

Minutes of the Annual Parish Church Meeting held on 23rd March 2025

1. Apologies Geoffrey Dale, Anthony Littlejohn, Helen Muir Davies
2. Minutes of the APCM held on 14 April 2024 These were approved.
3. Matters arising One or three year terms for PCC membership. Three year terms are the normal pattern for C of E parishes. This was agreed following the APCM 2024 at the PCC meeting on 21st May 2024.

3 a) Agreement to move to a three year term for PCC members from this meeting. Following this matter being raised in 2024, the PCC has recommended that we move to the standard system, where one third of the elected lay members of the PCC under Rule M159(1)(j) are to retire and be elected each year: but at an annual meeting at which more than one third of the members under Rule M15(1) (j) are elected, lots are drawn to decide which third is to retire in the first year after that meeting, which third in the second year and which third in the third year. {Church Representation Rules, Part 9}.

This change happens automatically in the absence of a resolution to the contrary, and commences at this meeting.

4. Electoral Roll Officer's Report Heather reported that a new Electoral Roll had been drawn up. She thanked Susie for allowing the vicarage to act as the collecting point for the forms. 32 names had been removed either as people had moved away, died, or not responded to Heather's reminders. 19 names had been added and the current Electoral Roll stood at 122. Heather was thanked for her work.
5. Presentation of the Churchwarden's Annual Report Bubbles pointed out that this was a legal requirement and a copy of the report is sent to the Diocese. She read out her report and gave particular thanks to our treasurer Hew.
6. Report on the financial affairs of the PCC and presentation of the Accounts Hew reported that 2024 had been a tight year as income did not cover expenditure ending in a £2,900 deficit. Income remains steady but running costs remained high. FOSC had paid for a new notice board and the repair of the west wall. A gold altar cloth, and two altar frontals had been donated in memory of a parishioner's wife. The card reader had cost £300 for its use for 6 months and £610 had been donated via this method. Susie thanked Hew for all the work he does for the parish. Ian Hughes had examined the accounts.
7. Appointment of Ian Hughes as the Independent Examiner Amanda Greenlee proposed and David Dobson seconded that Ian continue to be the independent examiner of the accounts. This was passed. Hew confirmed that Ian was prepared to continue for the moment.
8. Note of ex-officio PCC members: Churchwarden Judy Thompson
Licensed clergy Canon Dr Susie Collingridge, Revd Sue Jones
Deanery Synod Representatives Amanda Greenlee and Caroline Robinson.
9. Deanery Synod Representatives (re-election of 3 year term due 2026)
Amanda Greenlee, Caroline Robinson.
10. Report on the proceedings of Petersfield Deanery Synod This had been circulated earlier to the PCC. Amanda reported that Blackmoor had appointed a new priest Amanda Sim. Ven Peter Sutton is retiring, leaving a new (and hopefully short) vacancy in Greatham, Empshott, Hawkley

and Priors Dean.

11 Election of the PCC (up to 12) Fran Box is stepping down from the PCC but remaining on the Fabric and Finance committee. She was thanked for all her service and continued support with Steep history/churchyard information. Anthony Littejohn (2 years), Christopher Reed (2 years), Hew Granlund (3 years), David Storey (2 years), Caroline Hilton (2 years), Richard Welch (1 year), Geoffrey Dale (1 year,) Helen Muir Davies (1year), Bubbles Silk (3 years,) Simon Mason was welcomed as a new member of the PCC and will serve 3 years. The PCC was elected en bloc: proposed by David Kidd and seconded by Judy Thompson.

12 Priest in Charge Report

Susie gave some thoughts on services during the year, picking out the FOSC concert at Bedales and the launch of the 900 year celebration of Steep, presided over by Bishop Jonathan. At this service an altar cloth was dedicated in memory of Norma Bones. Juliet Hemingway of Derby had created the image on the cloth which reflected the image of the dove at Pentecost from the West wall stained glass window. A service celebrating Baptism is being held at the beginning of May. Steep school had had an Ofsted report, marked good with outstanding for early years and behaviour. Among weddings celebrated was that of Imogen Welch to Sam Harris, and funerals mentioned were those of John Grove and Jenny Sandys. Inigo Anson had been confirmed. The Vicarage is being used as a pilot for reducing its carbon footprint. Susie thanked Bubbles for working so meticulously as churchwarden and solving many storage problems and thanked Judy for continuing being churchwarden. Susie thanked Anne Grove for her work as the Benefice Administrator. She thanked Joanna Farrell, and Adrian Harbidge for his support with services and wished him and Bridget a successful house move. She welcomed Pippa and Graham into the congregation. She told us that Sue was now able to take all services and thanked her for her support. Susie thanked all for the support she had received during her breast cancer treatment and she had never felt other than loved.

13. AOB

- a. Amanda thanked Naomi Anson for all the work she puts in to the All Age Services.
- b. Bubbles said that the yews are going to be trimmed as they impede funerals. Geoffrey will supervise the work by the tree surgeon, with half done this year and half next year.

Close: The meeting closed with the Grace at 12.20

Present at the APCM: Susie Collingridge, Judy Thompson, Gill Wickstead, Jonathan Lubran, Ted Bones, Richard Welch, Caroline Welch, Peter Bowen-Simpkins, Katrin Bowen-Simpkins, Graham Madgwick, Pippa Madgwick, Sue Jones, David Storey, Caroline Robinson, Christopher Reed, Felicity Tullis, George Tullis, Heather Maybury, Susie Bryan-Terry, Simon Mason, Caroline Glover, Hugh Routh, Maureen Routh, Harry Townsend, Fran Box, Hew Granlund, Amanda Greenlee, Bubbles Silk, Caroline Lentaigne, Caroline Hilton