St Andrew, St Anne & St Matthew Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Sunday May 18th, 2025, 12.30 pm at St Andrew's Church

"Christ, Community, Church, serving our communities and bringing people closer to God."

Present: Rev. Sue Howlett (Chair), Rev. Philip Howlett, Terry Gray (Treasurer), Rev. Sam Lees, Sandra Coulter, Martin Roscoe, Matthew Gray, Sue Biffen, Jo Miller, Marie Paget, Carolyn Ball, Claire Chapman, Rob Muir, Carolina Cullington, David Greenslade, Susan Watson, Sarah Chandler, Tim Chandler, Jennie Sanford, Carrie Potts, John Clarke, Rose Clarke, Anne-Marie Sansom, Delvin Lewis, Sandie Collins, Ali Karimi, Iman Noori, Mohammed Atinejad, Farshid Faraji, Afshin Nabavi, Sally Favell, Denise Ozoemena, Daniel Sadramehr, Chris Mears, Ruth Snowling, Mary Dale (minutes).

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1. Welcome

Rev. Sue thanked everyone for attending and opened the meeting with a prayer for Estates.

2. Apologies

Sue Boughtwood, Lyn Hewes and Sue Watson.

Vestry Meeting

1. Election of Churchwardens

Marie and Ruth applied to continue to serve as Churchwardens. Proposer: Carolyn Ball; Seconder: Sue Watson. Unanimously elected.
Rev. Sue thanked Marie and Ruth for their work for the Church and for continuing to serve.

APCM

1. Minutes of previous APCM (May 5th, 2024) - Rev. Sue

Unanimously adopted by the meeting.

2. Matters Arising

None.

3. Presentation of the Electoral Roll

A full revision of the Electoral Roll was required this year, and following this revision there are no 68 on the Electoral Roll; last year there were 94 people on the Electoral Roll. Sadly, some members of the congregation have died since the last APCM. However, this year's number does not reflect those attending Sunday services, and Rev. Sue and Sandra Coulter will chase up those who have still not filled in their Electoral Roll forms.

4. Election of PCC Members

Lyn Hewes, Mel Bateman and Sue Boughtwood are standing down from the PCC. Three members of the congregation have expressed a wish to join the PCC. They are Claire Chapman,

Carolina Cullington and Anne-Sansom. All three candidates said a bit about themselves; all three have taken the Shape course.
Marie proposed and Sandra seconded the proposal that Anne-Marie becomes a member of the PCC.
Mary proposed and Sandra seconded the proposal that Claire becomes a member of the PCC.
Sandra proposed and Mary seconded the proposal that Lina becomes a member of the PCC.
All three unanimously elected by the meeting.

5. Presentation of Accounts and Treasurer's Report - Terry Gray

Terry ran through the accounts and gave some details of the different funds. Rev. Sue informed the meeting that it costs £260 per day to maintain the churches (this includes the Parish Share). Income from the hiring of the buildings is currently enough to help with this, but the buildings are getting older and so are beginning to cost more to maintain. Various stakeholders on the estate are contributing to the Church with small grants, and this is also a big help.
Rev. Sue thanked both Terry for his work as Treasurer and the Finance Team for their work.

6. Appointment of Auditor

Mrs. Anna Sallis audited the accounts this year and is willing to act as auditor for the accounts next year as well.
Sandra proposed and Martin seconded that Anna Sallis be appointed as Auditor.
Passed unanimously by the meeting.

7. Safeguarding - Rev. Sue

Our Parish Safeguarding Officer continues to be Sue Watson, but to help with the responsibility of the role Rev. Sue has asked Jo Miller to become Assistant Safeguarding Officer, and Jo has agreed.
Currently, all those who need to have a DBS have an up-to-date DBS and have completed the relevant safeguarding courses. During the coming year, the Church will be moving on to the Diocesan Safeguarding Dashboard. This will help monitor our progress, and flag up issues that need attention, using a red, amber, green system. This will be extremely useful in maintaining a careful culture of safeguarding within the parish.

8. Reports:

- **Trustees' Report (circulated prior to meeting)**
  This report outlined the church activities for the previous year.
- **Deanery Synod (circulated prior to meeting)**
  Rev. Sue outlined that Sue Biffen and Mel Bateman are standing down from Deanery Synod and expressed thanks for their commitment to this. Marie and Claire expressed a wish to stand for election to Deanery Synod. Jo proposed and Mary seconded the proposal that Marie and Claire become lay representatives on Deanery Synod. Passed unanimously by the meeting.
- **Churchwardens' Report and Buildings Update (circulated prior to meeting)**
  Rev. Sue mentioned that a faculty has been submitted to widen the path and lower the step into St Andrew's Church and, also, for installing internal glass doors. The money for this work has been very generously donated by a member of the worshipping community at St Andrew's Church.

Rev. Sam outlined that applications have been made for grants to allow work to enable disabled access from St Anne's Church into the garden area.
Rev. Sue thanked Marie and Ruth for their work as wardens.

- **Additional reports (circulated prior to meeting)**:
  Monthly Prayer group continues to meet.
  St Andrew's Churchyard: Carolyn and Steve continue to monitor and care for the churchyard. There have been some problems with drug users and rubbish. Rev. Sue expressed thanks for the pastoral ministry that goes on in the churchyard.
  Open Church: incredible mission and outreach is going on. Up to eighty children and their families come every week.
  Eco-Church group has been revived and have plans for continuing this important work.
  Mega Kids takes place once a month at St Anne's Church (run by Paul and Nicky Allen).

- **Pioneer Vicar - Rev. Sue**
  This continues to be a training parish. Every trainee who comes to the parish wants to stay.
  Rev. Sam is leaving and going to his first parish as Priest-in-Charge.
  Eighteen months ago, action was started to end the suspension of the benefice. Members of the PCC asked for a meeting with Bishop Roger to pass on the message that the PCC does not want the benefice to be suspended. Although it has taken a while, it looks like the benefice will no longer be suspended and that the parish will have a Rector (rather than Priest-in-charge), and this will be secure the parish for the future.
  Rev. Sue would like to change the word, "volunteer "to "disciple", so as to emphasise that everything that people do for the church is ministry and discipleship.
  Rev. Sue thanked all who serve on the PCC and Deanery Synod.
  Martin recorded a vote of thanks to Revds Sue, Philip and Sam.

9. Dates to be agreed:

The following dates were agreed by the meeting:

PCC meetings:

28th May 2025
10th July 2025
10th September 2025
6th November 2025
All starting at 7.30pm.

Standing Committee:

TBC for May 2025
1st July 2025
2nd September 2025
28th October 2025
All starting at 10.30am

10. A.O.B.

There were no items of AOB.

Rev. Sue ended the meeting in prayer, remembering Dr Chris Hall, Beryl and Colin and giving thanks for their lives. The meeting concluded at 1.20 pm (with a shared lunch).