



MINUTES OF ALL SAINTS' CHILTON ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETING & ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING HELD ON SUNDAY 27th APRIL 2025 AT ALL SAINTS' CHILTON

Revd Jeremy Parsons, the Rector, chaired the meeting and welcomed and thanked the 20 church members who were present for attending. The meeting was then opened in prayer.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETING (APM)

1. Apologies for Absence had been received from Deborah Evans and Stuart Gibson.
2. Minutes of the previous Annual Meetings (APM & APCM) 2024
The minutes of the last meetings had been circulated (with the other reports) via the church website and paper copies in the church.
Approval was proposed by John Pigott and Seconded by Andrew Hayes.
All voted to approve.
3. Election of Churchwardens.
The current Churchwarden, Judith Russell, was prepared to stand for another year. This will be her sixth year as Churchwarden.
Judith Russell – proposed by Carol Pigott, seconded by Naomi Gibson.

Alex Reich agreed to stand as Churchwarden for a third year.
Alex Reich – Proposed by Naomi Gibson, seconded by John Berry.
They were duly elected unanimously.
Jeremy thanked them for all their support.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM)

Elections/Appointments

1. Deanery Synod Representatives
We are entitled to 2 representatives, to serve from 2025 to 2026.
No nominations had been received so both posts lie vacant. People were asked to consider serving on the Deanery Synod and consult Naomi Gibson or John Pigott, who have both served on the Deanery Synod, if they would like further information.
It was explained that it involved attending 4 meetings a year. The discussions and decisions taken at Deanery Synod are taken up to General Synod so it is a way of being involved in the governance of the whole of the Church of England.
2. PCC Members
The current membership of the PCC includes Stuart Gibson, Liz Morris and John Pigott.
Hazel Benton, Naomi Gibson and Patrick Moseley were up for re-election.

The number of PCC members that we are eligible for has reduced from 9 to 6 due to the decrease in the electoral roll number. There are 2 vacancies for 3 years and 1 for 2 years.

Debra Dewhurst has decided to step down and was thanked for serving on the PCC for the last three years.

Nominations for 3 years

Hazel Benton – Proposed by Louise Forbes, Seconded by Liz Morris.

Naomi Gibson – Proposed by Michelle LeClair, Seconded by John Pigott.

Nomination for 2 years

Patrick Moseley – Proposed by John Pigott, Seconded by Gillian Hinton.

They were duly elected unanimously.

3. Independent Examiner

Jane Moreton, of Harwell, was prepared to continue as our Independent Examiner of the accounts. The Independent examiner was proposed by Carol Pigott, seconded by Liz Morris, and accepted unanimously. The Chair expressed thanks for the work that Mrs Moreton undertakes for us.

4. Receiving the Reports

The reports for this year had all been published on the Church website and paper copies in church. The reports are:

- a. Minutes of Previous Meeting
- b. PCC Annual report for 2024, including the Electoral Roll report
- c. Fabric report
- d. Financial report and Accounts for 2024

The minutes from last year's APCM had been approved by this meeting, together with the minutes of the Annual Parochial meeting (above).

The reports (b-d) and accounts had been approved by the PCC at their March meeting. (The Fabric report and Financial report were included in the Annual report. The full Accounts were separate.)

The Chair thanked Naomi Gibson and Elizabeth Clarke for all the work that went into preparing the annual report.

Jeremy thanked Judith for producing the Fabric report and for all the work that she and the fabric committee carry out in the church and churchyard.

Judith mentioned that she is currently getting quotes to repair the plaster on the internal walls of the church. This is going to be expensive so has asked the help of Maura Launchbury to apply for a Diocesan grant. She is also hoping there is some money in one of the Church funds to help pay for this work.

There were no questions on the Finance report.

5. Deanery Synod report for 2024.

There were no questions about the report.

6. Number on Electoral Roll

All Anglican churches had to completely renew their Electoral Roll for the Annual Church Meetings in 2025, this happens every six years.

All Saints' Roll now stands at 43, of whom 7 live outside the parish. This is a reduction from last year when it was 62.

1 person has moved away, 1 person has sadly died, and 3 new members of our congregation who had not previously been on the roll have enrolled.

Carol Pigott was thanked for her hard work and diligence in carrying out the electoral roll revision.

(The list of sidesmen used to be presented to this meeting for approval, but has now been delegated to the PCC to approve at their next meeting)

7. All Saints' Group Report

Carol Pigott gave a report on the group which had started as All Saints' Young Wives Group in 1972. It has subsequently changed its name to become more inclusive. First dropping the word "young", and then the title became "Women" to welcome women of any status, until finally including all genders to be the All Saints' Group.

