

PARISH OF WEST PARLEY
ALL SAINTS' & ST MARK'S CHURCHES
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF PARISHIONERS
AND OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 27TH APRIL 2025 IN THE CHURCH HALL AT 11.30 AM

MEETING OF PARISHIONERS.

Election of Churchwardens.

The Rector commenced the meeting with prayers and declared the Meeting of Parishioners open. It was with pleasure that Reverend Booth announced that both Churchwardens are willing to continue in their roles for another year. Jenny Lewis and Derek Lewis have now served for 6 and 8 years respectively. He stated that they had both served with dedication and devotion to duty and that the Church is greatly indebted to them for all their endeavours. He went on to say that, despite both dealing with health issues at times, they have continued to carry out their roles with good humour and commitment. Once it had been established that nobody else present wished to stand, Carol Morris proposed that both Churchwardens be re-elected and this was seconded by Paula Stribling.

Agreed Unanimously.

The Rector then declared the Meeting of Parishioners closed.

THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING.

Apologies for Absence.

Apologies have been received from James Webb, Sandra Clarke, Lucy Harley, Geoff and Jane Trobridge. Reverend Booth and 43 parishioners attended the meeting.

Minutes of the APCM of Sunday 28th April 2024.

As there were no amendments needed, the minutes were then validated as a true record having been proposed Yvonne Carpenter and seconded by Jenny Lewis.

Approved Unanimously.

Matters Arising.

None to report.

Presentation of the Electoral Roll.

Due to ill health, Electoral Roll Officer Sandra Clarke was unable to present this year's roll. In her absence, the Rector thanked her for compiling an entirely new roll, an activity that has to be undertaken every six years. He highlighted the commitment involved in writing to everyone on the old roll and in encouraging others to join. Inevitably, in a six year cycle there are those who fall by the wayside and it is generally the case that when a new roll is compiled there is significant fall in membership numbers. This has resulted in a decrease from 146 to 117 members on the Electoral Roll. Forty eight of those are resident in the Parish and 69 are non-resident.

Presentation of the Inventory and Log Book.

Churchwarden Jenny Lewis declared that both inventories for All Saint's and St Mark's have been completed. The only items which had to be reported to the Diocese this year were the purchase of 22 large print copies of the Book of Common Prayer

The logbooks are also up to date and all additions to the log for St Mark's have been recorded. All Saint's logbook had only one addition this year in respect of the repair of the east window.

Jenny reminded those present that all documents are available to read and that she would be happy to answer any queries arising from them.

Reverend Booth thanked both Churchwardens for their endeavours in maintaining accurate records.

Presentation of the Financial Statements for the Year ended 31st December 2024.

Treasurer Derek Warner provided a breakdown of the accounts in his end of year report which he summarised as follows:

The Trustees' Report section is on **pages 1 to 4.**

The Accounts have been inspected by Madeleine Moyse as an Independent Examiner and approved.

The principal ongoing funding comes from church members through Standing Orders and the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) during the year. Overall, income has been detrimentally affected by the deaths of several church members.

(PAGE 10) Total Overall Incoming Resources for the year showed a figure of **£317,700**. The 2024 planned giving through direct payments to the church bank account (including tax recovered) was £40,853 up by £1,157 compared to 2023 with plate collections from all services at £4,660 down by £146. The tax reclaimed on these plate collections was £932.

The **total Voluntary Incoming Resources** was **£250,086** (including 1 legacy received totaling £202,231). Thus the other voluntary income was **£47,855**.

The 5511.62 CBF Church of England Investment Fund Income Shares increased in value by £2,852 during the year to £127,444 with dividends of £3,459 received.

(PAGE 11) Total Overall Resources Used during the year was £149,097.

The Parish Share at £69,456 was met in full.

Day to day expenditure has again been kept under close control but there has been capital expenditure during the year.

Details of major works to All Saints' and St Mark's can be seen on page 4.

The cost of maintenance to All Saint's churchyard is now funded from the Legacy Fund interest.

Our Missionary Box donations and special collections during the year amounted to £1,819, in addition to our increased normal charitable giving of £3,000. A further grant of £10,000 was made to Faithworks Wessex from the Legacy Fund interest in January 2025.

