



**PARISH OF ABINGDON**  
(St Helen's -- St Michael & All Angels' - St Nicolas')

**ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHONERS & ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**  
To be held on Thursday 30 April 2026  
in St Helen's Church, South Aisle

**AGENDA**

**ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHONERS 7:45pm**

1. Minutes of the meeting on Thursday 8 May 2025 (*attached p2*)
2. Election of six churchwardens, noting nominations by the Annual District Church Meetings (ADCMs)

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM) 8pm**

1. Opening prayer
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the APCM held on Thursday 8 May 2025 (*attached*)
4. Matters arising
5. Notification of any other business
6. Report on the 2026 revision of the Electoral Roll (*Kate Burland*)
7. Election of representatives of the laity (as nominated by ADCMs) to the PCC
8. Annual report on activities of the Parish in 2025 (*written report available*)
9. Report of the financial affairs of the Parish 2025 (*written report available*)
10. Appointment of Auditor and Independent Examiner for 2026
11. Team Vicar's Remarks
12. Any other business (as previously notified)



(St Helen's-- St Michael's --St Nicolas')  
**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS**  
**held on Thursday 8 May 2025**  
7.00 pm in St Michael & All Angels

**The Team Vicar led the opening devotions and welcomed those present**

**3. Approval of minutes from the Meeting of Parishioners for Thursday 18 April 2024**

There being no changes proposed the minutes, circulated in advance, were approved.

Proposed: Linda Hobbs; Seconded: Sue Scott and passed nem con by all those who attended the meeting.

**4. Resolution:**

the Team Vicar explained that a resolution to suspend the '6 year rule' was being proposed, to allow Joyce Kelly (St M) to stand again (having served 6 years) to provide stability in a time of change, and to benefit from her experience in the process for the appointment of a new Team Rector.

Members present expressed understanding, but emphasised that standing Wardens should not feel pressurised to stay in post longer than they wish.

The Archdeacon had confirmed that the resolution, as written was effective in perpetuity, but had said this could be rescinded by any future Annual Meeting of Parishioners.

The Resolution:

To suspend, in the Parish of Abingdon on Thames, the automatic disqualification of a member for the office of Churchwarden following six consecutive years of service.

This resolution may be rescinded at any future Annual Meeting of Parishioners

was proposed: Paul Rast-Lindsell; Seconded Beryl Clements and passed with one abstention

**5. Election of Church Wardens**

The following nominations had been received from the Annual District Church meetings:

- St Helen's: Margaret Horton proposed Jeanette Thomas, seconded Norman Gee  
David Pope proposed Chris Jeffries, seconded Rob Baugh
- St Michael's: Joyce Kelly proposed Louise Heffernan, seconded Peter Squire  
Louise Heffernan proposed Joyce Kelly, seconded Ming Ng
- St Nicolas': Eluned Hallas proposed Jenny Smith, seconded Roderick Smith

There being no further nominations from the floor the six Wardens were elected.

Proposed: Linda Hobbs; Seconded Sue Scott.

Passed nem con

The Team Vicar expressed thanks to Paul Rast-Lindsell for his time as Warden.

**Meeting Closed at 7.20pm**



(St Helen's-- St Michael's --St Nicolas')  
**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**  
**held on Thursday 8 May 2025**  
 7.20 pm in St Michael & All Angels

**Present:** The Revd Paul Smith (Chairman), Margaret B Adam, Revd Dr A K M Adam, Gwen Bevingdon, Revd Carol Bowman, Keith Bowman, Dr Jen Brown, Kate Burland, John Clare, Beryl Clements, Roger Cox, Jill Gant, Norman Gee, Hazel Glennie, Eluned Hallas, Louise Heffernan, Linda Hobbs, Pat Hudson, David Hudson, Revd Joyce Kelly, Sue Pemberton, David Pope, Paul Rast-Lindsell, Susan Read, Rob Rutherford, Sue Scott, Elizabeth Simpson, Lottie Sumer, Peter Sumner, Steve Thomas, Susan Worthington,

**Apologies:** Mary Anderson, Chris Brown, Hilary Claire, Sue Cox, Jenny Fishpool, Susan Gee, Alexander Green, Margaret Horton, Geoffrey Meen, Revd Rosalind Rutherford, Alex Scott, Jenny Smith, Roderick Smith

***MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING of last meetings***

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| 1 | Acceptance of the minutes of the APCM on Thursday 18 April 2024 was Proposed: David Pope; Seconded: Linda Hobbs. Passed nem con by all those who attended the meeting. |
| 2 | Matters Arising: none  |

