



THE PARISH OF PANGBOURNE WITH TIDMARSH AND SULHAM
ST JAMES THE LESS : ST LAURENCE : ST NICHOLAS

MINUTES OF MEETINGS

Sunday 11th May 2025 at 11am

St James the Less, Pangbourne

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISHIONERS

Reverend Mark Hopkins, opened the meeting at 11.07am with prayer.

MH welcomed all present.

1. **There were four vacancies for Churchwarden. One nomination was received and elected:**

Julia Sheppard – proposed by Jill Palfrey, seconded by Wilma Grant.

No other nominations were received, so Julia Sheppard was elected unanimously.

2. Jill Palfrey was proposed by Vanessa Saunders and seconded by Stephen Billyeald and elected unanimously as Deputy Churchwarden.

The meeting closed at 11.11am.

THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Reverend Mark Hopkins took the chair and opened the meeting at 11.12am

1. **Apologies:**

Mike Jeremiah, Nicky Caton.

A total of 35 members attended the meeting.

2. **Minutes of Last Meetings**

The minutes were signed at PCC and available for parishioners to view.

Proposed by Stephen Billyeald, seconded by Penny Billyeald. **All in favour.**

There were no matters arising.

3. **Annual Report**

Rev Mark Hopkins thanked the congregation for their generosity and prompt response to the St James heating appeal. He also thanked them for their patience with the lack heating and the gradual replacement of heating system.

MH reported that we are currently in the process of planning a replacement toilet in St James. There will be a point when plans will be posted and there will be an opportunity to review and comment.

Consultation on redecoration of St Nicholas Sulham is in progress.

Rev Mark gave a summary of activities during 2024 as outlined in the 2024 Annual Report.

MH expressed his thanks to:

Julia Sheppard for her work as churchwarden

Jill Palfrey, Brian and Christine Tims, Stephen and Penny Billyeald and Cliff and Heather Thorne as duty wardens

Barry Ashdown and Tony Naden for their ministry

Jennifer Nutt, Julia Sheppard, Gill Haggarty and Gillian Alderton for their support at St Nicholas

Vanessa Saunders – church administrator

Stephen Billyeald - treasurer

Sarah Rasmusson and all the flower arrangers

Wilma Grant and all of the choir and musicians

Len Palfrey and all the bellringers

All involved in Green Gym, cleaning the church, welcomers, event organisers, servers and sacristans

Particular thanks to David Norris, Independent Examiner who is stepping down this year. Special thanks to Julia Bion who has for 15 years managed the book-keeping and has been an invaluable support to our churches.

4. Financial Report and Presentation

Stephen Billyeald gave an overview of the Accounts.

Unrestricted funds, restricted funds and endowments funds (where we hold donated funds and the income from the capital of those can be used for specific purposes).

If anyone feels they could independently examine the parish accounts or if anyone knows anyone who would be prepared to do it. It has been an honorary role but there could be honorarium as well.

Unrestricted funds deficit of £20K.

Income was £5K higher than in 2023.

Costs were £21K higher than in 2023 due to some unusual reasons – Roof at St Nicholas, organ repairs, Parish Share was higher, St James boiler and repair to wall and curate housing costs.

Value of investments increased by £3.5K which was offset £20K deficit. Net deficit was £16.5K.

Investment gain over the last 6 years of £52K.

Unrestricted reserves are only £25.5K.

Restricted funds show a net surplus of £7.5K

£54K cash in bank of restricted funds. £30K for Flower Fund. The restriction of Flower Fund will be slightly widened and carefully controlled by PCC to use for some other purposes.

Regular giving was £92.5K

SB asked those present, as a means of reducing the deficit, to consider joining the Parish Giving Scheme, review monthly standing order, be generous in church by cash or card and support community events. He also said that if it were not possible to decrease the deficit it might be necessary to consider withholding part of the Parish Share. SB outlined some possible consequences of this.

5. Questions From Members

- 5.1 Charles noted that this year nearly 50% of those who had been on the previous Electoral Roll had not applied to be added to the new one. He asked why that was the case and whether any effort had been made to rectify this?
Rev Mark replied that there were quite a number of wedding couples who had temporarily been part of the church community but were no longer so had come off. He also reported a number of those we would have expected to be on this list were contact for a second time. There were also quite a few who may apply to be added once the list is open again. MH commented that the ER should to be a fair and accurate reflection of those people who regularly attend and participate in church life.
- 5.2 Edward Goddard asked whether it would be possible to reinstate Mattins and Evensong in the rota. Rev Mark Hopkins said that there is a balance of services across the parish and that we fulfil our legal requirement to have a HC service in the parish each Sunday. MH also felt that there wouldn't be enough support across the congregation and it would impose an extra burden on the Ministry team. The church is open every day for people to come in for private devotion. Tony Naden responded that anyone is welcome to join him any week day at 8.30am for Morning Prayer. Other comments were received broadly acknowledging that it would be difficult to reinstate Matins or Evensong on a regular basis but MH did agree that the PCC could be asked to consider having the occasional matins service.
6. Electoral Roll Officer's Report
Vanessa Saunders reported that 2025 is a six-year complete revision of the Electoral Roll. In 2024 there were 130 Members on the electoral roll. The new roll has 84 Members. 60 people came off and 14 new people were added
7. **Elections and Appointments** (*only those on the Electoral Roll were entitled to vote*)
- 7.1 **Election of Deanery Synod Members – 1 vacancy**
There were no nominations.
- 7.2 **Parochial Church Council Members – 7 vacancies**
Two nominations were received:
Penny Billyeald. Proposed by Stephen Billyeald, seconded by Vanessa Saunders.
Nicky Catn. Proposed by Stephen Billyeald, seconded by Vanessa Saunders
Penny Billyeald and Nicky Caton were elected to the PCC.
8. **Date of Next APCM**
26 April 2026
9. MH closed the meeting with prayer at **12.05pm**

Vanessa Saunders
PCC Secretary

Signed:

Date: