



Minutes of the Annual Church Family Meeting - Sunday 18th May 2025

The meeting was chaired by Paul Langham. He began the meeting in prayer.

The church family were advised that there would be opportunities during the meeting to raise questions. Finance related questions will be addressed by the Finance team and general questions will be addressed by Paul Langham.

Apologies received: Alison Capey, Barny Collins, Naomi Collins, David Daniels, Helen Daniels, Chris Davis, Nelly Davis, Claire Harman, Charles Kinsey, Kathleen Lane, Mark Orriss, Zach Parsons, Helen Parsons, Graham Stuart, Maggie Stuart, Rebecca Wattiau, Gaetan Wattiau.

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

1. Appointment of a secretary to the Annual Meeting of Parishioners.

Tavi Price was elected to serve as Secretary to the meeting.

2. Electoral roll

Since the last APCM, a new Electoral Roll has been prepared. This is something that happens every six years and means that everyone had to re-apply. There are 286 members of the new Electoral Roll. This compares to 303 members last year. Compared to the old roll, there are 66 new additions to the roll and 83 members of the old roll did not re-apply.

3. Minutes of the last meeting – 19th May 2024

These were displayed on the church website www.ccweb.org.uk/agm and circulated via email in advance of the meeting. No amendments or matters arising have been raised.

The minutes were approved by the meeting

4. Election of Churchwardens.

Churchwardens are Bishop Officers and are elected annually.

Di Noon (nominated by Mei Yen Furey and Daphne Yeung) Mark Orris (nominated by Tavi Price and Patrick Bolster) have agreed to stand again and were therefore elected for a further year.



Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Family Meeting – Sunday 18th May 2025

The APCM followed on immediately after the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and was chaired by Paul Langham.

In accordance with the Christ Church's customs some of the routine business of the meeting is conducted prior to the meeting including the following:

- **Appointment of a secretary to the APCM.**
Tavi Price was elected to serve as Secretary to the meeting.
- **Appointment of Independent Examiner/Auditor**
Burton Sweet has been reappointed as our 2025 Independent Examiner/Auditor.

1. Minutes of the last meeting – Sunday 19th May 2024.

These were displayed on the church website www.ccweb.org.uk/agm and circulated via email in advance of the meeting. No amendments or matters arising have been raised.

The minutes approved by the meeting.

2. Elections and Appointments.

There were 6 places available for election to PCC (out of a total of 15) and 3 places available for election to Deanery Synod (out of a total of 5) at the meeting.

4 members are stepping down at the APCM after completing two 3-year terms: John Butler, Mark Ellis, Mei Yen Furey & Tavi Price.

9 nominations were received as follows:

Nominations for PCC	Proposed	Seconded
Alexandra Creavin	Patrick Bolster	John Butler
David Daniels	Colin Havill	Maggie Stuart
Phil Douglas	Jack Reed	Annabel Reed
Danish Gill	Joseph Gill	Giles Chanot
Claire Harman	Annabel Reed	Brittany Collie
Helen Parsons	Mark Ellis	Mei Yen Furey
Sam Pictor	Nick Carter	Richard Moon
Finn Price	Jack Reed	Annie Price
Rebecca Wattiau	Jonathan Hendry	Chole Young

As more than 6 candidates were nominated, those members of the electoral roll present at the gathering voted, and the following were elected: Alexandra Creavin, David Daniels, Danish Gill, Helen Parsons, Sam Pictor and Rebecca Wattiau.

3. Deanery Synod:

Christ Church can have 5 representatives on Deanery Synod – currently we have two:

- Di Noon
- Cluff Noon

Therefore, there are 3 vacancies, and 2 nominations were received and were therefore duly elected

Nathan Kellner - Proposed by: Mark Parsons, Seconded by: Alyssa Carey

Gaenor Senior Smith - Proposed by: Mark Parsons, Seconded by: Sue Poole

4. Safeguarding Update:

Our Parish Safeguarding Officers are:

- Gaye Senior Smith – Adult safeguarding
- Sam Wright – Adult Safeguarding
- Jon Bowden – Children safeguarding
- Sandy Buckland – Children safeguarding.

