

PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY, SHORTLANDS

Minutes of a Meeting of Parishioners and of the 106th Annual Parochial Church Meeting of St Mary's, Shortlands

Held on Sunday 11th May 2025 in the church following the 10.30 service

MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

The meeting opened at 12.01pm with welcome, introduction and thanks from the Chair, Revd Dave Edmondson, followed by Prayers.

Special thanks were given by Revd Dave to the Churchwardens Robin Hogg and Gloria Sherman for work done during the interregnum and for helping to settle his family into the church.

Election of Churchwardens by a public vote

The Chair stated that there were two nominations for Church Warden: Robin Hogg (proposed by Suzie Evans and seconded by Constance Rumak) and Gloria Sherman (proposed by Robin Hogg and seconded by Derek Cooper). The Chair proposed that both candidates be accepted and they were appointed by a public vote which was unanimous with no abstentions.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING at 12.05pm

Present: Revd Dave Edmondson (*in the Chair*), Robin Hogg and Gloria Sherman (*Churchwardens*), Jay Sharma (*Secretary*), Tim Dawson (*Treasurer*) and parishioners.

1. Minutes of the 106th Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The minutes of the 105th Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on **Sunday 19th May 2024**, which had been shared online and displayed on the church noticeboard, were taken as read.

There were no amendments to the minutes. Proposed by Revd Dave, Seconded by Robin Hogg and voted in favour, that the minutes be approved and signed

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were none.

3. Presentation of the Electoral Roll

The Chair explained the importance of being on the Electoral Roll and that the Roll was renewed every six years, and this year was one such year. The Electoral Roll was presented. The total number on the Roll was 145. It was noted that 68 were resident within the parish and 77 outside, which was an indication of the strength of the church. Entry on the Roll was compulsory for members of the PCC.

Acceptance of the Roll was Proposed by The Chair and seconded by the Secretary and agreed by majority vote.

4. Election of PCC members

The Chair explained who could stand for election to the PCC, the various ways to be on the PCC and the remit of PCC members according to the Charity Commissioners. The PCC members – comprising Churchwardens, Elected members, Deanery Synod members and Licensed Lay Ministers – were introduced to the parishioners.

5. Thanks to members standing down from the PCC

The Chair thanked the three members standing down from the PCC this year. Dr. David Jeffreys LL.M, Dr. Pauline Lambourne and Jay Sharma and presented each of them with a token of appreciation.

There were five vacancies on the PCC and five candidates:

1. Tim Dawson: **Proposed by** Jay Sharma and **Seconded** by Robin Hogg was elected as Treasurer.

2. Helen Bird: **Proposed by** Jay Sharma and **Seconded** by Gloria Sherman was elected unanimously as Secretary.

The other three candidates were:

3. Toks C Taylor: **Proposed by** Glo Sherman and **Seconded by Robin Hogg**,

4. Suzie Evans: **Proposed by** Glo Sherman and **Seconded** by Robin Hogg

5. Julie Fox: **Proposed by** Jay Sharma and **Seconded** by Pat Chase

The Chair proposed they be accepted, seconded by Tim Dawson and they were duly elected by a majority vote.

6. Election of Deanery Synod Representatives

There was no election this year

7. Financial Report – Presentation of Examined Accounts for 2023

The Treasurer presented the Financial Report and confirmed that copies of the full Charity Commission accounts were available for inspection online and at the back of the church. He drew attention to Page 13 in the first column which showed the unrestricted funds for the day to day running of church and the second column which showed restricted funds for specific items. In 2024 a large donation of £30,000 was received, restricted for use in connection with the upgrading of the Tea Station. The General Fund showed a deficit of £16,000 in the unrestricted income and expenditure for running the church and all its activities. Restricted funds were funds set aside for specific purposes including a repair fund for the Hall, one for the Church, and one for the Future Generations Project.

The Treasurer was asked how many people signed up for regular giving. The Treasurer said the number of people signed up was roughly the same as last year.

The accounts had been approved by the PCC and were received. The Chair thanked the Treasurer for all his work in producing them.

It was proposed by Catherine Bingham and seconded by Robin Hogg that the accounts be accepted. This was agreed by a majority vote. The Chair thanked the Treasurer once again.

