

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
held in the Church on Sunday 11th May 2025 at 11.45am**

Meeting of Parishioners (Vestry Meeting)

1. Will explained the importance and the history of the Vestry Meeting.
2. Election of Churchwardens for 2025

Mrs Celia Davis was thanked for her role of Churchwarden – Celia stood down as Churchwarden in the Autumn of 2024. Mrs Amanda Anstee was thanked for her role as Deputy Churchwarden for the last 6 months and is now standing down as Deputy Churchwarden.

Mr James Allen proposed the re-election of Miss Amanda Hanlon as Churchwarden for 2025-26. This was seconded by Mr Ben Jones and approved unanimously.

Mr Ben Jones proposed that Mr Philip Kelly be appointed Churchwarden for 2025-26. This was seconded by Mr James Allen and approved unanimously.

That concludes the vestry meeting.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Apologies for Absence

Rev Will Kemp (Priest in charge) presided over an attendance of 90 parishioners. Apologies were received from Celia Davies, Tony and Felicity Davies, Pat and Haydn Peers, Don and Linda Gubbins, Lionel and Ann Plyming, Janet Davies, Howard Hitchman, Dale and Rachel Marklew, Stuart and Meg Bayliss, Jean and Richard Cooke, Phil and Jan Dyke and Sue Griffiths.

2. Minutes of APCM held on 22nd May 2024 and Matters arising

The minutes had been available for inspection prior to the meeting and were therefore taken as read. There being no questions raised, the minutes were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair.

3. The reports

A detailed report and accounts had been available for inspection prior to the meeting. The following points were highlighted:

(i) Electoral Roll

At the end of 2024 (the number in the report) was 147. If you count it as of now (11th May 2025) it is 221.

(ii) Vicar's Report

Will read out his report which is available on the website or from the office.

We are giving thanks to God for the past year and the blend. Will gave a massive thanks to Felicity and to the churchwardens for all they did to facilitate this.

He also thanked Sue Griffiths for taking on the role as Parish Safeguarding Officer and to Linda Porter for being Assistant PSO for the past year and who is now stepping back from that role.

One of biggest challenges of bringing the two churches together was discerning which Mission Partners to continue to support –there were 15 between us when we blended which is just too many to be able to support and have relationship with. The PCC and a separate group have prayed and decided on the following 9 Mission Partners which we will commit to support for the following 2 years:

Church Mission Society, The Loiyangalani Trust, Hope House Haiti, Family Support Work, Befriended, Off The Fence, Sam and Daniela Leighton, Centre for Urban Mission and Tearfund.

We thank God for all those involved with these mission partners, serving and supporting them.

Thanks again for your giving at the gift day which has enabled us to do so much.

Thanks to Julia Brackenbury and Eugene Haban who were on staff last year and have since stepped down.

Thanks also to all our amazing volunteer leaders – Sue Sindall and Phil Kelly our lay readers, and our Authorised Lay Ministers – Julia Brackenbury, Sue Gumbrell and Sheila Smith and as of yesterday Neroli Allen (ALM in Creation Care and Eco church) and Kelly Peters (ALM in Chaplaincy).

Please do read the full report where Will gives a full report from Kids and Youth too.

Will noted that this is 950th anniversary of Diocese of Chichester and mentioned that we will be planning a parish trip to the cathedral later in the year.

Looking ahead we have Pentecost and Thy Kingdom Come coming up in June, a summer BBQ fundraiser for Hope House Haiti and The Loiyangalani Trust on 22nd June and The Big Church Weekend from 3-5th July, 2026. Please put that date in your diary.

Sue Gumbrell thanked Will for all his hard work and his leadership.

(iii) Safeguarding Report

Sue Griffiths sent her apologies so Will read out the report which is on the website.

There is a danger that leadership can be seen as above criticism so Will wanted to say publicly that if anyone has any concerns about Will, Gareth Harper or Sue Griffiths in the area of Safeguarding, there are channels to go through such as the Diocese or local authorities. Nobody is unaccountable.

Will thanked thank to Sue Griffiths for all the hard work she does and her expertise and also thanked the rest of the Safeguarding team.

(iv) Buildings/Operations report

Improvements completed in the last year

- Projector bulbs replaced
- Camera replacement
- Rider hall partition
- External lighting
- Prayer room refresh – thanks to Jo Wright, Gary Cole and Chris Challen
- Gutters and downpipes rubbed down and repainted
- Vestry roof flashing replaced
- Church exterior wall cleaned
- Youth centre play area resurfaced
- Sound system upgrade – this week!
- New oven bought for the youth centre
- New batteries and registration of the defibrillator
- Car park lines repainted

Planned for this year

- Re-lay existing paths and put a new path where everyone cuts through
- More lighting improvements
- Replace all the carpets

Other things that have been done in bringing the churches together:

- Staff employment:
 - Contracts
 - Payroll
 - Pensions
- Safeguarding records merged
- Church databases merged (ChurchSuite)
- New website created and synchronised to ChurchSuite
- Office move/8 desks created where previously there were 4
- Finances merged
- The Point bank accounts closed
- The Point legal entities closure – nearly done!
- Rebranding of Facebook, YouTube, Spotify, SoundCloud, Instagram, New Banners
- Big clear up and storage space organised
- Sound and visual system integration

James thanked Ian Porter for his great knowledge on many aspects, Stuart Barbour and his team for technical help; (Richard Lillicrap, Andrew Dancy, Paul Dyke, Paul Curtis and Adrian Adams), and the visuals team Ruari and Zoe Callaghan and Josh Cumbers who has been a great addition to the team.