Christ Church is committed to following the safeguarding policies of the Church of England, the safeguarding policy and guidance as issued by the Diocese of Bristol and commits to working within legislation and statutory guidance as related to the Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Adults. Our Safeguarding Policy, Guidance Notes for volunteers and details of our Parish Safeguarding Officers can be found on our website (www.ccweb.org.uk/safeguarding).

Paul prayed for the Parish Safeguarding Officers.

5. Finance Report – Dave Vernon

The Finance Team are: David Vernon, Patrick Bolster, Annabel Reed, Susannah Mason, Mark Parsons

2024 Summary

- Budget for 2024 was for a £19k surplus
- End of year position was a £64k surplus
- We started the year (1 January 2024) with cash reserves at £196k and ended the year with cash reserves at £259k, but this is where we need to be as it's important we hold reasonable reserves
- PCC's current reserves policy is £125-175k so comfortably above this
- £259k represents 6 months of expenditure

2024 income – budget v actual

- We ended the year with a surplus that was £45k higher than budgeted
- Regular giving was slightly down than budgeted
- Surplus largely due to one off gifts, an insurance claim payout and higher interest income from Oakfield Road

Update on Oakfield Road

- The transfer of funds from the receipt of the sale of Oakfield Road is now complete
- Funds held in a Church of England investment fund

- Interest received quarterly
- Restores the income lost when Mama Bears moved out of the property in 2021

Income

- 75% of our income comes directly from the giving of the church family (plus gift aid claimed)
- The rest of our income comes from investments (including Oakfield Road – 15%), rental income, grants and events income
- We don't receive any help from the wider CofE or the government
- Thank you so much to everyone who gives regular giving makes all the difference

Expenditure

- Diocese of Bristol - Parish Share – 34% – pays for clergy, housing clergy training, church schools and diocesan costs
- Staff costs – 27%
- Running costs of church & Linden Gate including utilities – 18%
- Mission work overseas and in the city – 12%
- The rest is spent on office and Gathering costs, plus governance costs

Looking ahead to 2025

- 2025 budget is for a deficit of £29k – expenditure higher than income
- If we compare 2024 income vs 2025 budget, key differences:
 - One off gifts – can't predict these
 - Rental income – due to the renting out of Linden Gate flats
 - Investment income – lower due to our expectation of falling interest rates
- If we compare 2024 expenditure vs 2025 budget, key differences:
 - Staff costs - Looking to increase our staff costs – Buildings Manager, the hopeful appointment of a Children's and Families Pastor (Tomasita Carmona is currently giving her time and energy as a volunteer)
 - Church building maintenance
 - Parish Share
- How are we tracking to budget? Based on data to end of March, we are currently tracking broadly to budget for 2025 – deficit is currently £7k lower than budgeted for this point in the year
 - We made a prudent expectation of interest income so interest income is currently higher than budgeted – this is due to interest rates not falling as quickly as we thought, however they are coming down
 - However giving is lower than budgeted
 - Staff costs are lower than budgeted as staff not yet appointed
- 50/50/50 - looking for £50k of new or increased regular giving
 - As previously mentioned, 75% of income comes from the church family
 - One off gifts are so important and valuable, but in terms of planning/budgeting, regular giving is so helpful

If you are new to CC and not yet giving, or have been giving for some time but are in a position to increase your giving, visit www.ccweb.org.uk/give, pick up a My Giving leaflet or talk to Mark. And please Gift Aid if you can - check with HMRC and your tax code.

6. Questions

Sam Creavin submitted 3 questions before the meeting:

1. *What led pre-school not to be able to pay rent this year?*

PL responded: The pre-school has faced significant financial challenges since Covid, therefore Rental holiday granted by PCC. Pre-schools are tending to struggle where now most parents are needing wrap around care

Regular contact with trustees

2. *Question on budget – lots being spent on international projects – no feedback on these projects
What about more local projects/supporting people? Could the PCC re-visit this at a future meeting?*

PL gave some background on this: Culture changes on the giving pattern, as people get younger they tend to direct their giving to where they want the money to be used – i.e. what they give to CC they assume will be used by CC and will give separately to charities / causes rather than through CC.

