

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) and Annual General Meeting (AGM) - St Paul Old Ford

Meeting Date: 25 May 2025

1. Opening and Welcome

The Vicar opened the meeting with prayer, acknowledging the purpose of the meeting to review the past year, elect officers, and look ahead to the new year.

2. Apologies and Minutes

- **Apologies:** Received from Shola and Tim.
- **Minutes:** The minutes from the previous year's APCM and AGM were reviewed, proposed by Melanie, seconded by Emma, and officially approved by a show of hands.

3. Election of Church Wardens

- Melanie and Tim were re-elected as Church Wardens for the upcoming year.

4. Electoral Roll Report

- Melanie reported that the electoral roll was reset this year (a process done every six years). The previous roll had 124 members. After accounting for 62 departures and 22 new additions, and another imminent addition, the current electoral roll stands at 83 members.

5. Financial Statements

- **2024 Financial Summary:** Total income was approximately £276,900, with expenses at £278,200, resulting in a small deficit of ~£1,300. The Vicar noted that rising costs (45% increase in running costs) were managed despite the ongoing vacancy of the Treasurer role.
- **Future Strategy:** The PCC aims to streamline the Treasurer role to focus on reporting and oversight.
- **Audit:** The independently audited reports were presented and received. Alex and Co were appointed as the independent examiner for the next year.

6. Church Wardens' Report

- The report highlighted the success of the building operations, including the record number of bookings and over £40,000 in income from lettings. Gratitude was expressed to staff members including Divia (Buildings Manager), Grace (Welcome/Hospitality), Iryna (Office/Finance), and Trevor (Handyman), as well as Jeanette and Rose (St. Paul's Kitchen).

7. Deanery Synod Report

- Brief update provided on the three meetings held in 2024, focusing on mission strategy, prayer, and youth work.

8. PCC Elections and Safeguarding

- **Elections:** Emma Andrews and Jean (Elizabeth) Robinson were elected to the PCC for three-year terms.
- **Safeguarding:** Jean, the Parish Safeguarding Officer, has been working on updating DBS checks and training records. The PCC formally adopted the diocesan safeguarding policy.

9. Vicar's Report

- The Vicar reflected on a year of growth and challenges, emphasising the need to rebuild youth ministry, invest in children's discipleship, and develop lay leadership to move away from a clergy-heavy model.

10. Special Thanks

- A special acknowledgement was given to Rob for his service as PCC Secretary for the past three years.

11. Closing

- Following a brief period for questions, the meeting concluded with a closing prayer and the official declaration that the 2025 APCM was closed.