A typical meeting starts with (usually Judy Goodall, the "Chair"), giving out notices, introducing the speaker, then reading a few bible verses relevant to the evening's topic. After the talk or presentation, they finish with light refreshments and a prayer.

Over the last year, they have welcomed speakers from SeeSaw (helping bereaved children), Standing with Giants (who produce the silhouettes of servicemen and women for Remembrance events), Bridewell Gardens (helping those with mental health problems), amongst others. These are also some of the charities they have supported at the monthly Crafts End markets.

They have also had people from the parishes speak to them, such as Rev Joan Impey telling them about her road to ordination, and Dr Stephen Luney (retired anaesthetist) about doctoring in the 21st Century, with his own personal anecdotes.

They do not always have a speaker. Recently Judy brought a range of artifacts on loan from Oxford Museum for them to see, handle, reminisce, (and attempt to guess the purpose of some!) Their Christmas meeting involves food as well as readings about Christmas, interspersed with carol-singing.

The Charity market, every 2nd Saturday is always very well attended. Nowadays, it is not unusual to raise over £1,000 for that month's charity.

Carol then wished to acknowledge the many years of stalwart service Judy Goodall has given to the group and presented her with a mug of flowers.

8. Rector's Remarks

Jeremy reported on his first full year in the Benefice. He recognised that we are a church of fine history and heritage, as well as a church with a future which we may not know yet, but we must always ask the question, where is Jesus Christ calling us? Jeremy has learned more about who we are as a Church community and has devoted time to praying who we might become.

Revd Sasha Reeves was licenced as curate at the very beginning of the calendar year with special responsibilities for the Valley Park. Sasha and Matt have had a particularly warm welcome here and Sasha's ministry has developed in Chilton. She will be returning from maternity leave in September or early October. Jeremy was keen to build on the fresh ideas that Sasha has when she returns to rejoin the core team of licenced ministers including Jeremy, Pam Rolls, Jan Radford and Marilyn Thomas, ably supported by Deborah Evans.

Jeremy acknowledged that Chilton is a small congregation in a small village with tireless and committed Churchwardens in Alex and Judith, who complement each other with their different skills and shared heart for the parish. He was also grateful for the faithful, committed PCC and team who lead and preach. Jeremy was pleased that the preacher now stays at the end of the Sunday service to speak to people and answer their questions rather than going to Harwell to preach at their morning service

Jeremy identified that we also have challenges, particularly our finances which are far from robust. He suggested that we need to grow and change to reflect the diversity we see in our village and live out our faith in the community.

Jeremy was pleased to report that the new style All Age Service took place in Chilton with members of the Benefice joining together.

The new vision for the work for Children, youth and families adopted by the PCC earlier this year is the “Whole Church involved in creating and growing a vibrant community of young people who love Jesus and walk in His ways” Jeremy reflected that this may be seen as a challenge as we are getting older as individuals and as a congregation. However, on a positive note, Chilton hosts a successful service once a month in the Village Hall. Also, Fledgelings, that meet in the Community Room once a week, is greatly valued by young families and is a positive church presence in the community. He thanked Carol Pigott for her faithful service to this group.

The PCC Away Day facilitated by Mark Boedeker produced good ideas and a plan reaching out to our community.

Jeremy reminded us that we currently do not have an employed Children’s worker but are working hard to hopefully recruit one soon to move towards our vision supported by the whole congregation.

The annual report shows the impact of our church in the community with many giving their time, skills and money. A recently formed fundraising group will help boost the giving to the church and we should consider and pray how best to use these funds.

Jeremy thanked people who kindly helped to keep things going when he was not well for several months, especially Deborah and Marilyn and how people did extra duties to fill the gaps. His illness meant things in progress such as the workplace consultancy process was delayed. This has been picked up again with Jeremy working with Geoff Maughan and Steve Manning.

Jeremy reminded the meeting that his theme when he arrived almost two years ago was “welcome”. This continues as we move forward growing the congregation, continuing our commitment to growing God’s kingdom “wider, deeper and closer” with the desire that the congregation leads us into new initiatives supported by the ministers.

Jeremy discussed team development put forward by Bruce Tuckman of “forming, storming, norming and performing” and said that we are in the “storming” phase characterised by conflict and disagreements. He urged us to take a biblical approach to move towards the “norming” phase and then “performing”.

He suggested ways to move forward and was looking forward to the year ahead and the exciting future of the church listening to where Jesus is calling us and how we step up to do His will. He concluded by thanking the Church family for all they do.

There followed a time for questions. Hazel Benton asked how successful the giving letter had been received. Judith said that it was early days but there had been some positive responses from both current givers and also new givers.

Closing Prayer

The meeting closed at 11.25am with the sharing of the Grace.

..... (Chairman)

Naomi Gibson
(Secretary)