

St Bartholomew's Church, Burwash

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Sunday 25th May 2025

Held in Church following the Parish Annual Meeting

Present: Rev Tom Pelham (Rev TP - Chairman) Chris Woodburn (CW -Treasurer)
Jan Macfarland (Secretary) Plus 27 others

1. Apologies for absence not included in 1 above.

None

2. Approval of minutes of the meeting held on 28th April 2024

These were proposed by Shirley, seconded by Richard with all in favour.

3. Matters arising

None

4. Election of new members to the PCC

No nominations were received.

5. Treasurer's Report

CW reported that it has been a difficult year with low receipts and high maintenance costs with the balance being funded by the Curteis and Morris funds. The accounts were prepared on Receipts and Payments basis so all figures are facts with no provisions for accruals or prepayments. The main cost was £60K for the parish share plus utilities, insurance, fabric and yard costs on a rising scale. The real issue is the revenue as expenditure can be controlled.

One solution is to encourage all givers to sign up to the Parish Scheme Giving which gives the option of being inflation proof.

Rev TP emphasised that giving needs to go up and that discipleship is part of giving. Currently all funds raised are diverted to the Access and Amenity Project. We cannot continue to deplete the Curteis fund as there has been a drop of £17.5k in giving.

A total of £102k is due to the Diocese from the three churches but only £81k is due as there is a vacancy at St Philips. By rearranging the benefice, each church will not have to pay the total it is due and this could save £21k.

A question was asked from the floor whether the house at St Philips could be sold. Rev TP replied that the Diocese will not sell the house as it will continue to get income and eventually provide accommodation for a second minister if and when one is appointed. This post has been vacant for the last two years. It was also asked that as the vacancy has existed for the last two years, whether a rebate can be claimed from the Diocese. Rev TP confirmed that this is not possible.

Another question was also raised as to whether the Parish Council would provide any funding. Currently the Parish Council gives £1,500 per year for the maintenance of the church yard which is a public space. If the church yard is closed, the Parish Council will be responsible for its maintenance.

CW thanked Sally Gomer for her work on the Planned Giving. This is now online and gift aid is claimed automatically by CW. Rev TP apologised for missing her out and added his thanks.

6. Appointment of Independent Examiner

There is currently no independent examiner. CW will be grateful if anybody knows someone who is willing to do the job.

7. Churchwarden's Report

There is currently no churchwarden.

8. Questions and answers

There were no questions.

9. Any questions on the reports displayed

None

10. Any other Business

It was pointed out by a member of the church that the agenda on the website was dated 2022. However, it was confirmed that only the last year's minutes were uploaded on the website but not the agenda.

A question was raised regarding designating a special bank account for receiving funds for the Access & Amenities project. CW confirmed that all funds received for the project will go into the Friends of St Bartholomew, which is a separate charity. Its main functions are to help the maintenance of the church and act as custodian and paymaster of the project.

Signed:

Date: