

**CHRIST CHURCH, SOUTHGATE  
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETINGS  
held in Church on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

Meetings commenced at 11.20 am

**Chair:** The Rev'd Dr Chrichton Limbert (FrCh)

**Prayers:** led by Fr Chrichton

**In attendance:** 32

FrCh said that the meeting would be recorded to help with the minutes.

**Apologies for Absence:** Ray Harris, Jill Holiday, Stephen Mason, Sylvia Keck, Winnie Maynard, Cathy Dallman, Sophie Cook

(1) **ANNUAL MEETINGS OF PARISHIONERS**

1. **Minutes from previous meeting**

Minutes from the previous meeting of Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2024 were accepted nem con.  
Proposed: Freya Carroll; seconded Pat Hawkins.

2. **Matters Arising**

None.

3. **Election of Churchwardens**

FrCh said that Kate Carroll had been nominated by Pat Hawkins and Hilary Meur, and Graham Cook had been nominated by Caroline Robertson and Katie Robertson, to stand as the Churchwardens.

**Elected: nem con.**

4. **Any Other Business.**

None.

In the absence of any other business, FrCh formally closed the meeting and invited those not on the Electoral Roll to withdraw.

(2) **ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

1. **Minutes from previous meeting**

Minutes from the previous meeting of 26<sup>th</sup> May 2024 were **accepted nem con.**  
Proposed: Clare Boulton; seconded: Judith Limbert.

2. **Matters arising from the minutes**

None.

3. **Consideration of reports**

FrCh referred everyone to the Annual Report which had been made available in church and online via the church website.

3a. **Presentation of the Electoral Roll**

Patricia Ashby (PA), the Electoral Roll Officer, confirmed that the electoral roll had been had been completely renewed. She said that when it had closed on 6th April, the number had dropped from 232 in May 2024 to 225, due to deaths and people moving away. However, taking into account those that no longer attended but were still on the electoral roll it was believed that the real number had actually been nearer to 200. During the renewal period PA said 47 new names were added, 12 names were removed (6 who had died during the year and 6 who had moved away) leaving a total of 187. She said this number had already risen and she believed that this would continue, as those who had not managed to renew in time for the new roll, but did attend Christ Church, were added.

FrCh thanked PA for her work.

In conclusion, the overall total of the roll had reduced by 45 from 232 in May 2024 to 187 in May 2025.

3b. **Consideration of the Annual Report of the proceedings of the PCC and the activities of the Parish**

FrCh referred everyone to the annual report.

FrCh said it was a year of 'continued consolidation and gentle growth of attendance'

FrCh highlighted the following events

- 3 marriages, 15 baptisms and 10 funerals;
- Claire Betts an ordinand at Christ Church had been ordained priest at Bush Hill Park.
- Fr Paul Ellerby had finished his first year as a Priest;
- Anna Hughes had moved onto another church to continue her ordination which required 3 years in 2 different churches;
- Simon Walkden had put himself forward for Lay Readership;
- the travels on the London Underground of the travelling crib had been shared on social media and picked up by over 300 media outlets, including radio, BBC website and newspapers. PA media estimated the story had appeared on over 200 different platforms around the world;
- ABRSM exams had taken place in the church;
- various talks and visits had taken place including Open House and Palmers Green U3A;
- the Harvest quiz had gone well;
- the choir had performed in Leipzig and had bade farewell to Richard Brain the Director of Music. FrCh said that, although it had been very sad to lose Richard, William Waine had stepped into the role very well indeed.
- Fabric work had been undertaken
- the Stewardship campaign had been successful.

FrCh said it had been a wonderful year and thanked everyone who had contributed.

FrCh drew attention to the following in the Annual Report:

- the Outreach Report including the website, the Vicar's weekly newsletter, the Spire, talks and visits and thanked everyone involved: Freya Carroll, Imogen Cooper, Hilary Meur, Clare Boulton, Caroline Robertson, Graham Cook, Richard Brain, Will Waine and Judith Limbert.
- the Sidesmen's report. FrCh said that the Sidesmen were all greatly appreciated as they provided a very important welcome and he sincerely thanked everyone in the team.
- the Children and Youth report. Judith Limbert (JL) said that she wanted to underline the feedback from the parents who had a different pattern of attendance and sometimes only attended once or twice a month. She said that they really appreciated the fact that they were not expected to attend every week, and yet when they did, were always made to feel very welcome. JL said she thought this was very important, especially as a way for the church to grow younger and hoped that it would long continue, as even the very irregular attendees still very much felt that they were part of the Christian community at Christ Church. Sandra Anderson added that it was also important that tolerance was shown to families with young children who should not feel discouraged if they made any noise. Hilary Meur asked everyone to give a big thank you to JL for all the fantastic work she had done with children and the Children's Corner.
- FrCh said there had been many school visits. Kate Carroll added that over the last 6 months she and Graham Cook had been shadowing FrCh in preparation for his retirement and they had become aware of the massive amount of hard work that FrCh and JL put into so many things and it had been revelatory that what was seen in church was only the tip of the iceberg. KC said that the churchwardens and PCC were keen to continue their extraordinary work in encouraging local schools to come into the church and that it had been a privilege for GC and her to be part of some of the children's services and events and to see the church full of children who were happy and excited to be there and in a space that was familiar and welcoming. KC thanked FrCh and JL wholeheartedly.
- Social Responsibility Committee Report which detailed a remarkably strong year in terms of donations and supporting other organisations. He thanked Hilary Meur and her team for their exceptional work.
- Eco Report. He highlighted the success of the gardening team which was clearly now able to make positive changes to the churchyard and garden, rather than just maintaining it.

