

DRAFT

All Saints Church Lindfield

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
Held in the Church on Monday 12 May 2025**

Chair: Rev Stephen Nichols (SN)

1 WELCOME

SN welcomed the congregation to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM).

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

SN invited the congregation to review the minutes of the previous meeting which were contained within the Annual Report.

Cavan Wood proposed and Carrie Britton seconded that the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

3 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

4 ELECTORAL ROLL

Ken Martin, the Electoral Roll Officer, reported that the electoral roll had been created from scratch between February and April 2025.

The size of the electoral roll was 440, of which 184, or 42%, lived outside the parish. This proportion had stayed fairly constant from year to year.

There were no questions on the electoral roll update.

Ken proposed and Gordon Scoble seconded the appointment of Peter Candy, Ron Goodenough and Roy Ransley as tellers for the parochial church council (PCC) elections. The motion was unanimously approved.

5 NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

SN said that the PCC met once a month and was responsible for the mission and outreach of the church in the parish. PCC members were asked to give up two evenings per month: one for the PCC meeting and the other for the prayer meeting. It was not possible to do one without the other.

There were five vacancies on the PCC. SN thanked Dominic Clark, Pam Orna-Ornstein, John Philips and Jeremy Taylor, whose terms on the PCC had come to an end. He also thanked Rob Kingdom who had served on the PCC until his resignation in January.

Seven nominations had been received for the PCC, from Danny Cheesmur, Bekie Crewe, Phil Hale, Nick Hawes, Noah Mitchell, Katie Spensley and Tim Webster. Photos and information about the candidates had appeared on the church website. There were no further nominations from the floor.

Ballot papers were distributed and voting took place. Ballot forms were collected by the tellers.

4 REPORTS

a. Treasurer's Report

Roy Ransley (RR), Chair of the Finance Committee, stood in for the Treasurer, Oli Taylor (OT) who could not attend the APCM.

RR thanked Rob Kingdom for his incredible job as the previous treasurer. His diligence and stewardship had been second to none. RR thanked OT for taking on the role following RK's resignation in January. He also thanked the church accountant, Marian Emmerton, the Stewardship Recorder, David Sayers and the members of the finance committee.

It was clear to those who had looked at the financial accounts what a wonderful position the church was in. In 2024 the income into accounts had vastly exceeded plans. RR encouraged the congregation to read the annual report and accounts to see what this giving had allowed the church to do and spoke about some of the highlights.

There were no questions on the treasurer's report.

SN thanked RR and expressed his gratitude to Rob Kingdom for his work as treasurer for the previous seven years.

b. Deanery Synod report

Cavan Wood gave an overview of the work of the Deanery Synod in 2024. Highlights included sessions on the Inspiring Angels project and Eco Church.

SN expressed his gratitude to the Church's six Deanery Synod representatives and emphasised the importance of having representatives at its meetings.

d. Fabric report

Ashley Bence, the church Facilities Manager, gave a report on the church's fabric and facilities.

Most maintenance carried out on the church building was very routine but some significant work had taken place in 2024, including to the Tiger building:

- New flooring and underfloor heating in the Tiger hall
- New heating in the crypt and school room
- Replacement windows in the Tiger hall and to the rear of the building
- Removal of old organ pipes from the bell tower
- Works to the ringing chamber, including rehangng the hour bell
- Works in the vestry loft and to the parvise

He thanked the members of the Tiger project team and the team of gardeners who kept the church grounds looking beautiful.

New bay windows and a garden office had been installed at the church's property in Church Close. The PCC had looked at options for extending the property in Fieldway but had concluded that it would be better to sell it, and it had been placed on the market at the end of the year.

e. Safeguarding Report

Jennie Herring (JH), Parish Safeguarding Officer, referred the congregation to the safeguarding report in the Annual Report. She had continued to ensure that safeguarding

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was of the utmost importance in the life of the parish, including making sure that all DBS checks and safeguarding training was completed and kept up to date.

The Safeguarding Management Group met three times in 2024 and JH attended the PCC every month and gave a report. The PCC had complied with its duty to have regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults.

The Makin Report into the Church of England's handling of allegations of abuse by the late John Smyth QC had been published in November. The PCC had planned a review to determine which lessons needed to be learned.

SN reported that JH was retiring as Parish Safeguarding Officer after five years in the role. Over that time the role had grown enormously and safeguarding had become more integrated in the life of the church. He thanked JH for all she had poured into church life over last five years.

SN announced that Sue Broadstock would take over as the new Parish Safeguarding Officer and expressed his gratitude to her for taking on the role. He also thanked Jacqui Lee who would take on the administrative side of the role, supporting Sue by ensuring that safeguarding training requirements were met.

5 QUESTIONS ON REPORTS

There were no questions on the reports.

6 GENERAL QUESTIONS

Jennie Carter had asked, in advance of the meeting, why the heating in church was much lower than it used to be. SN read an answer from AB, stating that the thermostat temperature of 20 degrees had remained unchanged since the underfloor heating was installed but the heating was not being turned on as early as it used to be, meaning that the church was taking longer to heat up. In addition, heat was lost quickly when the glass doors at the entrance to the building were open. Although electric air curtains had been installed at both doors to stop heat loss, they were rarely used as they needed to be manually activated. AB would ensure they were used regularly in winter.

Will Hagger had asked, in advance of the meeting, whether the leadership style at the 6pm service could be changed up to make it feel more contemporary, as he had found times of reflective worship after communion valuable. SN responded that he was aware that a growing number of children and young people were attending Cornerstone, and different leadership styles had been tried. He asked the congregation to pray that the Holy Spirit would bring his life to the service and that people would come hungry and expectant to meet with the Lord. He agreed to meet with Will to discuss further.

There were no further questions.

7 RESULT OF ELECTIONS

The tellers returned to the meeting and announced that Bekie Crewe, Phil Hale, Nick Hawes, Katie Spensley and Tim Webster were duly elected members of the PCC.

8 PRAYER

SN led the congregation in prayer.

9 NOTE OF THANKS

SN thanked those who had made the APCM happen – Hugh Bourne and Sarah Hagger for organising the meeting and putting the reports together, those who prepared and / or delivered reports, those who asked questions and those who prepared answers, the staff team and their families, the churchwardens and their families, the PCC and the readers.

He said that it was a privilege to be the vicar at All Saints and have such wonderful colleagues, and thanked the whole church family and for all of the ways they cared for one another, prayed and served.

The churchwardens, Sam Griffiths and Kevin Hargin (KH), thanked SN for his leadership, boldness and clarity of teaching. They expressed gratitude to his wife and family.

KH led a prayer for SN.

10 SERMON

SN read from Revelation chapter 3 and talked about the history of the church as being a history of open doors. When Jesus opened a door, no-one could shut it. He asked the congregation to consider where doors were open for them and to pray for the Lord to open doors that were closed.

He set out some of the opportunities that the Lord had opened for All Saints in 2025, including the Tiger project, the forthcoming Alzheimer's support group, the men's ministry and opportunities with the schools in Lindfield.

10 REPORT ON THE MINISTRY OF ALL SAINTS

The congregation watched a short video that provide an overview of the activities that had taken place at All Saints over the previous year.

11 CLOSE

The meeting closed with a hymn and prayer.