

Minutes

for the **Parishioners Meeting & the Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

Sunday 11th May 2025, 11am

Reviewed at PCC on 15th July 2025. Approved by the APCM on 10th May 2026.

Parishioners Meeting (Anyone living in the Parish and/or on the Electoral Roll can attend and vote)

Attendees: Conway Tearle, Rosemary Thurbon, Barbara Bird, Priscilla Thomson, Margaret Cadney, Elizabeth Bentley, Jean Parker, David Dannreuther, Peter Watson, Petra Woodford, Elmena Britton, Allison Streetly, Gail Treves-Brown, Jevan Green, Elizabeth Henriette, Fiona Barker, Philip Wood, Susan Wood, Catrin Cox, Sue Tearle, James Murdoch, John Bramson, Trudi Bramson, Adriaan Goosen, Sonja Goosen, Angela Stebbings, Christopher Henriette, Tanya Hilborne, Nasir Masih, Ian Butcher, Jonathan Warlof, Emily Warlof, Tsitsi Gladys Ekpo-Daniels, Christine Fitzgerald, David Kevin Shawne, Lucy Sawyer, Abel Wali, Fran Lechler, Nathan Lechler, John Stevens, Ann Lorek, Pete Burns (chair), Hannah Burns (minutes), Richard Burns.

Apologies: John Murray, Kirabo Frewin.

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer – Pete Burns.

2. Apologies for Absence - see above.

3. Declarations of Interest - none declared.

4. Approval of Minutes of the Parishioners (Vestry) meeting 12th May 2024

Proposed by Adriaan Goosen, seconded by Trudi Bramson. Majority in favour.

5. Matters Arising

Question raised regarding the PCC's decision making process regarding St. Peter's. This item was covered at the APCM 'Trustees report' agenda item.

6. Election of Church Wardens

James Murdoch and Sue Tearle were elected unopposed.

7. The Parishioners meeting closed at 11:40am.

Parish APCM (Anyone on the Electoral Roll can attend and vote)

1. Attendance

Attendees: Conway Tearle, Rosemary Thurbon, Barbara Bird, Priscilla Thomson, Margaret Cadney, Elizabeth Bentley, Jean Parker, David Dannreuther, Peter Watson, Petra Woodford, Elmena Britton, Allison Streetly, Gail Treves-Brown, Jevan Green, Elizabeth Henriette, Fiona Barker, Philip Wood, Susan Wood, Catrin Cox, Sue Tearle, James Murdoch, John Bramson, Trudi Bramson, Adriaan Goosen, Sonja Goosen, Angela Stebbings, Christopher Henriette, Tanya Hilborne, Nasir Masih, Ian Butcher, Jonathan Warlof, Emily Warlof, Tsitsi Gladys Ekpo-Daniels, Christine Fitzgerald, David Kevin Shawne, Lucy Sawyer, Abel Wali, Fran Lechler, Nathan Lechler, John Stevens, Ann Lorek, Pete Burns (chair), Hannah Burns (minutes), Richard Burns.

Apologies: John Murray, Kirabo Frewin

2. Declarations of Interest - None declared.

3. Approval Minutes of the APCM on 12th May 2024

Proposed by Trudi Bramson, seconded by Adriaan Goosen. The majority were in favour. Hard copies of the Minutes, Trustees Report and Annual Accounts are available at the Good Shepherd, or can be downloaded from the PCC page of the website:
www.goodpeter.org.uk/pcc

4. Matters Arising

The question regarding St.Peter's (raised in the vestry meeting) would be covered in agenda item 6. Trustees Report.

5. Update on Vacancy (sabbatical and interregnum) and process for finding and appointing a new Vicar) - James Murdoch

We expect a simplified process given there is no parochial reorganisation planned and we know that there will be an open process:

- The first priority is to keep the ministry and mission of the church strong, including the worship and church services. We expect very little changes visibly from what we put in place for the sabbatical, although some formal authorities move from the vicar to the churchwardens including safeguarding and compliance.
- We rely on a wider team taking responsibility to ensure that we continue to develop and don't stand still in the interregnum. We are blessed by having many volunteers in important roles here. Many of these activities and roles are mentioned in the Trustees Report.
- One important clarification is that a curate in training does not become priest-in-charge in the vacancy even if they take on some extra tasks and responsibilities. Our vicar's successor will be determined by an open process. However, Chris Henriette (curate in training) has been invited to apply.

- The process for finding the next vicar starts after the old vicar has left. In our case it was deemed that we could start the process on 8 May 2025. A parish has to put a parish profile in place, supported by a Mission Action Plan and answer a few questions from the Diocese; some neighboring parishes have taken a year to do this. However, we were able to use Bridget's sabbatical, and the fact that she has not attended PCC in 2025, to do the staff work and the PCC were able to approve the profile and answer the questions at a Section 11 meeting on 8 May 2025 (the first possible day). A copy of the draft parish profile can be passed round (it is not final as these copies had to be printed before the final sign off - the final version will be published next week). The parish profile was sent to the Diocese on 10 May 2025.
- The remaining stages of the process are:
 - Confirmation that the Patron and Bishop are happy with our profile - they can request a meeting to discuss
 - Agreeing the wording of the advert, with the Patron and the Diocese
 - Advertising for 6 weeks
 - Arranging parish visit for applicants
 - Interviewing (the panel would consist of the Archdeacon as the Bishop's representative, the Patron (rector of St. Margaret's, Lee) and two parish reps appointed by the PCC (Clare Johnson and Pete Burns).
 - Agreeing candidates to be represented to the bishop
 - Appointment, serving possible notice and commissioning service (if a curate in training were appointed, they would become curate-in-charge until signed off and then be commissioned).
- Target: before Christmas 2025. Stretch target: before autumn 2025. Backstop: before Easter 2026.
- The vicarage becomes the joint responsibility of the churchwardens and the diocese (who may let it out).
- If it is a long vacancy, the archdeacon may appoint an ex officio governor to the church school (Trinity).