Our net assets at at end of year were **£736,065**

The accounts were then formally approved, having been proposed by Jenny Lewis and seconded by Corinne Lewis.

Agreed Unanimously.

Reverend Booth expressed his gratitude to Derek for his outstanding work, not just as Treasurer, but also as Hall Bookings Secretary and Free Will Offerings Officer.

Election of members to the Parochial Church Council.

The Rector explained to those present that the PCC comprises ex officio and elected members. Ex officio members are the Rector, Churchwardens and Deanery Synod reps. Jenny Lewis is both Churchwarden and Deanery Synod rep, the other reps being Anna Hardy and Chris Webb. Deanery Synod reps are elected on a triennial basis and, the next election being in 2026. There are therefore currently 5 ex official members of the PCC

Reverend Booth read out the names of those members willing to stand for re-election to the PCC, namely Guy Jarvis, Jean Jarvis, Garnet Lambert, Corinne Lewis, Paula Stribling, James Webb, Heather Dancy-Phillips, Sandra Clarke, Liz Booth, Marion Summers and Geoff Trobridge. Additionally, Lucy Harley and Carol Morris both agreed to stand for election.

Graham Thomas did not wish to be re-elected this year and was thanked by the Rector for all his years of service.

Derek Lewis proposed that all those named be elected to the PCC and this was seconded by Lesley Wilson.

Agreed Unanimously.

Nomination of Sidespersons.

The Rector paid tribute to and thanked all those who contribute greatly to the ministry of welcome in their role as Sidespersons / Warden's Assistants. He then declared the names of those currently serving in the role:

All Saint's & St. Mark's (8am) : Jean Jarvis, Guy Jarvis, Lucy Harley and John Brown.

Evensong: John Brown.

St Mark's (10am): Garnet and Dorothy Lambert, Shirley Jenner and Corinne Lewis, Peggy and Keith Bradley, Sue Clarke and Carol Morris, Yvonne Carpenter and Sandra Clarke.

Presentation of the Annual Report.

The Rector commenced by thanking all of those who have contributed to this year's report, and in particular Jenny Lewis for compiling and distributing it. In his address he drew attention to the all-too familiar challenges of an ageing membership and a decline in numbers but urged people not to be dispirited. We are an Easter People, and as chosen witnesses of the Resurrection in this age and place, we must continue to fulfil that purpose and do so joyfully whether *in season or out of season*. He also mentioned the legacies with which we have been blessed and the importance of using them well and for the furtherance of God's kingdom in this parish. The PCC has given much thought to this and has resolved to recruit a Parish Administrator / Rector's Assistant in the hope that lightening the administrative load will free us all to focus on that purpose of being joyful witnesses. The Rector then highlighted the contributions of many people in various different roles and expressed thanks for such impressive commitment and service. He concluded with thanks for the personal support and encouragement he receives from both parishioners and family.

Churchwarden's Remarks

Derek Lewis drew attention to the programme of works that has been completed at both churches, and particularly at St Mark's. He emphasized the value and importance of these projects, not only for our benefit but for that of generations to come. He concluded by expressing thanks on behalf of the meeting to the Rector and to Mrs. Booth for her support.

After a concluding prayer, the Rector then declared the meeting closed.

MEETING OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

The meeting was convened immediately after the Annual Meeting for the Co-option of Assistant Clergy and Election of Officers: Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Wardens. It was chaired by the Rector.

Reverend Thomas was officially co-opted onto the PCC, having been proposed by Liz Booth and seconded by Paula Stribling.

Heather Dancy-Phillips was re-elected as Secretary, having been proposed by Jenny Lewis and seconded by Derek Lewis.

Treasurer Derek Lewis was re-elected, having been proposed by Anna Hardy and seconded by Corinne Lewis.

Assistant Warden Jean Jarvis was duly re-elected, having been proposed by Marion Summers and seconded by Reverend Thomas.

To Consider Proposed Dates for PCC 2025/2026.

The proposed dates for the forthcoming meetings are as follows: Thursday 22nd May, Monday 21st July, Tuesday 16th September, Wednesday 12th November, Thursday 15th January 2025, and Tuesday 17th March 2025.

Proposed Date for the next Standing Committee Meeting.

The Standing Committee will convene next on Tuesday 6th May at 2.30pm

The business being concluded, the Rector declared the meeting closed.