

HERTFORD ST ANDREW'S

Minutes of the meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting held in church on Sunday, 27 April 2025

Present: Fola Abe, Jenny Aitken, Christine Barclay, Renee Booker, Jane Chaplin, Joan Cheesman, Colin Eldred, Jane Eldred, Jenny Gray, Julie Hollings, Mary Horne, Joyce Kamau, Carol Kemp, David Kemp, Dorian Kennedy, Katherine Kennedy, Charles Ledsam, Alan Little, Sue Little, Brenda Maling, Julie Markey, Scott Martin, Valerie Mort, Carol Muhr, Barbara Penson, Stuart Penson, Phil Probert, Laura Ramsay, Sally Rees, Peter Ruffles, Lesley Self, Chris Seward, Melanie Seward, Nick Sharman, Catherine Sleath, Rev Alan Stewart (in the chair), Adrian Walter, Stella Walter, Alison Warn, Jo Willis and Rod Willis

Apologies for absence: Apologies were received from Julie Frazer, Brenda Hobbs, Debbie Ledsam, Jean McQueen, Helle Penson, Judy Sharman, David Spring, Shirley Taylor and Richard Taylor

The meeting began and ended with prayers.

Meeting of Parishioners

1. **Minutes of the meeting held on 28 April 2024**

The minutes of the meeting were approved and there were no matters arising

2. **Election of Churchwardens**

Both Julie Markey and Lesley Self agreed to continue as Churchwardens for another year, and were duly elected. Alan thanked them for all the work they had done over the last year.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Attendance and apologies as above.

1. **Minutes of the previous meeting held on 28 April 2024**

The minutes of the meeting were approved.

2. **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

3. **Election of Parochial Representatives of the Laity**

3.1 Representatives to the Parochial Church Council

Chris Seward and Adrian Walter have opted to stay on for another term of office.

One nomination has been received:

Julie Hollings, proposed by Chrissy Barclay and seconded by Lesley Self.

There were no other candidates so Julie was appointed to the PCC.

3.2 Representatives of the Parish to the Hertford and Ware Deanery Synod

Jenny Aitken, Renee Booker and Shirley Taylor have agreed to continue as Deanery Synod representatives for another year.

4. **Appointment of the Independent Examiner**

John Alflatt was appointed as Independent Examiner and has examined and approved the accounts.

5. **Report on the Electoral Roll**

The Electoral Roll was completely renewed this year and contains a total of 120 people, of whom 46 are resident in the parish and 74 non-resident.

6. **Report on the Audited Accounts, Statement of Funds and Property**

The budget for 2025 has finished with a surplus of £11, 925 due to successful fundraising from events and coffee mornings, better return on investments than expected and lower than expected running costs.

In addition, a total of £67,978 was raised towards the cost of the new audio-visual system. A proportion of the surplus on the general fund was used to complete the payment of £76,086. Subsequently an anonymous donation has meant that the final screens could be installed.

£14,000 has been given by St Andrew's to various charities as part of Mission Giving and charity collections from special services and coffee mornings.

There is £41,000 in the general fund which covers three months expenditure. Nick estimated that it will cost £2,850 a week to cover the day-to-day costs of running the church. In 2025 maintenance work on the windows, the guttering and the soak away is needed. The boiler in the centre also needs replacing.

Nick thanked David Kemp for banking the cash, his wife Judy for her work as Joint Treasurer and the Finance Committee for their advice and support.

Jo Willis reported that she was only able to claim Gift Aid on a maximum of £8,000 of anonymous cash donations, and normally more than that was collected during the year. She suggested that if people were tax payers it would be helpful if they gave regularly via a Standing Order or put the money in one of the yellow envelopes and filled in their details.

Charles Ledsam commented that in the past 10% of planned giving had been allocated to Mission Giving but this appeared to have been reduced. Nick reported that the Mission Giving allocation was calculated before tax was reclaimed and that the PCC had agreed that the money raised for charities from coffee mornings and special services would also be included in the total percentage.

Alan thanked Nick and Judy for all the work that they had done over the year.

- 6.2 Chris Seward introduced the new Legacy Giving leaflet, which encourages people to make a Will and outlines St Andrew's legacy policy. Because needs change over the years a legacy for general purposes is better than a restricted one.

7. **Comments on the Annual Report**

There were no comments on the Annual Report.

8. **Churchwardens' Report**

There were no comments on the Churchwardens' report.

9. **Vicar's Report**

Alan quoted from Barbara Brown Taylor's memoir "... church is not a stopping place but a starting place for discerning God's presence in this world."

He gave examples of situations where he felt that God has shown up among us.

- After a long time of repeat advertising, prayer and searching for a new Children and Families Worker Lindsey was encouraged by a friend to apply for the post and have proved to be a great asset. Alan thanked Tracy for acting as a mentor while Lindsey was learning the role.
- Members of the congregation supporting St Andrew's School through the Walking Bus and serving on the Governing Body and the school receiving positive feedback from both Ofsted and SIAMS.
- The school children being welcomed into the church for the Easter Experience and Alan thanked the team who led it, especially the story tellers.
- The Hertford Children's Choir has been set up and has performed at the mayor's 'Cherish Hertford' and the Mothering Sunday service in church. Alan thanked Rachel and Sam Chaplin and the people who help with the choir.
- Alan also thanked those who continue to support our youth and children's ministry; those who help with Junior Church, TMM, Toastie Tuesday and Toddlers.
- The money has been raised through grants, fundraising and a generous anonymous donation to fully install the new AV system. The visuals can enhance worship, make it more accessible and reduce the amount of paper needed.
- Alan paid tribute to the Eco Church Committee for all they are doing to help us work towards the Church of England's target to be carbon neutral by 2030. We've decided to set aside one Sunday each year to focus on our commitment to the environment, and this year's will take place on Sunday 5th October, the weekend before Harvest.
- 16 people had attended the Exploring Faith course and had given very positive feedback. A new course will be held in the Autumn.

- Two confirmation services have been held over the last year, one at St Andrew's and one at St Mary's. We've welcomed a lot of new people into the congregation and it's good that they have signed up to take part in the forthcoming Away Day.
- We welcomed Rev Scott Martin as Assistant Priest a few weeks ago. During Alan's absence the All-Age services will be non-Eucharistic. Online Compline will continue, as will Soul Food, Breathe and Mindfulness both online, in person and on Sele. Zoom services will also continue.
- Alan thanked all the people who help to sustain the ministry, hospitality and mission of the church, in particular Phil Probert and Chris Seward.

Alan Little is standing down from being a Verger and a Sacristan. Alan thanked him for all that he'd done and said that if anyone was interested in being a Sacristan or Verger they should talk to him or the Churchwardens.

10. **Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

The meeting finished at 12.45pm