Thanks to Andy Sherlock for looking after the site over the last few years.

Also thanks to the Green Team – Phil and Jan Dyke, Trevor Hollingum, Paul Dyke, Steve and Maggie Watters, Andrew Dancy, Richard and Jean Cooke, Cookie and Rhys.

(v) Finance Report

Ian Porter read out his report which can be found on the website or is available from the office – please read both the Finance Report and The Trustees Report.

As part of the blend decision process, a joint 2024 budget covering the expected income & expenditure of both The Point & St Andrew's was produced, reviewed and approved with a projected deficit of -46K across the 2 charities for Unrestricted Funds. Once the blend was subsequently approved the budget was closely monitored against actual costs on a month-by-month basis and any variances investigated and reported.

Clearly 2024 was a transitional year as The Point began transferring across to the 'New' St Andrew's. The Point ran down their reserves as part of this transition to use up available cash balances, and transferred the remaining reserves over in Dec 24. Giving was gradually moved across to St Andrew's by individuals mainly between May & June, and The Point paid their part of the pledged Parish Share up until July, when St Andrew's covered the payment for the remainder of the year.

The net result across the two charities for 2024 was a net deficit of -£17K against the budgeted -£46K.

Our remit today is to look at just the St Andrew's part of the 2024 numbers & approve those accounts, which have, as usual, been signed off by the Independent Examiners. We just need to be mindful that for this transitional year the overall result of the blend cannot be determined by these accounts alone.

Ian showed some helpful slides and figures which are all available from treasurer@standrewsbh.org.uk if required.

The main points so far in 2025:

- Actual giving income in 2025 is slightly under budget
- PCC have agreed to give £5k from general reserves towards the Youth Mission Trip as an ex-budget item.

Q and A Finances

- There was a question about whether the Operational Costs (looking at the combined numbers from the Point & St Andrew's) would be around the same in 2025 – the answer is that they will fall due to one off costs no longer relevant, eg St Paul's Hire & Town office, and some Point Restructuring costs.

- There was a question about how that although we see the income for the repayment of the loan, we don't see this 'going out' in the expenditure – the answer is that it's removing a liability from the Balance Sheet, so would not show as an expense.
- There was a question about the Creditors balance showing in the balance sheet - this was the accrued costs for December utilities usage (and other bills) that would not be paid until January but relate to 2025 (ie Year End Accruals).

Will thanked Ian Porter and Angela Tugwell for all the work they do on the accounts on a voluntary basis.

4. Acceptance of the 2024 Annual Reports and Accounts

The Annual Reports and Accounts were accepted and adopted at the meeting.

5. Appoint an independent examiner /auditor for 2025

This has been done by Independent Examiners before and The Point used them as well in the past. Agreed and voted on in the meeting to use them again.

6. Q & A – there were no further questions.

7. Elections and Appointments

The following people were approved to serve as follows:

Representatives of the laity to the Deanery Synod

We have 4 representatives for the Hurst Deanery who are all continuing:

James Allen, Sue Gumbrell, Margaret Kay and Sheila Smith.

Representatives of the laity to the PCC

The PCC are responsible for overseeing everything that we do, and make the ultimate decisions for legal and financial decisions, and are responsible for staff and buildings. Before, they used to meet every other month, but from now on they will meet every month, one month for business and one month for prayer as praying for the church is just as much a commitment as the business side.

Please pray for the clergy and PCC as they seek to live by faith but also be responsible stewards of our money and resources.

Thanks to the following PCC members who are now stepping down: Janet Davies, Nicki Reuter-Sinclair, Faith Fallon, Linda Porter, Steve Watson and Nicki Hesford-Duckworth. Nicki has now taken on role of Chair of the Preschool Committee which is big responsibility – thanks to Nicki for taking that on. She will come and report to the PCC on the preschool from time to time. Will thanked Janet Davies for all the years that she has done on that committee.

An election did not need to take place this year as there were sufficient vacancies on the PCC to cover those that applied.

- Elected PCC Members - James Allen (Secretary), Mandy Anstee, Jean Cooke, Andy Gillbard, Sue Gumbrell, Mandy Hanlon, Margaret Kay, Phil Kelly, Dale Marklew, Andy Sherlock, Sheila Smith
- + Churchwardens - Mandy Hanlon and Phil Kelly
- + Treasurer – Ian Porter
- + Will Kemp (Vicar)
- + Gareth Harper (Associate Vicar)

Sue Griffiths (Parish Safeguarding Officer) will be invited regularly to report to the PCC.