6. Receipt of Trustees' Report on the past year (May 2024-April 2025)

- a. Aims and Purposes
- b. Objectives and Activities
- c. Achievements and Performance
- d. The Electoral Roll
- e. Safeguarding Report
- f. Fabric Report
- g. Deanery Synod
- h. Financial Report
- i. Reserves Policy
- j. Plans for Future Period
- k. Structure, Governance and Management
- l. Administrative Information

m. Approval

Matter raised in the Parish meeting: Question on the history of PCC decision making regarding St. Peter's church, and comment that the PCC had moved fast on this matter. Responses from those present at the meeting included:

- Signposting of page 4 of the trustees report. There had been a St.Peter's management group appointed (reporting to the PCC); the management group individuals were all committed members of the church, and were keen to retain St.Peter's as a Christ centered place of God. The cross above the door had been retained.
- The requirement for faculty, and marriage licence had been removed.The licence for worship has been retained (2 public services per year requirement). The two services were planned for: 29 June evening service led by the youth, and another service next term. CH welcomed involvement from volunteers to plan the service next term.
- The PCC voted to use the St.Peter's building to serve the community. There is another church who meets in the building.
- St.Peter's usage was discussed at the 2024 APCM, suggestion to refer to the minutes and report. In 2024 Bridget Shepherd set out the decision, and the prayer and consideration ahead of making the decision.
- The PCC has a clear purpose of the building within the community, and the future options for usage of the building remain open.

There were no questions on the trustee report. Acceptance of the report was proposed by John Bramson, seconded by Angela Stebbings, and the majority were in favour.

7. Receipt of Annual Accounts for 2024

- CT (PCC Treasurer) was present to respond to questions.
- There had been an increase in income of church funds, which were the highest level in the last 20 years; largely due to response to stewardship campaign.
- £10k donated by the public so far for the rebuilding of the church boundary wall.
- The pastoral fund was showing an amount spent, due to the Vicar deciding to spend some of the discretionary fund to support those in need.
- A question was raised regarding the Foodbank income, and a comment that the foodbank funds should be ringfenced from other funds.
- The church owned a property on Weigall Road, which did not have a recent valuation. The property had a current tenant, who was expected to leave in June 2025. The upcoming expected EPC legislation was likely to require increased spending on the property.
- Proposed we receive accounts: Ian Butcher, seconded Catrin Cox. Majority in favour.

8. Reflections

- a. Churchwarden - Sue Tearle

Our Children and Youth groups have been going from strength-to-strength thanks to increasing the numbers of volunteers and we will shortly be able to start a second older children's church group on a Sunday morning.

The St Peter's Management group have overseen the transition of St Peter's and continue to manage the building and the relationships with the users including Lee Green Lives.

Chris as our pioneer Curate has engaged with the Station Pub in Hither Green, setting up the charity pub quiz & Open mic night and continues to build relationships there with a great team.

Our financial position is strong and improved thanks to a successful Stewardship campaign, which resulted in increased giving . Our church community is well supported by volunteers but additional follow-up work is being done on resourcing our mission.

We have had a few fabric challenges –

1. The boundary wall - the fundraising has now started – latest figure is £8,850 plus any gift aid.
2. The Give to Go Green project to repair the west outer doors & replace the inner doors.

We received the grant and raised the £3,500 matched funding. However, the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) approval was dependent on significantly improving the disabled access, which appears costly, and discussions are ongoing with our quinquennial architect and contractors prior to obtaining a final Faculty and being able to start the work.

This is quite a list, so a huge thank you to everyone who has contributed this year in any way including - our services, music, children & youth groups, Stewardship campaign, Pastoral team, St Peter's Management group, all our social action groups, Hall Hire management, Schools work, PCC members, Finance team, Eco Group, Fair Trade, Flowers, Catering and many other areas often unseen.

Thanks to all who give time, money and effort we have been able to continue to develop during the sabbatical and feel well set up to survive the interregnum.

I would also like to thank Fiona our Administrator and Anne our Parish Safeguarding Officer for all their hard work in the background.

Finally I would like to thank James my fellow church warden who has done a tremendous amount this year and Chris our curate for all he has done this year and especially through the sabbatical.

Saying goodbye to Bridget has been hard, but we look forward to continuing to build on the work started by her.

Others were thanked for their work on PCC: Gladys Ekpo Daniels, Yi Baylis, Hannah Burns, and Pete Burns (for leading on the Parish Profile).

9. Elections

- a. Deanery Synod: 1 space for a 1 year term - no nominations
- b. PCC: 4 spaces available for a 3 year term: John Stevens, Richard Burns, Fran Lechler and John Murray, 2 spaces for a 1 year term: Kirabo Frewin and Moses Barker

10. Independent examiner

- a. John Howard was the Independent Examiner this year.
- b. The majority of those at the meeting were in favour of the PCC approaching John Howard in January 2026 to be the Independent Examiner (or to appoint someone else if he is unwilling/unavailable). This was proposed by Gladys Ekpo-Daniels, seconded by Angela Stebbings.

11. Any other business

Prayer to close, meeting closed 12:26pm.