

MINUTES OF GREAT BRICKHILL ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING,

HELD IN THE CHURCH ON TUESDAY 13th MAY 2025 AT 7.30pm.

Attached to these Minutes are PDF files for the 2025 Annual Meeting Presentation slides, the Warden's Report and the Rector's Reflections - available on the website on the following page:- <https://brickhillschurches.org.uk/great-brickhill/annual-church-meeting/>

The Reverend John Waller took the chair.

The Rector opened the meeting with prayer, and welcomed all those attending.

PART I: THE ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING

ELECTION OF THE CHURCH WARDENS:

The Rector reminded the meeting that Church Wardens are elected by residents in the village. The current Warden, Julia Turner, was stepping down from the role having been Warden for a total of 16 years:- from March 2004 to April 2011 [7 years] and from April 2016 to May 2025 [9 years].

Two nominations were received for the Wardens' positions:-

<u>Name of Nominee:</u>	<u>Proposed By:</u>	<u>Seconded By:</u>
Phillipa Cook	Julia Turner	Sophia Walmsley
Stuart Jones	Julia Turner	Phillipa Cook

The above were duly elected. The Rector gave thanks to Julia Turner for her massive contribution over so many years, and to Stuart Jones for stepping up to take on the role.

Sophia Walmsley asked that the PCC at their next meeting discuss the fact that so many roles were filled by Phillipa Cook, and try and work out how duties and tasks could be shared out.

PART II: THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

APOLOGIES – Janet Pritchard, Patricia Telford.

A total of 13 parishioners were in attendance.

MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 9th APRIL 2024

The Minutes of the previous Annual Meeting had been made available in advance. There was no requirement to formally approve these Minutes.

ELECTIONS:

Up to six Members of the PCC.

The Rector informed the Meeting that the number of PCC members allowed for the size of our Electoral Roll is 6. At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in 2004 provision was made for the annual appointment of representatives on the PCC. There is also facility for two people to be co-opted on to the PCC during the year if there is good reason to add more people.

The Rector thanked all the members of the PCC for their contribution over the last twelve months. Nominations had been received for the three current members - Clare Hankins-Lewis, Sophia Walmsley and Diana Williams. With three nominations, no vote was required and all three were appointed by a show of hands.

The Treasurer, Neil Cook, would be co-opted on to the PCC at the first meeting after the Annual Meeting. One other person could be co-opted at any point during the year.

The Rector noted that the ex-officio members of the PCC are himself as incumbent, the Wardens and Jeremy Hopkinson as LLM and current Deanery Representative.

Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2025.

The Treasurer said that David Beatty had again acted as Independent Examiner for this year's accounts and was willing to continue for the 2025 accounts. Proposed by Jeremy Hopkinson and seconded by Stuart Jones, Mr. Beatty was duly appointed as Independent Examiner for 2025. The Treasurer recorded his thanks to David Beatty.

ELECTORAL ROLL:

The Rector advised the meeting that every 6 years a new Electoral Roll is formed. This year all members come off the Roll and everyone has to re-apply, but anyone can join the Roll at any time. The number that had joined the Electoral Roll before the meeting was 26, and one member joined at the meeting, bringing the total to 27 of whom 5 are not resident in the parish. These figures would be passed to the Diocese.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PARISH

The PCC secretary had prepared slides showing events and activities that had taken place over the last year, and referred to the main points in the written Annual Report, which had been made available in advance. The events covered were from the last Annual Meeting to the end of 2024, and also the current year 2025 to date:

- Sad loss during the year of Anne Humphreys, Alan Poynter and others
- Services and attendance records including the special services:- Pimms & Hymns, the Nativity, the Carol Service
- High Ash services
- Lent Course & Bible Group
- Monday Morning Coffee Club, which ceased in January 2025 due to declining numbers
- Food Box
- Communications
- Fundraising and Events including:- Brickstock teas, Open Garden teas, Christmas Coffee Morning, Carol Singing, Advent Windows, Snowdrop Walks, Plant Fayre
- Workdays on Saturdays 1st June after completion of the roof and ceiling repair work, & 28th September
- Quinquennial Inspection, 10th July. Main work roof and tower, completed January 2025
- The roof repairs, details and photographs, plus internal work on ceiling and walls
- Details of grants and costs for the roof work
- Future plans - preparatory work for Net Zero Carbon project

Other items on the slides included:-

THE POLICY DOCUMENTS:

The Rector referred to this section and noted that this is taken very seriously. All policy documents are on display in the church porch and on the website.. The annual Safeguarding review had taken place in November. The Safeguarding Policy and Domestic Abuse Policy were approved. For the year to 31st October there was a "nil report" of safeguarding issues, and no safeguarding incidents have been reported since then.

THE TREASURER'S REPORT INCL. THE ANNUAL REPORT:

Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts had been made available in advance of the Meeting. The Treasurer, Neil Cook, presented the financial statements for the year to 31st December 2024. He referred to the notes in the "Church Finances for 2024" section in the Annual Report. Slides were shown highlighting the main points.

The treasurer noted the deficit for the year of £1,286; the Parish Share paid for the year was £14k, the same as in 2023. The amount paid was again only two-thirds of the amount due to the Diocese, limited by the year end deficit as shown in the accounts.

A QR code has been set up via the credit card device and was used for carol singing and the Christmas services. The QR code is on display in the church for any visitors to make donations if they wish.

The Rector thanked the treasurer for his hard work throughout the year.

The Annual Report is the written narrative report plus the accounts. Adoption of the Annual Report was proposed by Stephen Agambar and seconded by Diana Williams. All in favour.

WARDEN'S REPORT ON THE CHURCH BUILDING AND ITS FABRIC:

Julia Turner gave her Warden's report for the year – see separate file.

The Rector thanked Julia for all her hard work throughout her two terms as Warden, 16 years in total. Photos were shown of Julia at various services and events over recent years, and the Rector presented Julia with flowers and a gift. Julia said that it had been a great experience and she had enjoyed welcoming so many people into the church. She said she would still be happy to assist in any way that she can.

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT:

The PCC Secretary referred to the Deanery Synod section of the Annual Report, and the two slides. News from the Diocese was that Bishop Dave Bull is the newly appointed Bishop of Buckingham, The Archdeacon, Guy Elsmore will be retiring in September.

REFLECTION FROM THE RECTOR:

The Rector said that he really appreciated the support that enabled him to have his three-month sabbatical from 13th April to 1st July. With his 65th birthday approaching, he gave a reflection on verse from 2 Corinthians 4 verse 16, "God is making new life". The Rector's notes are available in a separate PDF file.

The Rector gave his personal thanks to all who had contributed to the life of the church.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

None.

The Reverend John Waller thanked everyone for attending the meeting, which concluded with Compline at 8.30pm.