Bible translations – CC has supported them for over 30 years

All mission partners send prayer updates

One long standing mission partner will finish this year

As this question has been raised it will be following up at a future PCC

3. *What impact will the NI contribution increases as at 01 April have on the budget next year?*

£380 /month as it stands with our current staff, rising to - £520 / month if all appointments are made.

John Butler asked a question from the floor:

Question for Paul: The role of the church is to bring people in. Over his incumbency we have lost more than we have gained – what could have been done differently? Any advice for the next vicar/us?

PL – I will be encouraging us as part of my talk later to keep pursuing God's Kingdom and to keep relying on God's spirit and to continue to do what we say we do – **Help people to find Jesus and to follow him wholeheartedly**. People have gone out to serve/lead in other churches and there have been waves of people leaving over the years to do this from Christ Church. There are now more churches doing what Christ Church was doing many years ago. Woodies and other Word and Spirit churches weren't around when Christ Church was in its heyday. Other ways in which The Church has changed and the impact this has had will be covered later.

7. Remembering and Thankyou's

Paul remembered the following people who have died in the last year

- Phillada Cosham, Beryl Collins, John Harding, Pam Ive, Glennis Mills

Paul began by thanking those people stepping down from their current area of ministry:

- Tavi Price was presented with a token of gratitude for doing PCC minutes and now stepping down as PCC secretary
- Ruthy Lillington – stepped down last July as our kid's pastor
- Henry Morgan – stepped down as a Small Community leader
- Caroline Orris – stepping down from her role in kid's church
- Esther Gill – stepping down from tot's church

- Emma Hennessey – stepping down from tot’s church
- Krystyna & Kamran Zahid – 7 Cakes Café has now sadly closed

The church family gave all the above a round of applause to show appreciation of their service.

Some more acknowledgments were given:

- Sarah Douglas for the amazing “Welcome” display in the foyer
- Miss T (Tomasita) – heading up our kid’s ministry as a volunteer

When you see them, please offer your own personal thanks.

Often PL gives thanks to those whose work goes potentially unnoticed/behind the scenes ministry areas but this time he wanted to focus on an area that is completely evident and that is his colleagues in the Senior leadership team, **Chris Brown, Mark Parsons and Janet Lee**

It is evident that the church family has confidence in this shared leadership team, being borne out by the lack of anxiety being displayed in Paul and Jackie’s departure. The church family have confidence / faith in how this team will lead CC forward into the next season, along with the church wardens – diocesan officers and trustees support.

The church family showed their appreciation.

Paul’s final thank you was to Jackie.

8. Vicar’s Address:

Paul’s talk can be found using the link here: <https://youtu.be/omvt9ACtooQ?t=5489>

Summary

Kingdom Living

- Prioritise the Kingdom of God
- Matthew 5-7 – the Beatitudes and the Lords prayer – seek first the kingdom of God
- Acts 1: 4-5 - Necessity of the holy spirit
- Matt 5: 13-16 - Salt and Light
- This is how my followers will be in the world
- He was not calling people to a private faith
- We are here for them – for those not in here but there
- Don’t dilute your faith – only thing that makes salt less salty is dilution
- Do not hide your light – why would you?
- Culture shifts – looking at the difference between building the church or building the Kingdom – which is true of us as church / as individuals?

Church	Kingdom
Energy in	Energy out
What suits me	Needs of lost
Place of Retreat	People of Rescue
‘Conversion’ – [just] Saving Souls	Shaping Culture
Programme	Presence
Self-reliant	Spirit-reliant
Here I am Lord, send her [Mission = send others	Here I am Lord [We are missionaries]
Clergy / Staff do everything	An army equipped for service

Church	Kingdom
You (consumer) – Obligation	Us (ownership) – Desire
Pretence	Authenticity
Closed	Open
Risk-averse (Safe)	Risk-taking
Possible	Impossible
Control	Release
Success – internal	Success – impact
Event we attend	Life done together

Paul concluded by asking the question – what is our part – where can I bring the flavour of heaven this week?

It's not that the church of God has a mission
but that the God of mission has a church

The meeting place
is the training place
for the marketplace

John Wimber