

St Andrew's Church, Goldsworth Park, Woking
Minutes of Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Held at Church at 11:15am on Sunday 18 May 2025

Scott Smith, incumbent, in the chair. Rob Rattee, PCC Secretary took the minutes.

Vestry Meeting

1. Welcome

Scott welcomed everyone, read from Titus 3:1-8 and prayed for the meeting.

2. Election of Churchwardens

- a. Scott thanked our Churchwardens for all their work during the last year. The meeting also expressed its thanks. A special thanks was given to Shani who was stepping down after five years of service as Churchwarden. As Shani had sent her apologies for the meeting, a fuller thankyou will be made at a later date.
- b. Scott noted that Andy Humphries was willing to continue as Churchwarden and had been nominated for the role. Jakki Mimms had also been duly nominated. As there were only two nominations, both Andy and Jakki were appointed to serve as Churchwardens for the coming year.

Scott prayed for our Churchwardens.

APCM

3. Members Present and Apologies for Absence

There were approximately 63 church members present. Apologies were received and accepted from: Malcolm & Sheryl Herbert, Mike & Ruth Kirtley, Gordon Moss, Shani Orchard and Peter & Wendy Wells.

4. Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 26th May 2024

Rob noted that these had been reviewed by the PCC. The minutes were passed as a correct record and were duly signed by Scott.

5. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

6. Annual Report

Scott noted that the Annual Report had been available on the church's website for the last week and will remain there for the coming weeks. He encouraged church members to read it.

a. Electoral Roll Report

Rob provided the Electoral Roll Report on behalf of Brian Thomas, our Electoral Roll Officer (ERO). As church members will be aware, 2025 was a sexennial year in which the Church of England requires all Electoral Rolls to be reconstituted. Prior to its closing, the old Electoral Roll had stood at 168. The new Roll is 131, of whom 70 are from within the parish and 61 outside.

Rob noted that there may be some who missed completing new Electoral Roll forms and, if they now wanted to be added to the Roll, they should contact Alison in the Church Office.

Rob noted that Brian is stepping down as ERO and, subject to PCC confirmation, the new ERO is expected to be Alison Good. Rob and the meeting thanked Brian for his work on the Roll.

b. Church Council Report

The meeting noted the contents of the report. There were no questions.

c. Fabric Report

The meeting noted the contents of the report. There were no questions.

d. Deanery Synod Report

The meeting noted the contents of the report. There were no questions.

e. Other Reports

There were no questions on the other reports.

7. Finance Report

- a. Ali Sanderson, Church Treasurer, introduced herself, then presented the financial position for 2024, based on the accounts approved by the PCC.
- b. Income: 77% from members - up from 70% in 2023 mainly due to the Gift Day. Remaining 23% from the Church Hall Lettings (which should be slightly higher in 2025 due to Christ Church's use on Sunday evenings), Andy's Café income and grants, grants for the Wellbeing Garden and the surplus on the sale of 25 Watercross Way (25WW).
- c. Expenditure: The largest expenditure was staff salaries, just ahead of our Parish Share (for the first time Parish Share is not the largest) - both slightly up on 2023. Most of the other costs were similar to 2023 except for maintenance (£11k higher - it very much depends on what major elements of maintenance we have in any given year) and different projects (doors in 2023, garden in 2024). Overall, total expenditure was very similar to 2023.
- d. Assets: There was a surplus in the year of some £46k driven almost entirely by the Gift Day and this, together with the sale of 25WW, has substantially boosted our cash position.
- e. Liabilities: Relatively small but slightly larger than last year.
- f. Key Events of 2024: In addition to the Gift Day;
 - i. the Wellbeing Garden was completed funded by grants and donations (both in cash and in kind). A small residue of funding is available for 2025 and beyond to assist with maintenance.
 - ii. The sale of 25WW - the church received a share of the proceeds in line with its share of the original investment in the property.
 - iii. A2 Youth Room floor has been fixed.
- g. Looking ahead to 2025: Our expected overheads are around £273k (a little over £5k/week). The top three costs are the same as this year - Staff Salaries, Parish Share and Maintenance/Utilities. We anticipate a deficit of £20k (equals £380/week or £3 per week per electoral roll member). Whilst we have the cash reserves to cover this, it is not sustainable to have expenditure greater than income. There is also some further small building work to be done in the A2, and our life-expired heating system will need replacing with something more sustainable. Depending on the route decide, that could be a capital outlay of £100k-£300k. The heating team are already looking at what grants may be available, but they are unlikely to fund the full cost.
- h. Ali encouraged all church members to review their giving. This may mean the need to reduce giving if circumstances (eg. retirement) dictate but, hopefully, it would also allow others to increase their giving.
- i. Ali spoke briefly about the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) which manages the administration of regular giving, including gift aid, on our behalf. Donating can be anonymous. Ali encouraged those still with standing orders to the old St Andrew's giving account to move over to PGS to simplify administration and to allow the old account to be closed. Ali also encouraged all church members to sign up for Gift Aid if they were able (those eligible being those who pay income tax or capital gains tax).

