

Minutes of the Annual Church Meetings of Warbleton Parish Church

held on Sunday 6th April 2025 in the church building following the morning service.

The meetings were chaired by the Revd Marc Lloyd.

Apologies for Absence Apologies for absence were received from Helen and Vivian Bown, Mick Greaves, Meryl Clark and Sue Holden.

The Meeting for Election of Churchwardens

1. The minutes of last year's meeting (28.4.24) were posted on the Church website prior to the meeting and were approved with no amendments.

2. The Election of Churchwardens: A nomination form has been received from Jonathan Austin. David Cleverley was planning to stand down as churchwarden but as there were no other nominations, he agreed to continue for one more year. Therefore, Jonathan Austin and David Cleverley were duly appointed churchwardens.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Approval of the Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting (28.4.2024): The minutes of last year's meeting were approved with no amendments.

2. Matters arising: There were no matters arising.

3. Reports:

a) Electoral Roll: Every six years the Church Representation Rules require that an entirely new roll must be created and everyone must apply again to be included on it. 2025 is one of the years where a new roll must be prepared, which Steve Clark (the Electoral Roll Officer) has done. There are now 64 on the Electoral Roll, 35 who live inside the parish and 29 who live outside the parish.

b) PCC Annual Report: A copy of the Trustees Annual Report was posted on the Church website prior to the meeting. Jonathan Austin was thanked for putting the Annual Report together.

c) Financial Statement of the PCC for the year ending December 31st 2024: This was posted on the website prior to the meeting and displayed at the back of church. Many thanks to Meryl Clark for compiling the accounts, and to Melinda Harries for all her assistance. The accounts were complete and approved by independent examiner, Jonathan Gray.

d) Churchwarden's Report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the Church: In addition to what is contained in the annual report, David Cleverley said it has been difficult obtaining quotes from those who can undertake the work needed on the roof, which includes the soffits around the edge of the roof, replacing Smart Water and broken tiles. The louvers must be wooden, not stainless steel, in accordance with regulations concerning the church building so are difficult to replace. This work will require scaffolding around the church building.

e) Deanery Synod Report: All the details of the meetings held during the year are detailed in the Trustees Annual Report. David Cleverley and Matthew Van Grutten are members of the Deanery Synod and there is a place for one more representative.

f) Safeguarding Report: In addition to the material in the annual report, Jane Atherden, Parish Safeguarding Officer, said that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. As we get to know and encourage one another within the church family, we are helping to keep each other safe – that's everyone from the youngest to the oldest!

Copies of our church safeguarding documents can be found on the noticeboards in both church buildings and on the church website, the main policy being the Parish Safeguarding Policy. Do take copies of these documents as the folders are replenished fairly regularly! A report on safeguarding is on each PCC agenda and during the year the various policies, risk assessments and guidance are reviewed.

Many people in roles across the congregation undertook safeguarding training during last year. As safeguarding officer, Jane said she was very grateful to those who have given up their time to do this. Anyone can do the training – all the details are under training on the Chichester diocese safeguarding website – although face to face safeguarding training in groups is being trialled in the diocese with great success.

As Parish Safeguarding Officer, Leadership Pathway training must be completed every three years, which Jane undertook last year. This included items on an action plan, one of which was looking at how we display our safeguarding information and see if improvements can be made. This is why during the summer she asked the congregation to take note of displays when they visit other churches. Thank you to those who reported back! She also completed training on Modern Slavery and Gambling & Gaming last year.

A number of people in the church require a DBS check, especially if they are involved in the work with young people. All of those people are on the DBS Update Service.

This is her last APCM report as Parish Safeguarding Officer before she moves away later in the year. She asked that people pray and consider carefully if they would like to take on this role. It comes with responsibility. It is also very interesting. Jane said that she has thoroughly enjoyed the safeguarding training which has vastly improved in the last few years. There has been a recent audit in the Chichester diocese as well as national reports on how safeguarding can be improved within the Church of England. The role of the Parish Safeguarding Officer is going to be made simpler by a new Parish Dashboard which is being launched next month.

Jane reinforced what she said at the beginning that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility; getting to know one another and growing in Christ as a church family helps to keep each other safe!

5) Election of PCC Members: In addition to the churchwardens, Jonathan Austin and David Cleverley, the Revd Marc Lloyd, Jeremy Cooke (as Reader) and Deanery Synod members (David Cleverley and Matthew Van Grutten), there can be an additional 9 PCC Members. Nomination forms have been received from Tony Welford, Jane Atherden, Sue Holden, John Holden and Meryl Clark. These were duly elected to the PCC.

6) Appointment of Independent Examiner until next year's APCM: Jonathan Gray was appointed as independent examiner for the year until 2025 APCM. He wanted to record a huge vote of thanks to Meryl for her fantastic work in completing the accounts. Everybody was more than delighted to minute that.

8) Rector's Remarks: Marc Lloyd thanked all those who have made contributions to the Church this year, often serving in the background.

9) Any Other Business:

James Cary Event - God, the Bible and Everything: This is a brand new one man comedy event by BBC sitcom writer, James Cary, and would be a gentle evangelistic event. It will take place on Wednesday 4th June in the church.

Marc Lloyd closed the meeting in prayer at 11.55am.