

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for absence

### **Meeting of Parishioners**

3. Election of two Churchwardens

### **APCM**

4. Acceptance of Minutes\* of the last Annual Meeting held on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025
5. Matters arising from those minutes
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8. To confirm PCC length of term
  9. To elect PCC members to serve for 3 years
  10. To confirm our PCC Bankers
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  17. Close in prayer

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## **\*Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025 at 7:30pm**

1. **Welcome** The Vicar, Matt Graham, opened the meeting by asking, what is our hope on life & Death. Romans 14 7-8. Read from book Heidelberg Catechism what is your *only* comfort in Life & Death. Kevin DeYoung quote. We had a time of confession together and then a time of prayer giving thanks. 23 members of the congregation were recorded as present.
2. **Apologies for absence** had been received from Peter & Ruth Froggatt, Robert & Maureen Wiltshire, Brenda Tollady, Christine Bennett.

### **MEETING OF PARISHIONERS**

3. **Election of two (2) people to the Office of Churchwarden**

Thanks was given to Chris & Rich for all their hard work over the last year, lots of which is unseen by parishioners. Two nominations had been received – Chris Phillips & Richard Dunning, Chris was proposed by Rosie Earp, seconded by Daniel Davies. Rich was proposed by Rosemary Earp and seconded by Robert Wiltshire. There being no other nominations they were elected unopposed. The Archdeacons Visitation is due to take place at St Peter's Rock Ferry, CH42 1PY, on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June. Rosie Earp prayed for our wardens after reading from 1 Corinthians.

MG brought to our attention that we hadn't been quite adhering to church rules. We currently use the rule of PCC members being elected to serve for 3 years, then be elected again for another 3 years – after 6 years, there should be at least one year break before joining again. After much searching, we found that in 1999 St Stephen's PCC adopted a constitution which stipulated terms of service for PCC members – They could serve for 3 years only, then a break of at least one year before being re-elected. Our 1999 constitution rules are different to Church representation rules which states you can serve for three years, then join again immediately.

Good to have a limit on terms of office (could be same people forever!)

What do we do today? Serve for three years, then re-elected for another 3 if so wish. PCC to take time to think about terms of office and bring the decision back to APCM in a year.

### **ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

4. **Acceptance of the Minutes of the last Annual Meeting held on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2024.**

The minutes of the meeting had been emailed, reproduced, and circulated and were accepted as a true record of that meeting. Proposed by Pete Earp, seconded by Patrick Giblett, agreed nem con.

5. **Matters arising from the 2024 Minutes.** None.

6. **To receive the New Electoral Roll and Report.** The Electoral Roll Officer, Pete Earp reported: Our Electoral Roll now 87. (110 last year) 2 arrived too late, one under 16. PE to send figures to the diocese.

7. **To receive the 2024 Accounts and Reports. Looking back – giving thanks.** The Annual Report and Financial Statements had been emailed, reproduced and circulated as necessary. Matt Graham gave his Vicar's Report.

Matt spoke about patience especially with the servery. We wanted it to be up and running by our 125 anniversary (2022!) Thanks to P125 for their patience too. Patience for Prenton Library. Patience as we advertised for a youth worker 3 times. Thanks to Kerry. Matt thanked the wardens, PCC & standing committee, & treasurer. Exciting to finish P125, library, new staff worker for the dell.

PCC in 2024 chose to change the number of meetings as more can be communicated by email. As church grows, responsibility has been passed to smaller sub committees.

Sabbatical, - Matt spoke about how he felt confident that our parish will be well looked after during his time away. Pete Earp, in his capacity as lay chairman, will chair the 2 PCC mtgs whilst MG is away. Anna Graham prayed for the PCC members.

**Finance update from the treasurer.** Richard Fearnley began by taking us through his financial report which showed a steady incline with planned giving. He brought it to our attention that the new chairs had been classed as halls expenditure – PCC to look at this, just for transparency.

Richard showed us some of the items our giving was used for, in ways the parish serves the community.

Richard Fearnley proposed that the Accounts and Reports be accepted, this was seconded by Chris Phillips, all were in favour.

Thanks was given to Richard, & Helen for all her hard work with gift aid. Dave Bennett prayed for Richard & Helen and gave thanks to God for our provisions.

#### 8. To elect PCC members to serve for 3 years

There were 3 nominations:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Seconded</u>
Richard Fearnley	at 1 <sup>st</sup> meeting	PCC will elect RF to PCC as treasurer
Ruth Froggatt	Kerry Dunning	Chris Bennett
Daniel Davies	Richard Dunning	Richard Fearnley

There being no other nominations these were elected unopposed. Anna prayed for our PCC members.

9. **To confirm PCC Bankers.** There being no reason to change, acceptance that the bankers continue as HSBC was proposed by Richard Fearnley and seconded by Amy Giblett. Agreed nem con.

10. **To appoint the Independent Examiner.** 2024's Accounts were prepared by the Treasurer on a Receipts & Payments basis. These were again independently examined by Tim Odell. He is willing to continue. Richard Fearnley proposed that his offer be accepted, seconded by Patrick G. Agreed nem con. Thaks was given to Tim for his willingness to continue.

11. **Safeguarding Update.** Joan Potts Reminded us that we have a duty to follow the rules of the house of bishops. SG has been on the agenda for each PCC meeting. Talked of using the Parish safeguarding website and the Parish safeguarding hub.

Joan talked of all the new requirements that have been implemented. We now follow the Safer Recruitment policy which is also for recruiting volunteers. J stated that it isn't all the paperwork and policies that will make our church a safe place, but the care of the parishioners looking out for each other. We were reminded that safeguarding is ALL of our responsibility. Matt gave thanks to Joan, for all the work she puts into new policies and making sure we are up to date.

#### 12. Verbal Reports,

Kerry gave thanks to all those who have prayed for her/ helped her over the last 8 months as our Youth & Children's worker. She gave us a verbal report talking us through Sunday children's groups. Kerry gave thanks to all those who have helped with creche and children's groups. Our older youth group, Y@SS which meets on a Sunday evening now has a number of non-church children coming along.

#### 13. Looking ahead - Vision and priorities.

Richard gave us an update with Prenton Dell Library. Hoping to complete this by the end of the month, or more realistic, within a month from now.

Boorne's, pray for school places and new house. Peter will start with us in September.

14. **Any questions relating to Church matters.** None.

15. **Any other business** – There being no other business the meeting closed with words of the night prayer, ending with the Grace at 9.10pm.