

Parochial Church Council of St Bartholomew's, Yarnton
APCM 11th May 2025 in St Bartholomew's Church
Minutes

Meeting of Parishioners

1. Election of Churchwarden/s

Paul Tweddle had agreed to continue to stand as churchwarden again this year. He was unanimously elected to serve as churchwarden until the 2027 APCM.

Proposer Michael Fogg, seconder Veronica Williams. Nomination approved. There is a vacancy for a second churchwarden.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. **Welcome:** Revd. Oliver Petter welcomed those present to this annual meeting.

2. **Apologies:** received from Julie Walters

3. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2025

The combined minutes of the APCM and Meeting of Parishioners (Vestry meeting) held on 11th May 2025 were accepted and approved. Proposer Paul Tweddle, seconder Gary Brewerton. The minutes were signed by Revd. Oliver Petter.

4. Electoral Roll

Alison Riggs is Electoral Roll Officer. We have 47 people registered. The roll had to close a fortnight prior to this meeting but opened again afterwards, 3 more to add then.

5. Proceedings of the PCC and other Church Groups

The Rector's annual parish report including the proceedings of the PCC and other church groups in 2025, was presented at the meeting by Revd. Oliver Petter (attached).

Oliver shared highlights, thanked the PCC and all the clergy that help, including Revd. Sue Spankie with the support of Gordon, and Revd. Richard Armitage remembering Heather with thanks for her work with Junior Church. Ben Knighton, Lay Reader and Malcolm Hawkins, organist were thanked too. Oliver paid tribute to Revd. Dr Richard Turnbull who helped in our benefice and particularly Begbroke and sadly died in November 2025.

Regular ministry in the village extended during 2025 to two residential care homes and Erdington House, a little congregation has formed in each.

Rachel Gardner reported on the children's and family activities as per the written report, sharing highlights. The figures in the report show the considerable contact Junior Church and Little Sheep have with families in the village over time. Jane Black was thanked for her faithful help with Little Sheep and thanks extended to all the volunteers, remembering Heather Armitage who is much missed. The Saturday 8am Mums' Bible OverBrew fellowship group is also going well.

OP thanked everyone who helps make the Tuesday joint Begbroke and Yarnton bible study evenings happen, recognising Sue and Gordon Spankie as a driving presence. Grateful also to all who keep the church building open and available each day, noting Jill Rowbotham who does so much behind the scenes. Oliver's sermon preceding the APCM mentioned five areas which are under consideration for expansion:

Deepening our collective prayer and worship

Loving our neighbours by tackling loneliness and isolation in our village

Expanding ministry to children, young people and families

Celebrating our heritage and enabling our buildings to serve our village for coming generations

Caring for creation in our church life, modelling sustainability, amplifying a prophetic voice in responding to the climate crisis.

The congregation were all invited to pray over these and see if called to help in a particular area.

6. Financial Statements 2022

Gary Brewerton, PCC Treasurer, started by noting, with thanks to Pam Appleton, that we could all hear at this meeting due to the new sound system in memory of John. (Installed in 2026 so not in these accounts.)

Gary then presented the Financial Statements of the PCC for the year ending 31 December 2025 which had been circulated (attached). He defined restricted (given for particular purposes) and unrestricted funds (given to use as needed). The report compares 2024 and 2025.

Planned giving has increased during 2025, Gary thanked the donors. Funds are still much needed and Gary explained the variety of ways to give including Parish Giving, the value of Gift Aid, and donations from Easy Fundraising which anyone online shopping can use to support our church.

Notable receipts include to Pauline Franklin's Ride and Stride fundraising over so many years ending in 2025 - a huge contribution to the church's income for which we are very grateful. The refreshments offered in church during Yarnton Manor Open Day in 2025 raised considerable cash and card donations.

Notable expenditure is our Parish Share, we've increased our giving though unable to fully meet our allocated sum. Essential works on the church roof also needed funds. We gained some grants towards this mainly in 2026 budget and will require major funds in future.

We need to keep pulling together as we each can to look after our parish. Gary noted with thanks that we couldn't do anything without Oliver and family who hold it all together and do so much for our benefice.

The 2025 Financial Statements were proposed by Paul Tweddle, seconded by Pam Appleton, approved and signed. Oliver thanked Gary for all his work.

7. Fabric, Goods and Ornaments

Paul Tweddle (churchwarden) thanked Oliver & Rachel, Sue & Gordon, Ben and all the volunteers helping in the many necessary roles. Gary was thanked for all his tireless, behind the scenes work in the church as well as with the accounts. Alison was thanked for managing the buildings repairs/improvements and grant applications. Paul thanked Pam Appleton and family for the much needed new sound system.

Alison Riggs gave a brief fabric report for 2025. During the year we had essential repairs (part funded, in 2026, by a Minor Repairs Grant from the Diocese) to the roof edge stonework and some patch repairs to the lead. Our Church Architect is now Peter Preston. He has examined the roof and advised major works are needed within the next 5 years. The sound system, loop kit and wifi permissions were arranged in 2025 (installation in 2026). Grateful for the grants from Pam, the Diocese and Deanery for enabling the works.

8. Deanery Synod

The annual report of the proceeding of Woodstock Deanery Synod 2025 had been shared online (attached). Alison Riggs is Deanery Synod Representative and about to start her third year of the term ending in 2027.

9. Safeguarding Report

The annual safeguarding report was read by Charlotte Rayner, the Parish Safeguarding Officer and is on the website. We live and breath safeguarding in the church now, which is great to see.

Oliver thanked Charlotte for carrying out this considerable role for many years.

10. Election of Lay Members of the PCC

The PCC is currently Michael Fogg, Jill Rowbotham, Julie Walters, and Charlotte Rayner (Parish Safeguarding Officer). Paul Tweddle (Churchwarden), Gary Brewerton (Treasurer) and Alison Riggs (Deanery Synod Representative & PCC Secretary) are members ex officio.

Penny Small standing down after 9 years and was thanked for her service. Anne Moss had stepped down during the year, we are grateful to her also. Veronica Williams kindly stood for election and was approved. Proposer Michael Fogg, seconder Alison Riggs. An electoral role under 50 allows 6 elected PCC members.

11. Independent Examiner

Gary Brewerton, our Treasurer, proposed re-appointment of Astral Accountancy Services as Independent Examiner of the PCC's Financial Statements for the year ending 31 December 2026. This was approved. Proposed by Alison Riggs, seconded by Jill Rowbotham.

12. Any Other Business

Tuesday evening prayer meeting in Begbroke Village Hall about the new housing on 9th June 7-9pm.

Oliver closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.