

Minutes of the Meeting of Parishioners and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) held at Brindle St James on 7th May 2025

at 7pm

Present: Rev. Jon Price, Rector and Jenny Ashcroft & Roger Parr, Church Wardens, and Julia Dixon, minute taker plus members of the Parochial Church Council and Parishioners a total of 29 people.

Meeting of the Parishioners

1. Welcome & Opening Prayers: Rev Price opened the meeting with a bible reading and prayers. He warmly welcomed all present and advised that the first part of the evening was the Parishioners Meeting followed by the APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting).

2. Apologies: Jane Colyer.

3. Electoral Roll: A new electoral was completed for Brindle St James. This happens every 6 years. Julie Pawson thanked everyone who completed a new form and returned it to her.

The Electoral Roll Figures for the 2025 APCM are as follows:

The Electoral Roll total is 178 members. 57 are resident in the parish and 121 are non-residents.

You can only vote at the APCM if you are registered on the Church Electoral Roll.

A vote was taken to receive the new electoral roll. This was proposed by Richard Evans and unanimously accepted by all.

4. Election of Churchwardens: Churchwardens serve for a maximum of 6 years. Jenny Ashcroft and Roger Parr have served for 3 whole years and Roger is happy to continue in his role. Jenny has taken the decision to step down from her role but is still committed to help out in other ways where she can.

Elaine Courtney was nominated as the new churchwarden who was proposed by Cherry Kirkwood and seconded by Joan Hopcroft

. This was unanimously carried.

A vote was cast and it was unanimously carried that Roger should continue as churchwarden. This was proposed by Elaine Courtney and seconded by Jenny Ashcroft.

Our Rector, Jon remarked what an outstanding job the wardens have done and sincerely thanked them for all their hard work.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

1. Matter arising from Minutes of the APCM meeting held 22.05.25:

The minutes from the 2025 APCM had been published on the church website. Ann Greenland proposed the minutes as a true and correct record and was seconded by Mike Hopcroft.

The minutes were agreed and signed by Jon Price, our Rector.

2. Financial Report and Balance Sheet

Richard Howarth, our Treasurer stepped up to present the accounts. Jon thanked Richard for his stewardship once again and thanked him for his hard work in preparing and submitting the final accounts. The accounts had been independently audited by Gill Taylor who confirmed that they were a true and correct record.

The bank summary at the end of 2024 showed a surplus of £10,718K balance which includes income designated for future purposes generated by fund raising in the year.

Cash at the bank at 31st December of £39,358. Designated funds are £10,824.

Parish Share for 2024 paid in full. In agreement with the Diocese, the annual share was reduced from £68,000.

The 2025 Parish Share is £60,000.

There was a big increase in the fund raising last year due to the Open Gardens and Promise Auction. Sam Nicol remarked that we must not get complacent and need to encourage to parishioners to continue to give regularly. Jean Greenwood asked how the parish share is calculated. Jon explained it is on attendance and mentioned the 150 Giving Scheme. The card reader has brought in circa £3,800.

Trevor Colyer asked about the state of the organ. Jon said that he would ask the organ tuners for a report on the state of the organ in the autumn.

Richard Evans asked about future fund raising events. He was advised that there will be a games and supper night planned and a harvest supper with auction and ceilidh along with other events.

Accept Accounts – the acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Richard Evans and seconded by Joan Ingram.

Appoint Auditor – the appointment of Gill Taylor as independent auditor was proposed by Roger and seconded by Jenny Ashcroft. This was unanimously carried.

3. Questions and comments arising from the Annual Report

- Introduction:

It was announced at the ACPM that Sam Nicol would be priested at Blackburn Cathedral on the 28th June 2025

Karen Haydock is now the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) and will be supported by Jon and Sam.

Rector's Report

Jon, our Rector stepped through his report. Jon gave a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has helped in the life of our church.

- Church Warden's Report

Roger Parr presented his report to the meeting giving a brief overview of fabric and building matters of our church much of which is mentioned in the Building Committee report.

Roger thanked the moppers and all those individuals who help and support the church yard maintenance. He said that when volunteers were asked for last September the working party made a massive difference to the church grounds.

Mike Hopcroft was thanked for all his help with the maintenance of church.

- **Consolidated APCM Reports**

Jon stepped through each of the APCM reports touching on highlights from each one.

Moppers Report – Jon thanked Jenny and the team for all their hard work keeping the church looking smart.

Pastor & Social Committee Report – Jon thanked Lynn for leading the Social Committee.

Scouts, Cubs & Beavers Report – Ann Hardman was the author of this report and Jon asked that his thanks to the leaders of our uniformed organisations be recorded.

Flower Arranging Report – Jon thanked Joan and her team for enhancing our beautiful church with flowers and foliage.

Bell Ringers Report – The author of this report is Stuart Crosby. Jon asked that his thanks are noted for Stuart and the team and their contribution to church and weekly worship.

Safeguarding Report – due to media pressures a new approach to safeguarding has been adopted and consequentially all PCC members and church wardens have undergone safeguarding training. Sincere thanks were expressed to Sam and Karen.

Building Committee – Ann Greenland gave an overview on a number of significant developments that have taken place in the on-going care and maintenance of the church fabric at Brindle St James. Jon expressed his gratitude to Ann for her hard work.

Brindle St James Primary School Report – Jon remarked how wonderful it is to have such a solid and special relationship with school and thanked Tracy Austin for her report.

Mother's Union Report – The author of this report was Rana. Jon thanked Rana for the report.

Sunday School Report – This was written by Catharine Cummins. This is always an excellent report full of delightful photos. Jon thanked Catharine, Nicola and Karen for their continued work with the Sunday School.

PCC report – The author of this report is Kathy White. Jon thanked Kathy and the rest of the PCC for their efforts and support.

4. Elections & Appointment

- **Appointment of PCC Members**

No vacancies in the PCC currently

- **Election of Sides People**

It was proposed that the elections should be on block at the last APCM. Trevor Collyer proposed that the sides people were re-elected and this was seconded by Eric Hindle.

- **Election of Representatives to the Deanery Synod (2023 -26)**

These meetings are bi monthly and ideally it would be good if we could fill the quota of three representatives. Steven Boulton and Ann Greenland attend these meetings. It was proposed by Trevor Colyer and seconded Jenny Ashcroft that Steven and Ann continue. All were in favour and this was carried.

5. Any Other Business

- No other business

6. Closing Prayer

Jon then led us in our closing prayers and wished everyone a safe journey home.