

MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING AND ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

on Monday 12th May 2025 at St John's Church

Opening Worship – Rev Peter Willox welcomed everyone to the meeting, read from Philippians 3 and 4. There were 31 members in attendance.

VESTRY MEETING

A Vestry Meeting was held to appoint Caroline Watson and Debbie Walker as Church wardens for the coming year. The appointment was proposed by Janet Munro, seconded by Mark Gurney and approved by the APCM. All were in favour. The Vestry meeting closed.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

- 1. Apologies for absence** - Apologies had been received from Mark and Amy Stidworthy, Sally Shelton, Sharon Crosby, Delia Chandler, Peter Debney, Chris and Sheila Lewis, Keeley Willox, Mary Orr, Mike Beatham, Helen Martin, Jan Copsey, John Sheen, Richard Archer, Charles Jenkins and Sandy and Irene Tod.
- 2. Minutes of APCM 2024**
All reports for the APCM had been circulated prior to the meeting. The minutes of the 2024 APCM were approved by the APCM as a true and accurate record of proceedings.
Proposed by Karen Palframan, seconded by Dawn Jenkins. All were in favour. None against.
- 3. Church Wardens' Report**
There were no questions to the Church Wardens' report. Caroline Watson reported that the roof project was now finished. There resounded a round of applause. Peter thanked Caroline and Debbie for their work as Churchwardens, and Mark Gurney and Caroline Elston for assisting them.
- 4. Vicar's Report**
The Vicar's report had been sent out via Mailchimp prior to the meeting and Peter read out the report in full at this APCM. He set out his vision for the work of the church for the next five years in terms of the weekly and monthly groups and services. This involves strengthening and developing what we already do such as Messy Church and developing the older age range, cooperation with other churches, having a closer link between CTI2000 and The Ark, achieving Eco Gold status. Please see full report for further detail. The question was asked how we fund the prospective new youth worker. Peter mentioned the legacy and gift funding in place that could support a Pastoral Lead part time for two years. Jennifer also offered her experience as a family therapist.
- 5. PCC Secretary's Report**
The report is a monthly snapshot of the decisions taken by the PCC and WSC. Karen Oxtoby thanked everyone involved with the PCC and various committees. She clarified the composition of the membership of the PCC and highlighted the fact that most of the current elected members had served well above their term of office. She encouraged people to get involved and to consider coming on to PCC or Deanery Synod at some point.
- 6. Treasurer's report and presentation of accounts for 2024**
Caroline Watson presented the accounts for 2024. Regular giving is down on 2023 by £4000. On the expenditure side the money given to the Parish Share has also decreased although we were able to give a bit more than budgeted at the end of 2024. Caroline urged anyone still paying St John's directly into the bank account to transfer to the Parish Giving Scheme as it makes claiming Giftaid much quicker and easier and it is easy to increase your giving year on year if desired. Lynn asked how the Parish Giving Scheme worked and whether you could fix the amount as well. Peter explained that you are asked by email whether you wish to increase and that an inflationary increase is not automatic. There were no further questions. Peter thanked Caroline for fulfilling the extra role as treasurer and Julia as bookkeeper and for preparing the accounts and Alex for helping with the giftaid claim. Julia stated that you do not have to be an accountant to be a treasurer and that she and Caroline would assist anyone that could take on the Treasurer role.

The accounts were proposed by Lynne Farrer, seconded by Debbie Walker. All were in favour. None against.

7. The Electoral Roll Officer's Report

The new Electoral Roll had been prepared by Dorothy Tinkler.

The 2025 Electoral Roll has 102 names.

This is made up of 66 women and 36 men, 68 are resident in the Parish and 34 non-resident – 102

Forty-two people have left since the previous year representing a 29% drop. Peter said this does not represent a dying church, in fact we have had quite a few new people recently who may come on next year.

Dawn asked if Messy Church parents are given the opportunity to join. Peter answered that yes, he had mentioned this at a meeting and many parents also get the notices with it on through the Mailchimp.