***ANY OTHER BUSINESS – none notified***

***ELECTORAL ROLL – Kate Burland***

3 KB reminded those present that 2025 saw a complete revision of the Electoral Roll. This usually resulted in a fall in numbers – usually as a result of people moving away.  
 At the close of the Rolls the numbers had been:

	2025	2024
St Helen	146	229
St Michael	54	67
St Nicolas	53	62
	<b>253</b>	358

She expressed her thanks to Richard Kirby who had retired as Parish Electoral Roll Officer during the year, and expressed a willingness to take on the role of PRO

That Kate Burland be elected PRO for 2025/26 was Proposed: Revd Jen Brown; Seconded; H Glennie and passed nem con

The Team Vicar expressed thanks to KB for taking on the role.

***ELECTION of LAITY to the PCC***

4	St Helen: Matthew Cady proposed David Pope, seconded Jan Laurence St Michael St Nicolas: Jenny Fishpool proposed Sue Holligan, seconded Eluned Hallas Roger Cox proposed Sue Cox, seconded Sue Holligan There being no further nominees from the floor, the nominations were Proposed: Linda Hobbs; Seconded Joyce Kelly and elected nem con
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***ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES of the PARISH  
(available in advance in hard copy and on line)***

5	The Team Vicar thanked all contributors to the Annual Report and all who had roles in the Parish, mentioning in particular: Pat Hudson for her transformational work on parish safeguarding; Linda Hobbs for her oversight of Enoch House, and the Rectory during the Vacancy; Revd Jen for her input into Faith Forum; The 'shapers' of The Candle in the Window; The Parish's Church in Abingdon Representatives – noting that the CiA Clergy were meeting in May to determine the best strategy for the future; And noting that all congregations supported the Abingdon Foodbank, with volunteers from all three Churches.
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6	<b>Parish Centre:</b> During discussions it was noted that the Parish Centre needed refurbishment – for example better thermal insulation; improved glazing; and improved equal access and toilet facilities. The Parish Centre is one of the key outward facing buildings in the Parish, yet it is now looking tired, and access to the Office is difficult to find. (It was suggested that a byelaw exists restricting signage to the St Helen's Court entrance to minimise disruption to residents of the Court). It was acknowledged that this would be a major project – for which grant funding might be sought. It was agreed that the issue would be discussed at PCC.  The glass (west) doors to St Helen's Church are also difficult for less mobile users. L Hobbs had already approached the Diocesan Disability Advisor seeking advice on automating the opening mechanism.
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***FINANCIAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS (available in advance in hard copy and on line)***

7	Susan Read (Treasurer, St Helen's and co-ordinator of the Consolidated Financial Report and Accounts) started by thanking the many people at all three Churches who supported the financial administration of the Parish including the banking teams, Stewardship Recorders, book keeping support, and Jenny Smith, Treasurer for St Nicolas' and St Michael's. She reminded those present of the many areas of church finances – counting, recording & banking collections and donations, reclaiming gift aid, grant applications, hire and occasional service fees, invoicing etc.  The accounts for 2024 showed a bottom line net surplus of £48k. This included a large restricted legacy to St Nicolas (£39k earmarked for the restoration of the Blacknall Monument and Aisle – to be carried out in 2025) and substantial fundraising in the Parish. Lower fuel costs also contributed.  She noted however that regular planned giving was slowly dropping, which was a cause for future concern.  Looking to the future the main areas of uncertainty are:
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demographic – as congregations get older</li> <li>• Climate change – adversely affecting our buildings, leading to higher maintenance costs</li> <li>• National – decline in congregations</li> </ul> <p>There were no questions on any part of the accounts</p>
8	The Chairman thanked Susan, and all involved in the financial management of the Parish
<b><i>APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS for 2024</i></b>	
9	That Mr Andrew Churchill Stone (of Mercer Lewin Chartered Accountants, Oxford) be appointed as auditor/examiner of accounts of accounts for the parish until the conclusion of the next APCM was Proposed: Susan Read; Seconded: Revd A K M Adam and passed nem con.
<b><i>TEAM VICARS ADDRESS</i></b>	
10	The Team Vicar gave thanks for the way in which the Parish was working together during the Team Rector Vacancy. He noted that Team Clergy, Lay Ministers and Wardens were working together well.
11	The process for discerning a new Team Rector was progressing well, with an advertisement now issued. Shortlisting (assuming eligible applications) would take place in early June, with an Interview Day planned for 26 June. The process was embedded in prayer, and he thanked those present for their contribution and invited all to give thanks for the ways in which the Lord has been at work in their lives and that of the Parish.

The meeting closed, with prayer. at 8:30pm.