

St Kenelm's Church. Enstone

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Held in the Church on Sunday 18th May 2025 at 11.30

Present: The Revd Mark Abrey (Chair), Ashley Rogers, Angela Taylor, Annette Lawrence, Holly McGee, Dawn Briggs, Penny Silva, Charles Powell, Stella Waterer, Louise and Julian Ferguson Davies

Apologies: Rosy Nixon, Rosa Canning, Adrian Pallett, Jill Elliot, Isobel and Jeremy Goulding

Vestry Meeting

1. Election of Churchwardens. No nominations have been received so we are unable to elect Churchwardens. Gratitude was expressed for those on the PCC and in the congregation who have taken on some of the roles of Churchwarden, particularly Penny Silva.

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2. Report on the Electoral Roll

In preparation for this meeting a new Electoral Roll for the Church has been prepared. The Electoral Roll now has 35 members - up from 32 last year.

3. Presentation and receipt of the Annual Report on proceedings of the Parochial Church Council and activities of the Parish (circulated)

The PCC's Annual report was circulated in advance of the meeting - the relevant pages are 1 – 5, including the Safeguarding statement. The Report aims to show a snapshot of life in the parish during 2024. Thanks were expressed to those on the PCC who have helped with the compilation of the report. There was an opportunity for members of the Electoral Roll to comment on the report, or on life in the parish/Benefice.

Mark thanked all who had helped in compiling the Report, and especially all who had contributed to the Church's common life: Ilona, the PCC members, the musicians (Elsa Williams, Rosy, and the choir), the visiting clergy, the refreshment makers and servers, Jenny Markham and the flower team, the Bell ringers, and Julian Watts for setting the clock time when needed. The report was received by the meeting.

4. Finances

The Financial Statement and accounts were also circulated - pages 5 - 17. Of key importance is the Finance report on page 5 -6. Ashley Rogers was thanked for serving as Treasurer for 12 years.

Mark reported that 2024 has been a year of improvement, following several challenging years. We met all our financial obligations in 2024, and achieved a surplus of unrestricted funds of £6,598, a significant improvement from the -£4,368 deficit in 2023.

Key contributors to this turnaround include: the Fundraising letter (Dec 2023), resulting in a £4,145 increase in planned giving; £1,795 in donations and £291 in Gift Aid; monthly coffee mornings: £3,360; the sale of knitted goods: £3,800; and an increase in visitor donations (following the introduction of the fixed Credit card terminal in August): £592 (2023: £286).

This progress is due to the generosity and dedication of our donors and supporters, to whom we extend our deepest gratitude. We especially appreciate those who contribute their time and effort to fundraising activities, which are essential to the life and mission of our Church.

There were no comments from the meeting and the report was received with a show of hands.

5. Fabric

The first three paragraphs under the heading of Serving our Community (on page 4) are about the fabric. All the QI works had been completed during the year, except for the Lychgate repairs, and the painting of the downpipes.

Mark reported that volunteers from the Oxford Family History Society are transcribing the inscriptions on the tombstones. Eventually this information will be online, and will be charged for by the Church of England, not the parishes.

The meeting expressed grateful thanks to Charles Powell for his help and support over fabric matters, and the ongoing support from the Enstone Church Endowment Trust. Thanks also go to all those who work hard to make the Church welcoming to visitors, especially to Rosy Nixon and Dawn Briggs for their management of the Churchyard.

The report was received by the meeting with a show of hands.

6. Deanery Report

Pages 19-20 of the report. Rosy Nixon is our official Deanery Synod representative, and thanks were recorded to her for this. There were no questions or comments.

The report was received by the meeting with a show of hands.

7. Election of Deanery Synod members

No election was needed.

8. Election of Parochial Church Council members

There are five vacancies this year: Angela Taylor retires by rotation, and there are 4 vacancies carried from previous years.

Mark pointed out that Enstone Church is at a crossroads. For some years, we've had no Churchwardens, and our PCC has only four elected members—four positions remaining vacant. Sadly, two of our current members will be moving away later this year. That will leave us with just two. Clearly, unless we find more members, we will not be able to continue to do all the things that we do.

Charles Powell suggested that a request for volunteers be posted on the Church Enstone WhatsApp group, as there are already many Church Enstone locking/unlocking volunteers.

Louise Ferguson-Davies was nominated, elected, and thanked for her willingness to join the PCC.

9. Appointment of Independent Examiner

The meeting agreed to appoint Alison for the coming year, and agreed to give her a £75 voucher as a thank-you gift, in step with the other parishes.

10. Comments from the floor and suggestions for the new PCC

It was noted that the church clock is losing time, needing weekly adjustment. Someone from the Cumbria Clock Company is coming to look at it, and will show Julian Watts how to adjust it.

It was suggested that a poster advertising the coffee morning be placed in the Enstone shop each month.

Penny Silva reported that, despite having been serviced, the Hettie vacuum cleaner was not working. It was decided that an industrial-strength Henry replacement should be bought. Penny also reported that no Church cleaner had yet been found.

Mark was thanked by the meeting for his hard work in the Benefice, as was Ilona.

Mark thanked members for their attendance, and the meeting closed at 12.05 pm.