Roger wondered if a pastoral visit could be appropriate. Jennifer addressed the meeting to say in the current climate with the church of England we could expect attendance to drop with the national negative publicity.

The report was proposed by Julia Jordan, seconded by Gillian Sinfield. All were in favour.

8. Deanery Synod Report

There were no questions to the report. Lynn Haygarth said it would be nice to have other people on the Deanery Synod from St John's. It is good to share with other churches, be inspired and feed information back. Thanks were expressed to Lynn.

9. Safeguarding Report

Peter thanked Dawn for all her hard work in navigating all the new safeguarding material and procedures that had come out recently and managing safeguarding for St John's. There were no questions to the report. Peter stressed the importance of undertaking the safeguarding training for St John's if it is required for one's role and complete it as soon as possible. Lynn Haygarth was also thanked in her role as DBS administrator and a round of applause ensued.

10. Mission Committee Report

There were no questions to the Mission report prepared by John Sheen. Peter informed the meeting that Bishop Ivan will be returning in June, and that Azeria and Davide from Guatemala will be joining us for a meeting sometime in July 2025.

11. Environment Committee Report

Peter thanked those involved in both the Environment and Carbon Net Zero groups. Caroline Watson informed the meeting that St John's had received an environment grant as part of the roof project which is forming a case study for the diocese. Lynn requested more helpers. The groups were very involved in the recent Earth Weekend and Karen Palframan had set up the environment and carbon net zero noticeboards at the back for people to look at, at the end of this meeting. Karen explained that going for the Eco Silver award will mean the whole church will have to get on board with it and be involved.

12. Steering Group Report

There were no questions to the report. Peter thanked all the people that had contributed to the group. It may eventually be assimilated back into PCC.

The Vicar's Report, PCC Secretary's Report, Electoral Roll Officer's Report, Deanery Synod Representative's Report, Safeguarding Report, Mission Committee Report, Environment Committee Report and Steering Group Report were accepted by the APCM, proposed by Mark Gurney, seconded by Caroline Watson. All were in favour. There was one abstention.

13. PCC and Deanery Synod Elections

PCC - The number of elected PCC member vacancies is 6. Karen Oxtoby had received nominations from the following five parishioners:

Mark Gurney, Janet Munro, Peter Debney, Mary Booluck and Nicola Stewart. The APCM was happy to accept all nominations. Jennifer expressed an interest but would like to know more.

Deanery Synod - St John's is allowed four representatives on the Deanery Synod. Lynn Haygarth is happy to remain on the Deanery Synod. There were no further nominations. The APCM was happy to accept Lynn as deanery synod representative. None against or abstained.

14. Appointment of Independent Examiner

The APCM appointed Karen Gardner as independent examiner again for the 2025 accounts. Proposed Caroline Watson, seconded Julia Jordan.

15. Any Other Business

- Lynn questioned the fact that the Open the Book team was not mentioned. Peter informed everyone that it is mentioned in the Annual Report. Lynn asked for more helpers. This is a valuable mission outreach into schools once per month.

- Andy Copsey stated that he felt we might be letting some people down where we livestream the service on zoom with inferior quality. There is a need to get together a technical team to decide how we can improve the livestreaming and to decide what needs to be done. It may also require helping people navigate their own technology. Andy is happy to drive this forward.

- Peter thanked St John's on behalf of Otley Christian Resources Hub for accommodating their resources.

- Peter also thanked everyone for being a forbearing and loving congregation and for all the support given. He particularly mentioned everyone involved in the music ministry teams, the clergy team, the welcomers, the technical team and the people who prepare the refreshments. He particularly also expressed his thanks to Tom, our Caretaker and to Bev, our church administrator.

Very special thanks to the Rev Peter Willox.

16. The date of the next APCM is to be confirmed. Most likely 18th May 2026.

The meeting closed with The Grace.