



The Parish of St Thomas & St Edmund
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM)

MINUTES OF MEETING

Venue: St Thomas's Church

Time and Date: 12 noon Sunday 18TH May 2025

Present: Rev. Canon The Rector Inglis (Chair), Michael Humphreys, Clare Tawney, Wendy Oliver, Muriel Sale, Fiona Hulbert, Mark Manterfield, G Tawney, Wendy Pugh, Christopher Watts, Richard Laughton, Murray Wildman, Peter Baker, Carol Baker, Sheila Dempster, John Dempster, Tony Rea, Pamela Rea, Diane Emsley, Linda Salter, John Hance, Joan Hance, Michele Emerick, Shirley Evans, Diana Ruddle, Zoe Ashcroft, Wendy Kennedy, Kitty Amey, Jenny Coats, Margery Leeming, Pauline Darvill, Jane Garnett, Margaret Clough, Alan Gear, Julie Gear, Ken Edwards, Jane Gisby, Pam Clarke, Jill Clark, Gillian Gailey, Jill Tawney, Elizabeth Chettleburgh, Penny Warren, Clare Gough, Sarah Ashcroft, Berenice Elliott, Julie Grandfield, John Boylan, Sara Whitmarsh, Nicholas Beard, Nigel Orchard, Shirley Townsend, James Greasley, Steve Hoffman, Jennifer Hoffman, Jill Britton, Alexander Heroys, Sarah, John Coupe, John Broadley, Jane Broadley, Robert Lewis, Helen Inglis, Selina Deacon, Morag Lucas, Robert Lucas, Sabine Rider, Chris Rider, Robert Lynch, Tom Clammer, Emma Clammer, Mary Lanyon, John Bruce-Ball, Susan Bruce-Ball, Fiona Morgan, Manfred Schmidt, Sabine Meseg, Clive Guthrie-Andrews, Rachel Lucas, Tricia Dragonetti, Ute Schwarting, Brian Sharpe, Jenny Wilson,

Apologies Jocelyn Lynch, Jane Wilde, Di Durnford, Anne Foster, John Foster, Maggie Brecknell, Bertie Ledingham, Fran Stanfield, John Pendle, Sheila Warrander, Brenda Whitehead, Rosie Norman, Howard Norman

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| 1. WELCOME
The Rector welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with prayers. | |
| 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING
The Minutes of the meeting on the 19 th May 2024 were approved. | |
| 3. MATTERS ARISING
None | |
| 4. ELECTORAL ROLL
Peter Horwood provided the following report: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Total electors in the Parish = 59• Total electors outside the Parish = 128• Total on the electoral roll = 187 The Rector explained that currently there was no Electoral Roll Officer and he invited interest in someone taking this on. The Rector further explained that it was important that | |

Minutes prepared by Shirley Ledingham

the Electoral Roll reflected church membership and anyone wishing to be added should contact the Parish Office.

5. **LOG BOOK, INVENTORY AND TERRIER**

Peter Horwood confirmed that these documents were up to date.

6. **ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**

Prior to the meeting the Annual Report and Accounts had been available in hard copy in the church and also on the website. Wendy Oliver provided the following general comments:

6.1 Income

- The surplus of £279k was primarily due to the exceptionally generous legacy of £300k left by John Blake, along with two additional legacies for £12k.
- Current income from planned giving now covers the Parish Share, whilst the remaining overheads are met through fundraising efforts. Grateful thanks were extended to everyone involved in fundraising, with special mention of the regular activities such as the weekly coffee mornings, the bookstall, and income from concerts.
- Appreciation was also expressed to Tony Rea, who ensures VAT exemptions are applied to eligible expenditure, and to Ruth Barlow, who manages all the Gift Aid returns.

6.2 Expenditure

Expenditure has been higher this year, primarily due to major projects such as the repair of the west door and the upcoming work on the steps, which is scheduled to begin next week. Despite these significant costs, overall spending has remained broadly in line with the previous year.

6.3 Financial Situation

- At year-end, total reserves stood at just over £1 million, compared to £726k in the previous year. This increase is largely attributable to the legacies received.
- A new designated fund of £30,000 has been established for work on St Thomas's House Roof. Following the recommendation of the Fabric Committee, this fund will be renamed to more accurately reflect its intended purpose: work on St Thomas's House.
- A separate designated fund exists for the Church Roof, with £10,000 allocated annually to ensure sufficient resources are available when needed.
- Projected expenditure for 2025 is £373k.
- In summary, we anticipate breaking even by the end of the year and have increased our liquid funds from £272k to £607k—an encouraging and significant improvement.
- Grateful thanks were extended to Muriel, Tony, Ruth, and Fletchers for their outstanding dedication and hard work with the church's finances.

