



PARISH OF GRAFFHAM WITH WOOLAVINGTON



Annual Vestry Meeting and Parochial Church Meeting

6 April 2025, 1140 am, at St Giles Church

ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING

Present: The Rev Vivien Turner and 20 parish members (Ginny Barrett, Diane Bellis, Michael and Sally Blunt, Marie Bracey, Cindy and Beanie Bradley Robin and Jan Brind, Sue Hill, Liz Jenkins, Dinah Lamming, Brian and Nettie Lanaghan, Chris and Jenny Leaver, Fiona Mackie, Clive Rowntree, Andy Toze, Phillip Turner)

Apologies: Ann Brown, Barbara Edge, Stuart and Bridget Lewis, Howard Pescott.

Opened at 11:35am

- 1 ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS:** Ginny Barrett and Cindy Bradley were re-elected unopposed to serve as Churchwardens for a further year, with no other nominations put forward.

Closed at 11:37am

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Present and apologies: As for the Annual Vestry Meeting above

Opened at 11:37am

- 1 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** Minutes of the previous year's Annual Parochial Church Meeting (17 March 2024) had been posted at <https://stgilesgraffham.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/2024-03-17-APCM-minutes-draft.pdf> and were duly approved with no questions raised.
- 2 ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

- 2a Three members for three years:** Two existing members of the PCC indicated their willingness to serve for a further three-year term each and were duly re-elected unanimously – Marie Bracey and Barbara Edge – while Dinah Lamming was also elected for a three-year term after being co-opted a year ago. No other nominations were put forward.
- 2b Two members for one year:** Beanie Bradley, who had previously been co-opted to the PCC, and Chris Leaver agreed to fill one-year vacancies on the PCC and were duly elected unopposed.

All five of the above were **proposed** by Phillip Turner and **seconded** by Yvonne Churchward, and, as noted above, **elected unanimously**.

- 3 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER OR AUDITOR:** Ros Britton agreed to serve as independent examiner for a further year and was thanked for all of her work. She was duly **re-elected unanimously** to the role for a further year.
Proposed Michael Blunt **Seconded** Brian Lanaghan.

- 4 REPORT ON ELECTORAL ROLL OF THE PARISH:** The report by Electoral Roll Officer Fiona Mackie had been posted at stgilesgraffham.org. In summary, a completely new electoral roll was compiled ahead of this APCM, in line with CoE requirements. While some names had changed, there are 75 people recorded on it (the same as the previous roll) although this may rise marginally if and when all registration forms are returned. Fiona was thanked for her hard work in producing the roll.

- 5 TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:** The Trustees' Annual Report and Annual Financial Statements for the year to 31 December 2024 was circulated at the meeting and had been posted at stgilesgraffham.org for a full week before the meeting. The Rev Vivien commended the document to all attendees, noting a busy year for the parish. She said she was immensely heartened by the huge amount of activity that went on this small parish and thanked everyone who contributed. Treasurer Dinah Lamming noted that fund-raising in the year had reached almost £80,000, thanks in part to some £12,000 of grants generated by Stuart Lewis. Although expenditure was up by more than 50% (a near £30,000 increase) on previous years, because of the roof maintenance undertaken in the year, the accounts recorded a deficit of just £3,000 – but this would have been a surplus of £2,000 had a tax rebate due been received before the year-end. Instead, it (c £5,000) will feature in the 2025 accounts. Enormous thanks were given to the entire finance team – Dinah Lamming, Phillip Turner, Ros Britton, Diane Bellis and Carol Sargent – and to Stuart for his grant-raising activities and everyone else involved.

Copies of the following reports were available for a week before the meeting at stgilesgraffham.org with paper copies circulated to those attending the meeting to read before it began.

- 6 REPORT ON THE CHURCH'S FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS:** Ginny Barrett presented the report, which was accepted with thanks by those in attendance. She noted that St Peter's, the former church of Woolavington (East Lavington) is being sold by the Church Commissioners to Seaford College

for continued use as its chapel (the school had been “renting” the former church for more than 50 years). Brian Lanaghan offered to write to the Church Commissioners to ask what would happen to any relics of the parish housed in St Peter’s, including Bishop Wilberforce’s crozier. In response to a question from the congregation, it was stated that work is in hand to redecorate the interior of the church (repair plaster and then repaint). Cindy Bradley asked if everyone was happy with the markers to show where mowing in churchyard should not take place – and everyone was!

- 7 **REPORT ON THE DEANERY SYNOD:** Ann Brown and Diane Bellis’ report on the Deanery Synod was received with thanks. It was further noted that the Rev Vivien and Ginny are now also on the on Diocesan Synod.
- 8 **SAFEGUARDING REPORT:** The Rev Vivien presented Safeguarding Officer Howard Pescott’s report. Howard was thanked for his tremendous work in this area – and as Belltower Captain.
- 9 **BELLRINGERS, FLOWER ARRANGERS, MESSY CHURCH AND MUSIC REPORTS** prepared respectively by Howard Pescott, Diane Bellis, the Rev Vivien and Brian Lanaghan and were also reviewed and those involved thanked.
- 10 **MATTERS ARISING/ANY OTHER QUESTIONS:**
- Ginny thanks the Rev Vivien and Phillip Turner for their leadership, stewardship and overall good-natured contribution to the parish.
 - The Rev Vivien noted that Caroline Perry had volunteered to assist with some admin matters for her, as Parish Admin Assistant, and that this appointment had been approved by the PCC.
 - The Rev Vivien thanked Michael Blunt who stood down from the PCC after five years (when originally volunteering to help with fund-raising for six months) and as Secretary for four years and presented him with a gift (a Sue Hill painting of St Giles). She pointed out that Michael would be continuing as editor of Graffham Parish News and as a member of the PCC Community Group. Discussions regarding a potential successor as Secretary were in hand.

Closed at 11:59am