### 3c. **Finance Report and Acceptance of the Audited Accounts**

Clare Boulton referred everyone to the Annual Report and the Accounts and highlighted:

- Income had remained broadly stable - only down about 1% (c.£1000). On the unrestricted fund, expenditure had been rather mixed due in part to inflation and the costs of heating and lighting. c.£40,000 had also been invested in replacing the windows at Oakfield Road which had led to a deficit in church funds but this had enabled the property to be rented out going forward. On the restricted fund, there had also been a deficit as c.£70,000 had been spent on overboarding the chancel ceiling. However, CB said people left money to the restricted fund for the purpose of maintaining the church so it was important to spend it in this way.
- Stewardship campaign. CB thanked everyone who had responded positively to this and said Mick Meur would be writing an article in the forthcoming Spire on its outcome. CB also thanked the campaign committee for all their hard work on this.
- Going forward there were a couple of faculties underway for a replacement garden gate and tile repairs by the vestry door but no major expenditure.

- CB wanted to draw attention to the fact that it was very likely that the Listed Place of Worship Grant scheme, a government funded scheme which allowed for the reclaim of VAT on work in the church building, would be discontinued. CB expected confirmation in July/August but it meant that it would add 20% on all work on the fabric in the future.
- CB wanted to record her grateful thanks to all those who helped manage the money – counting it after the services and who worked on committees generating money. In particular she extended her thanks to Mick Meur for all his work behind the scenes on both Parish Centre management finances and counting collections and administering gift aid.

CB requested the acceptance of the accounts; proposed Patricia Ashby; seconded Sandra Anderson.  
**Accepted: nem con.**

FrCh expressed his great thanks to CB for the enormous amount of work that she did as Treasurer and behind the scenes.

### 3d. **Fabric Report**

Kate Carroll referred everyone to her report adding that in a church of this age, there was a constant need for maintenance. She said the process was slow as most work required applying for a faculty from the Diocese. She highlighted:

- Chancel Ceiling: this had been overboarded to prevent further plaster falls and to keep those in the chancel and choir safe.
- Ongoing work included replacement of the garden gate and work on the tiles by the vestry door.

FrCh thanked Kate and her team for all of her work and said that the church was in remarkable condition.

### 3e. **Deanery Synod**

FrCh referred everyone to the Report.

## 4. **Elections and Appointments**

### a) Representatives to the PCC

The ending of the terms of office of Imogen Cooper 3 vacancies on the PCC, 2 having been carried over from the previous year.

The following 3 had applied for election to the PCC

Imogen Cooper	proposed by Kate Carroll; seconded by Jemima Carroll
Adrian Hill	proposed by Bea Limbert-Mason; seconded by Philip Miall
Simon Walkden	proposed by Kate Carroll; seconded by Graham Cook

FrCh proposed that all those nominated should be elected. **Agreed nem.con**

FrCh thanked all those on the PCC and said it was encouraging that it was a good, young, active group of people.

### b) Deanery Synod Representative

There were no elections to the Deanery Synod.

### c) Anthony Croft Ezekiel Independent Examiner/Auditor

CB requested the reappointment of Anthony Croft Ezekiel for the following year. Proposed: Pat Hawkins; Seconded by Chris Chessum.

5. **Any Other Business**

KC wanted to record her huge thanks to everyone who made the services so special at Christ Church – those that served and did the intercessions; the lay readers – Cathy, Jackie and Sandra; Caroline in the office; Fr Paul; Rev Hazel and Philip. She said she was enormously grateful for everything they did. She also wanted to mark the last APCM that would be chaired by FrCh by thanking him for everything he had done with the extraordinary support of JL. She said FrCh and JL would be an incredibly hard act to follow and everyone was extremely grateful to them.

There being no other business, FrCh declared the meeting closed.

**Date of next Annual Meeting Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2026 to be confirmed**

**CR: 30/05/25**