

Parochial Church Council of St Bartholomew's, Yarnton
APCM 11th May 2025 in St Bartholomew's Church
Minutes

Meeting of Parishioners

1. Election of Churchwarden/s

Paul Tweddle had agreed to continue to stand as churchwarden again this year. He was unanimously elected to serve as churchwarden until the 2026 APCM. This is Paul's 8th year of service. Proposer Alison Riggs, seconder Gordon Spankie. Nomination approved. There is a vacancy for a second churchwarden.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

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

2. **Apologies:** received from Penny and Neil Small, Charlotte Raynor.

3. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2024

The combined minutes of the APCM and Meeting of Parishioners (Vestry meeting) held on 12th May 2024 were accepted and approved. Proposer Paul Tweddle, seconder Gary Brewerton. The minutes were signed by Revd. Oliver Petter.

4. Electoral Roll

Alison Riggs is Electoral Roll Officer. The roll had to be started from scratch for 2025 (5 yearly). We have 43 people registered. The roll had to close a fortnight prior to this meeting but opened again afterwards.

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 2024, was presented at the meeting by Revd. Oliver Petter (attached).

We are here to be faithful in our witness and offer pastoral relationship to our village community, we offer weddings baptisms, funerals, study groups, visits to residential homes and parishioners. The only paid role for the benefice is Oliver's, so he is very grateful to all who help as volunteers. Oliver thanked all office holders and other volunteers; Revd. Sue Spankie (Associate Vicar) and Gordon, Revd. Richard Armitage and Heather, churchwarden and assistant churchwardens, PCC, welcomers, readers, intercessors, organist, flower arrangers, coffee makers, those who open and close the building, and all those that enable the church to function in many other ways. Lovely to have more people helping.

Christmas and Easter services were well attended. Children's activities popular. Highlights included Sue's licensing and the confirmations of Ann and Michael. Ministry team has grown, grateful to Sue, to the Wycliffe Hall ordinands helping out, and to Ben Knighton as Lay Reader. Outreach in our village has grown, regular services in all residential homes in the village. Study groups regular and fruitful, joint with Begbroke, a God given new reality. Opportunities to do more with the school.

In 2024 we had six bereavements, losing long standing, much missed church members: John Appleton, Revd. Jim Turner, Josie Green, Ernie Cannon, Mary Roper, and Liz Burdon.

Oliver closed with a prayer John Appleton had shared and thanked everyone for their support.

Rachel Gardener shared an update on children's activities in 2024 and plans for 2025. Little Sheep on Wednesday mornings with crafts, songs and story. Now a parent led group since Charlotte Raynor stood down. Junior Church on Sundays - 2024 is the first year we provision for all Sundays, all who helped were thanked, families need to know it is regularly available. In 2024 Christingle service was expanded from just Little Sheep to older children and in 2025 an Easter children's service was held with 19 children doing a passion play and crafts. A group for confirmation and first communion classes is offered, and an ecumenical bible study group for mothers at 8am on a Saturday, whilst partners look after the children.

6. Financial Statements 2022

Gary Brewerton, PCC Treasurer, started by remembering the faithful departed, John Appleton in particular gave so much in time and faithfulness. Very grateful to him and to Pam. Gary then presented the Financial Statements of the PCC for the year ending 31 December 2024 which had been circulated (attached).

Restricted (given for particular purposes) and unrestricted funds (given to use as needed) were explained. Planned giving has increased during the year. Collections income did drop as some regular donors are not around any more. Pauline Franklin was thanked for her Ride and Stride fundraising, a huge contribution to our income. Gary ran through the various methods of giving (Parish Giving Scheme, online, standing order, card, cash). Any donation helps and any increases very welcome, there are always bills to be paid.

In 2024 we had £36,409 income. Our biggest cost is parish share, for many years we have not been able to pay our full share and pay what we can. General costs have increased, plus repairs and maintenance needed. 2024 had £37,843 costs so a shortfall of £1,344. Gary tries to manage income to try to reduce this. Internet banking arranged now. We're using modern methods of giving and banking. Anything we can all do to chip away at the overspend is helpful. Money is tight but attendance numbers are growing which may help. Gary grateful to everyone for contributions.

Gary thanked Oliver, Rachel and the family, plus Sue, for all they do for the church. The money is insignificant without leadership. GB is updating the Gift Aid list, all eligible to please complete a form.

The 2024 Financial Statements were proposed by Paul Tweddle, seconded by Gordon Spankie, approved and signed. Oliver thanked Gary for all his work on behalf of all of us.

7. Fabric, Goods and Ornaments

Paul Tweddle (churchwarden) thanked Gary Brewerton and Alison Riggs for liaising with roof contractors and the grant applications, Gary also for work on sound system and finances, and the PCC for all they do.

Oliver gave a brief report for 2024. Ben Knighton, Gary and Alison formed a fabric team. Church Architect was changed as five companies disagreed with advice provided previously. In January 2025 we asked Peter Preston to take over. This delayed progress on roof but led to local fundraiser Lorraine Boon doing lots of funder research. Roof stonework repairs now due in May/June 2025. Architect to examine Spencer chapel roof and propose further works needed. Grants obtained (£6k towards roof repairs, £2.3k towards electricity supply upgrade ready for electric heating, £1k towards Wifi installation - will enable better contactless giving provision). Would also like to improve path. Prayers requested for the works. Sound system failing so Gary has been working to gather quotes and is awaiting site visit. A generous benefactor has offered a donation. Will help us to be more welcoming and inclusive.

8. Deanery Synod

The annual report of the proceeding of Woodstock Deanery Synod 2024 had been shared online (attached). Alison Riggs is Deanery Synod Representative until 2026.

9. Safeguarding Report

The annual safeguarding report was supplied by Charlotte Rayner, the parish safeguarding officer (attached), and read by OP at the meeting. Oliver thanked Charlotte for carrying out this significant and time consuming role for many years.

10. Election of Lay Members of the PCC

No new offers at this time and PCC full currently. John Appleton is much missed. Doug Fairhurst has stepped down. As the electoral role is now under 50 the PCC can have 6 elected members.

The PCC is currently Michael Fogg, Ann Moss, Jill Rowbotham, Penny Small, Julie Walters, and Charlotte Rayner (Parish Safeguarding Officer). Paul Tweddle (Churchwarden), Gary Brewerton (Treasurer) and Alison Riggs (Deanery Synod Representative & PCC Secretary) are members ex officio. None are due for re-election this year.

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 2025. This was approved. Proposed by Gordon Spankie, seconded by Ann Moss.

12. Any Other Business

None raised. Oliver closed the meeting with the Grace.