6.4 Discussion Points Raised

- It was suggested that the annual allocation for the Church Roof fund be increased from £10k to £15k. PCC
- A proposal was made for St Thomas's to consider adopting a church in need. While it was noted that a portion of the Parish Share already supports less-resourced churches, this suggestion called for a more personal and open approach. It was agreed that the Standing Committee and PCC would explore this further. Standing Committee PCC
- It was pointed out that there could be reticence about considering investing in a salaried post aimed at growing the congregation—an initiative that could, in turn, support the further growth of the church. It was acknowledged that this had been previously discussed by the PCC, and it was agreed the matter could be revisited. PCC

- WO explained that approximately 10% of ordinary income is donated to charitable causes, in addition to funds raised through concerts and other fundraising events.

Annual Report and Accounts

- 6.5 The Annual Report and Accounts were formally approved, with the proposal made by Michael Humphreys and seconded by John Broadley.

A special vote of thanks was offered by The Rector to WO, with sincere appreciation for her clarity in presenting the accounts and her ongoing willingness to provide help and guidance.

7. **ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS AND DEPUTY CHURCHWARDENS**

The Rector announced that two nominations had been received for the positions of Churchwarden: Michael Humphreys and Clare Tawney. He explained that both Churchwardens would require additional support in their roles, particularly Clare, who also sings in the choir. To assist with this, two nominations had been received for Deputy Churchwarden: Sarah Ashcroft and Zoe Ashcroft, both of whom will also join the PCC.

The Churchwardens and Deputy Churchwardens were warmly welcomed into their roles for the coming year, and the Rector encouraged other members of the congregation to consider joining the Deputy Churchwardens team.

8. **ELECTION OF NEW PCC MEMBERS**

The Rector explained that there were three vacancies for new PCC members and nominations had been received from Murray Wildman, David Bartlett and Jill Britton and they were welcomed onto the PCC.

9. **Rector's Comments**

The Rector began by expressing that St Thomas's is a true powerhouse, sustained by dedicated volunteers who take on the many tasks required to keep a large and active church running. As part of the Major Churches Network, with civic responsibilities and a sizeable congregation, St Thomas's depends heavily on its volunteers. The Rector warmly acknowledged the invaluable contribution of all the volunteers across every area of church life. He highlighted a particular need for additional volunteers to support the hosting and staffing of concerts. Anyone interested was encouraged to speak to one of the Churchwardens or Deputy Churchwardens.

The Rector also extended his sincere thanks to the clergy team for their ongoing support. He noted that Selina has transitioned from being a licensed priest to holding Permission to Officiate. Whilst this means she will no longer serve on the PCC, her ministry remains valued. The congregation joined The Rector in offering Selina a heartfelt vote of thanks. He reassured the congregation that clergy support would continue, and that the church is also well supported by lay ministers—specifically Sara Whitmarsh, Terry Stanfield, and John Boylan.

Reflecting on the earlier financial report, The Rector shared his belief that the church is in a strong position. Being able to meet the Parish Share is encouraging, but he reminded everyone of the continuing importance of planned giving to sustain church finances. He noted that St Thomas's remains an appealing and vibrant church as it moves into the vacancy process.

The Rector also took the opportunity to thank those stepping down from the PCC:

- John Broadley – PCC Member
- Ann Horwood – Deputy Churchwarden
- Peter Horwood – Churchwarden

A special vote of thanks was given to Peter Horwood for his exceptional hard work, energy, and commitment during his time as Churchwarden.

Remembering those who had died since the last annual meeting

- Sheila Wojcikevicz
- Eileen Lomax
- Ray Emmens
- Mike Limbrick

10. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

10.1 Evensong prayers about the middle east – The Rector explained that the church takes a neutral stance on such matters and he would discuss this further with Clive Guthrie-Andrews

10.2 Thanks to the Rector

On behalf of the congregation, Mark Manterfield offered a heartfelt vote of thanks to the Rector, who was warmly applauded by all.

11. **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING** – 17th May 2026