasked with taking the minutes at committee meetings know just how hard it is to précis what has been said in all seriousness and still convey the essence and flavour of it all. How these notes are likely to stand up to scrutiny some 10-12 years later is illustrated here by our mischievous Hon . Archivist, Hamish Roberts.

The images evoked of drunken Captains, a fractious congregation awash with drugs or explosives, and of juvenile shenanigans in the toilets are almost surreal. Definitely no offence intended to our hard working Church committees, past or present. Ed.

Holy Commotion

Extracts from Church Committee minutes

1993

Canon Roberts asked if more than two corkscrews could be provided next time. This caused annoyance and delay in the issue of wine after the service, particularly as one instrument broke after ten minutes.

Captain Moore said that by the time he had appeared at the wine table after collecting his stickers and bits and pieces, about half an hour after the service, he was looked on with grave suspicion as if he had already quaffed half a dozen glasses and was trying to make a night of it.

1994

The corkscrew situation is now in hand. Canon Job assured the meeting adequate supplies would be available. All sorts of problems arose last year because of the late opening of the West door. Something consisting of a small crowd poured in, overwhelming the ushers, who were subsequently late themselves attending. Blue ticket holders jostled with white ticket holders and consequently a considerable number of the former were relegated to the latter seats.

Captain Moore promised that strict control of blue tickets would be exercised this year. Captain Gilbert-Wood advised that the Assistant Chief Constable (Operations), Winchester, should be contacted in respect of sniffer dogs.

1995

The Youth Band turned up in the Cathedral at 4 p.m. straight from school for their final rehearsal, and afterwards changed from their school uniforms to their band uniforms ready for 6 p.m. The only place available to change this year was one of the toilets and, noting that there were a number of ladies in the band, Mr. Rich was not too pleased.