- j. The meeting identified a couple of typing errors which Ali undertook to correct prior to submission of the accounts to the Diocese and Charity Commission. On that basis, the meeting unanimously received the accounts.

8. Appointment of Independent Examiner

- a. Ali proposed that we should continue with Stanley Francis-Joseph FCCA as our Independent Examiner. This was agreed unanimously.
- b. Ali noted that she is looking to hand on the role of Treasurer in 2026. Scott asked church members with appropriate skills to consider whether this is something to which God may be calling them.
- c. Ali was thanked for her service. In turn, Ali offered thanks to Alison Good and the Standing Committee for their work and support.

9. Election of Parochial Church Council Members

- a. Rob indicated there were four vacancies for PCC as Ricardo Estee-Wale, Gregg Mimms, Ali Sanderson and Sue Waters had all come to the end of their terms of office.
- b. Rob reported that four nominations had been received prior to the meeting:
 - i. Ricardo Estee-Wale;
 - ii. Gregg Mimms;
 - iii. Ali Sanderson; and
 - iv. Sue Waters.
- c. There being no further nominations, these four were duly elected.
- d. Scott thanked all PCC members for their willingness to serve and prayed for the new PCC in the coming year.

10. Vicar's Report

- a. Scott pointed to the remarks he had made in his sermon in the preceding service. The main points are recorded here.
- b. Scott reminded the church of the centrality of the Gospel to all we are and do - thanks to the mercy of God as expressed in Titus 3:4-5. *“But—When God our Saviour revealed his kindness and love, he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit.”* We have good news to share - good news of kindness, mercy, love and grace to share with the people and community we live with and alongside. We exist as Christ's body to extend God's loving rule and reign, and to be an 'outpost of heaven' in Goldsworth Park. To share our experiences of God's kindness and love, his mercy, his salvation and healing and the new life that he pours into us.
- c. Scott noted that the APCM is a day when we get to celebrate all that goes on in the life of St Andrew's, and all the ways that we've seen God at work. He encouraged everyone to read the Report to see the array of things that we have to celebrate.
- d. Scott indicated his huge gratitude for the ways in which so many give of their time, talents and finances to serve God in this place, as we take up God's invitation to partner with Him and to serve Him in whatever capacity we can, using all of our God-given gifts and skills.
- e. Scott noted that over the last year he had continued to look to care for, shape, mould and develop all that goes on in the life of St Andrew's. Continuing to encourage and to ensure that everything St Andrew's undertakes has Jesus as its starting point and its foundation, and to spend time in seeking to understand and discern what God is calling us to in Goldsworth Park.
- f. It remains Scott's belief that prayer must underpin the life of St Andrew's and that we need to be deeply formed as disciples of Jesus. His main priorities are that each one of us continues to grow as disciples of Jesus and that, as a church, we remain a faithful, missional presence within Goldsworth Park.

- g. Safeguarding is another key priority. It is vital work, and everyone's responsibility. So, we continue to look to shape a church culture where safeguarding sits at the core of everything we do.
- h. Scott emphasised that our Church Development Plan remains unchanged, with priorities rooted in; Prayer, Formation & Discipleship, Mission & Community and Children & Families.
- i. Scott noted that over the last year, we had begun a rebranding project to help us look at who we are and at the things that are important to us, and then how we communicate that to our community. This project - being run with PCC - continues and is expected to reach its conclusion sometime in the Autumn.
- j. Scott highlighted that whilst there is lots to celebrate, there remain some challenges too. The church heating system remains 'life-expired' but miraculously still functioning, and a solution (particularly one that rightly meets the Church of England's Net Zero targets) will require significant funding. Scott thanked the Heating Team working relentlessly (and often unseen) to find a workable solution.
- k. Also, despite the remarkable (and remarkably generous) Gift Day, we are a church that continues to spend more each month than we receive, which, as Ali highlighted above, isn't sustainable in the long term. He encouraged any new to St Andrew's who are not yet giving financially to consider what that might look like, noting that giving is a core spiritual discipline, drawing on the truth that, 'The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it.
- l. Scott again expressed his gratitude for all who serve across the life of the church but, with the growth we've seen in our work with children and families over the last eighteen months or so, we do need more people to hear God's whisper (even his shout!) to step-up and serve in our work with children and with youth. He asked all church members to seek God in this respect.
- m. Scott laid out a further challenge. It is a delight that St Andrew's is a church that looks to be outward focussed and has a community mindset hard-wired into its DNA and, whilst this is something to be celebrated, it also an area of potential challenge and tension. In seeking to do all things for all people, we potentially end up failing to properly identify and resource the things to which God may actually be calling us. Over the coming year then, he will seek (with the PCC and others) to answer the question, 'What vision has God given St Andrew's for Goldsworth Park?' From that, we might need to prune or stop some of what we currently do, in order better to equip and resource that to which God is especially calling us. As gardeners know, pruning is always an exercise in creating room for growth.
- n. Scott finished by saying that, "It remains my privilege to be Vicar of St Andrew's, as we do life together in this place."
- o. The meeting thanked Scott for his work over the year.

11. Closing Prayer

There being no further comments or questions, Scott thanked everyone for attending and he closed the meeting at 11:50 with prayer.