

**THE PARISH OF
ST MARK, NEWNHAM
ANNUAL MEETINGS**

MINUTES

ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS TO ELECT CHURCHWARDENS

At 11.16 on Sunday 18th May 2025 in the Community Centre

- 1) Opening Prayers
- 2) Apologies: Shev Roser, Julia Bevington, Judy Hinsley, Nigel Porter, Rosey Gardiner, Peter Hampson, Lizzy Jarvis
- 3) Election of the Churchwardens
Two nominations (Sarah Perry and Nigel Porter, both current churchwardens)
- no need for election as only two nominations for two vacancies. Sarah and Nigel duly appointed. Sarah and Nigel (in absentia) were thanked for their work over the past year.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

At 11.18 on Sunday 18th May 2025 in the Community Centre

Minutes and Matters Arising from the 2024 meeting

A vote of thanks was offered to Felicity. The minutes of last year's meeting were accepted as being a true and fair account (Proposed by Alan Jones, seconded by Margaret Banks, all in favour)

Reports

a) Report on the Electoral Roll - the figure in the report (104) stands but there are two forms that have been received since applications closed, plus at least one other person who has yet to apply.

b) Report on the activities of the parish
Dani Redhead - can there be a regular report on children's activities and ministry?
Vicar - yes, children's work is a priority and is a standing item on PCC agenda.

c) Financial statements for the year - we mourn the passing of Stuart Lingard but are very grateful for Sandi Buss who stepped forward to take over in the interim. This has required a huge amount of work from Sandi as the nature of Stuart's final months did not allow for a handover.

From the financial report: "It is the PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds, which equates to a minimum of two months' unrestricted payments to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time plus a further one and a half months' unrestricted payments to cover cashflow fluctuations. This equates to approximately £35,000 compared to £145,788 held at the year end. Designated funds could be re-assigned as General Funds if approved by the PCC."

Alan Jones - St Mark's has a balance far in excess of what is needed. What are we holding onto this money for? Considering Andrew's sermon this morning on loving one another, should we not find worthy ways of spending it?

Margaret Banks - Speaking as Deanery Synod rep, I know we are one of the wealthier parishes at least in this deanery. Can we use the money to appoint a children's worker?

Vicar - This parish is indeed very wealthy. From my personal experience and ministry journey, I would highly value having someone with a wider remit for pastoral ministry. Perhaps this could be someone recently out of college/university. They would likely require housing. At the moment we are cash-rich but not rich in people with the capacity and willingness to volunteer.

Margaret Banks - We used to have a verger, could we have one again? We are short on volunteers leaving it to the Vicar to do things like unlocking, locking and setting up for services.

Vicar - We have started Junior Choir and upped Marcus' salary to reflect the extra work he is putting into this extension of our ministry.

Tom Buchanan - If we got a young person (eg a college leaver) working for the church who would be provided with accommodation as part of that, can we also make sure they are paid properly? Too often young adults are underpaid by the church.

Jenny Doyle - Can we get on with sorting out youth ministry before our current children hit the upper age limit of the ministry we provide? We risk losing them.

Kris Smythe - could we revive M&Ms?

Jim - Could we have our own thing?

Eleanor Scott - M&Ms is too changeable to appeal to my boys. It's too inconsistent, where they meet, when, who runs it.

Richard - Lots of recent reports (both in media and in this church) have commented on church growth, particularly among the 16-30 age bracket.

d) Report on fabric, goods and ornaments of the church - The report was received without comment.

Alan Jones is officially stepping down as church fabric officer. He thinks he has been thanked enough; we disagree! Alan was presented with a rose and an engraved glass tankard.

e) Report on the proceedings of Deanery Synod

Derek Cummings - last year for the Ride & Stride we visited 14 churches in our deanery of which 10 were closed to visitors and not participating in the event (a couple were celebrating weddings). Trumpington was a significant exception, a very welcoming and inviting church that day. It's a pity that other churches in the deanery are less enthusiastic about such initiatives.

Jim proposed a vote of thanks to Margaret and Nigel for serving on Deanery Synod.

Elections and appointments

a) Election to the Parochial Church Council - the following were elected unopposed:

- Marie Miller (standing for re-election)
- James (Jimmy) Gorick
- Lizzy Jarvis
- Jon Perry

Sidespeople:

- Hannelore Hagele
- Shev Sen
- Peter Hampson
- Chris Hammond
- Debbie Halsey
- Barry Domville
- Hilary Murray
- Judith Lewins
- Angie Cole
- Sue Payne
- Derek Cummings
- Nick Warburton
- Kris Smythe (reserve)

Wendy Walford: if somebody wanted to be a sidesperson, what should they do? Could there be a notice explaining the procedure for how to get involved, for people who aren't in the know?

Jim - yes, we should do this for all the ways people can participate in our activities and ministry

b) Appointment of independent examiner

PCC has proposed Lisa King, who has performed this service for us before (including for the past year) - all in favour.

Other business

Robert Hay - could we have some new chairs for the Community Centre? They are old, in poor condition and don't present a good image to the many groups that hire the centre.

Sue Payne - We are organising a parish trip to Ely this summer to include a boat trip.

Tom Buchanan - We don't have a treasurer and are sitting on a lot of money. The advertisement for a treasurer isn't explicit as to whether it's a paid role. Could we consider paying someone to do the job?

Jim - Yes. We are considering Xanthe Langley, who is interested in taking on this role (worked with Stuart, is already handling some of our finances) - the idea is that Sandi would mentor her and we would pay for Xanthe to undergo specific training. But I have not yet drafted a proposal to put to PCC. Other parishes are struggling to fill this role, and some

have resorted to contracting out to a bookkeeper, a solution that generally has not worked well.

The meeting closed with prayers led by Jim.