8. Presentation of the Annual Report to December 2024

It was noted that the Annual Report was a legal document covering the last 12 months' activities with detailed explanations and aspirational items including the vacancy. The Annual Report covered the full 12-month period to December 2024.

It was proposed by the Chair and seconded by Claire Tillotson, and agreed unanimously, that the Report be accepted.

9. Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2025

The Chair explained that it is a requirement of our Charity status that we have an Independent Examiner to examine our accounts. It was proposed by the Chair and seconded by the Secretary, and agreed unanimously, that Graham Smedley be appointed as Independent Examiner for 2025.

10. Report on the Fabric and Ornaments

Robin Hogg presented the Report and highlighted the following:

- Last year expensive work was carried out on the main church roof, and Faculty applications had been submitted retrospectively for removal of the pews and installation of the AV system.
- Looking ahead to next year there was work to be done on coping stones replacement and repair or replacement of Church House windows.

The question was raised of whether some of the £30,000 donation could be used for the work to the coping stones and windows. Robin Hogg explained that the donation was for a fixed purpose and was restricted to that.

Proposed by Cathy Myers and Seconded by Toks Taylor that the report be accepted. This was agreed by a majority vote.

Robin Hogg also presented the Terrier report which is a full inventory and photographic record of the contents of the church. This list is particularly valuable if any items go missing.

11. Deanery Synod Report

There were no elections this year

Churches Together in Beckenham is in Beckenham Deanery (there were 17 deaneries altogether) and chaired by the Area Dean. There were exciting things coming up this year.

The Chair proposed we accept the Report; this was seconded by Gloria Sherman and agreed unanimously.

The Members were thanked for their input

12. Safeguarding Report

Pauline Lambourne and Robin Hogg were thanked for their report.

The Chair reminded Parishioners that Safeguarding was a responsibility of us all.

It was proposed by Tim Dawson and seconded by Kay Coleman, and agreed unanimously, that the Safeguarding Report be accepted.

13. Additional Reports

None as all were incorporated in the main Annual Report.

14. Vicar's Report 2025

The Vicar thanked everyone who had welcomed him and his family to St Mary's Shortlands; the acts of kindness, warmth and welcome had meant a lot, and he felt the Licensing service was celebrating this Parish and the church. He and his family were seeking to make this community and Church their home.

He wanted to celebrate the activities of the Church since the last APCM; the interregnum seemed to have been far from unsettling and God appeared to have been at work in this Church and Parish. As a thank you to everyone who served faithfully during that time, he brought some little chocolate gifts for all.

He particularly thanked by name Jane Peters, who had led so many services; Ann-Marie Jefferys who had worked so hard on the rota and making sure there has always been cover; and the Licensed Lay Ministers, Catherine Bingham and David Jeffreys, who had added so much to the worship at St Mary's. He presented them with gifts and wished them fruitfulness in their ministry.

In addition, Claire Tillotson musical director was thanked you for all that she does as a core part of worship. Rachel Tillotson was also thanked for leading the children and youth.

Looking to the future, he was excited to see what God is going to be doing and how he is going to be moving in this Church and Parish. His hope and prayers were that our heart for God would grow, individually and collectively.

As he had been praying for this church the verse 1 Corinthians 16:14 stood out for him : **Let all that you do be done in love.**

His prayer for this Church was that all we do be done in Christ's love. Not simply our weekly worship but how we welcome people into this church; use our buildings and our grounds; plan, support each other and all our work together That this Church becomes a beacon which shines Christ's love to this whole parish but we ourselves carry this light and love wherever we go.

As his ministry here begins, he would like to get to know this church and community, what we are really good at, what makes St Mary's St Mary's. Over the coming months he planned to visit all of the actives and groups in church and asked that people invite him to their activity. He and his family also planned to have informal bring and share picnics after church in the vicarage garden in June, July and August.

He had also always valued the opportunity to meet with people one-to-one, and aimed to do this with everyone here, and would also be seeking to get to know our community and the groups which use our hall.

He was also excited about the Future Generations project and prayed that, as this continues to progress, we will as a whole church journey together with this.

He said *"It is a privilege to minister here with so many faithful, talented and Christlike people. I am excited to share in ministry with you all knowing that God is calling us all to become more like him. Remembering that we are not doing this on our own but through the empowering and love presence of God."*

15. Any other business

There was none

The meeting closed with the Grace at 12.40pm.

Date Chair