

Parochial Church Council of St Bartholomew's, Yarnton
APCM 12th May 2024 in St Bartholomew's Church
Minutes

Meeting of Parishioners

1. Election of Churchwarden/s

Paul Tweddle had agreed to continue to stand as Churchwarden for the next year. He was elected unanimously to serve as churchwarden until the 2025 APCM. This is Paul's 7th year. Jill Rowbotham proposed, Alison Riggs seconded. Nomination approved. (Rosie Hilliard had moved away from Oxfordshire in November 2023 so stood down as churchwarden.)

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. **Welcome:** Revd Oliver Petter welcomed those present to this annual meeting.

2. **Apologies:** received from Julie Walters, Heather Armitage, Michael Fogg, Doug Fairhurst and Mark Sherratt.

3. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2023

The combined minutes of the APCM and Meeting of Parishioners (Vestry meeting) held on 23rd April 2023 were accepted and approved. Proposer Gary Brewerton, seconder John Appleton. The minutes were signed by Revd. Oliver Petter.

4. Electoral Roll

Alison Riggs has volunteered to be Electoral Roll Officer. The number of people on the electoral roll is 57. Several names had been removed as they had moved away over six months ago and one person had sadly died. Seven new members have been added.

5. Proceedings of the PCC and other Church Groups

The Rector's annual parish report including the proceedings of the PCC and other church groups in 2023, was presented at the meeting by Revd. Oliver Petter (attached).

Oliver thanked all the church office holders, PCC and the many church team and group volunteers. 2023 saw growth in worshippers and in junior church numbers. Oliver and those present thanked Rachel Gardner for all her work leading and coordinating Little Sheep and Junior Church.

Oliver thanked all the clergy that help support our congregations: Revd. Richard Armitage for leading once a month, Revd. Sue and Gordon Spankie for joining us in 2023 leading to Sue's licencing to our benefice in 2024. We are also thankful to Revd. Jim Turner for his long ministry, he had to step back during 2023 and is unwell currently, we look forward to celebrating 30 years of his service later in 2024. Revd. Barbara Doubtfire was thanked for her regular 8am service leadership - she celebrated 30 years of ordination in May 2024.

The study group progress was highlighted, it has brought the Yarnton and Begbroke parishes together. The Village Drop-In is going well and many volunteers are from our church community, Oliver thanked them.

Oliver also thanked Bill Arnold for regularly taking our food bank donations to Kidlington through 2023. A new driver volunteer is now needed for this Friday morning role. John Appleton was thanked for his continuing service as vergier and sacristan. Malcolm Hawkins, our organist was thanked, as were the bell ringers – Ernie's faithful service will be remembered with gratefulness.

6. Financial Statements 2022

Gary Brewerton, PCC Treasurer presented the Financial Statements of the PCC for the year ending 31 December 2023 which had been circulated (attached).

Gary explained the restricted and unrestricted funds. The church initially held the Community Drop-In donations but as soon as the Drop-In Committee started an account, these could be passed on. The Drop-In are grateful for Oliver's championing of it.

Planned giving forms a vital part of our unrestricted funds and Gary explained the various options for this:

The Parish Giving Scheme supports regular giving by direct debit and the gift aid is claimed on the church's behalf monthly, single gifts can also be made and the QR code on the pew cards links to the website. Alternatively, there is a weekly/monthly pink envelope scheme for cash or cheque or green gift aid donation envelopes put in the wall safe, with gift aid recovered annually by Gary. Donations can also be put in the wall safe or made using the contactless donation plate (NB the amount given here is adjustable). Planned giving increased 2022-23 but has dropped lately. Inflation means we need more money as costs increase. The Ride and Stride brings in income and Gary thanked Pauline Franklin and George Sherratt. Weddings, funerals and church activities also bring in funds.

We are unable to pay our full Parish Share but were able to increase payments in 2023. Church running costs also ongoing. In 2023 unrestricted funds were less than we needed. We know money is tight but anyone who can afford to is asked to consider increasing their donation.

Gary thanked the PCC and church members, especially the Petter family for all they bring to the church.

The 2023 Financial Statements were proposed by Charlotte Rayner, seconded by Penny Small, approved and signed.

Oliver thanked Gary for all his work and encourages all regulars to arrange planned giving at a level that's affordable for each. Oliver thanked everyone for their financial support which is vital to life of the church - we should each pray about this and for church growth.

7. Fabric, Goods and Ornaments

Paul Twedde was absent so Oliver gave a brief report for 2023.

In March 2023 our architect reviewed the church roof situation and specification, the new costings received in August 2023 were £370,000, tripling a previous quote. The need to raise a much larger amount necessitates a longer view, and makes it sensible to include future heating in the fundraising efforts. We are allowed to patch the roof lead cracks again in the meantime.

A community survey of our village and its community groups needs to be carried out early autumn, asking what they appreciate in the church as it stands and how they imagine it being used in future, to give evidence for our fundraising. The fundraising sub-committee welcomes others. We need help with grant funding applications and in organising fundraising events such as a summer tea party, cèilidh/barn dance etc. Volunteers are invited to contact Oliver.

8. Deanery Synod

The annual report of the proceeding of Woodstock Deanery Synod 2023 was circulated (attached).

Penny Small is stood down as Deanery Synod Representative and was thanked for her service over the last 5-6 years. Alison Riggs volunteered for the role. Proposed Jill Rowbotham, seconded Ann Moss, approved.

9. Safeguarding Report

The annual safeguarding report was presented by Charlotte Rayner, the parish safeguarding officer (attached). Oliver thanked Charlotte for carrying out this significant role.

10. Election of Lay Members of the PCC

No new offers at this time. Ann Moss and Michael Fogg had been coopted to the PCC during 2023.

The PCC is currently John Appleton, Douglas Fairhurst, Michael Fogg, Ann Moss, Jill Rowbotham, Julie Walters, and Charlotte Rayner (Parish Safeguarding Officer) as PCC members. Paul Twedde (Churchwarden), Gary Brewerton (Treasurer) and Penny Small (Deanery Synod Rep. until this meeting) are members ex officio. Alison Riggs (PCC Secretary, & Deanery Synod Rep. from this meeting).

11. Independent Examiner

Gary Brewerton, our Treasurer, proposed re-appointment of Astral Accountancy Services as Independent Examiner of the PCC's Financial Statements for the year ending 31 December 2024. This was approved. Proposed by John Appleton, seconded by Ann Moss.

12. Any Other Business

None raised. Oliver closed the meeting with the prayer from the end of the Parish Report.