

The Vine Annual Meeting of Electors and APCM Minutes

11 May 2025 11.15am St Bartholomew's

Present

Will Briggs, Andy Bryce, Paul Sheridan, Dave Neath, Jon Smith, Steve Hill, Katie Smith, Gill Briggs, Stella Hunt, Tim Hawkins, Nick Phoenix, Vicki Neath, Davo Smith, Tina Powell-Wiffen, Becca Sheridan, Rose Hawkins, Rachel Widdows, Lucy Smith, Ben Widdows, Sharon Jacobs, Alistair Smyth,

Observers

Reuben Bryce

Apologies

Sarah Smith

Opening prayer

Will Briggs opened the meeting in prayer.

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

Minutes of last year's Annual Meeting of Parishioners

These were approved unanimously.

Churchwardens' Report

A printed report was distributed before the meeting. Paul Sheridan Highlighted some of the key areas of the report

ST Stephens.

The building continues to be rented to St Phillips and is the home of House of Prayer. The building is also rented to other groups and the flat is still being rented. The rent covers the costs but the long term viability of the building is something PCC is considering. There is some major work (including subsidence improvement) required.

St Barts.

There have been improvements to the building this year, but more to be done. The Solar panels are a great success as are the new swing doors. The regular tidy ups have also helped.

The work around Eco church has been great and special mention must be made for the work Lucy Smith has done for this.

Paul expressed his thanks to PCC and Standing Committee for being so supportive to himself and Dave Neath as Wardens.

There was a Question from B W asking if we knew how much it would cost to sort the subsidence at St Stephen's and where that money would come from. PS replied that it would be about 30K and we did have that much money in reserves but was hopeful we would find a grant for it.

The report was received unanimously. AB proposed & DN seconded

Election of churchwardens

There were two nominations received: Paul Sheridan and Dave Neath.

The restriction of the 6 year Statute was agreed unanimously for Pul Sheridan

Both were approved unanimously

Lucy Smith prayed for the new wardens.

APCM

Minutes and Matters Arising from last year's APCM

The minutes were approved unanimously. MH proposed and LS seconded

Appointment of lay representatives on the Deanery Synod

The appointment of Paul Sheridan and Steve Hill as lay representatives was agreed still one year to run

Appointment of licenced lay readers

The appointment of Tina Powell-Wiffen to be on the PCC as a licenced lay reader was approved unanimously.

Elections to the Parochial Church Council

There are 9 vacancies on PCC.

There were 9 nominations received: Lucy Smith, Anne Kingstone, Martin Horton, Andy Bryce, Katie Smith and Davo Smith, Alastair Smyth, Ben Widdows, Sharon Jacobs

The election of these nominees was approved unanimously.

Annual report on the Electoral Roll

Dave Neath reported that the new electoral roll was now in place. (6 year rule) There are now 51 over 16s of whom 37 are not resident in the parish

Annual report on the finances of The Vine Sheffield PCC and appointment of independent examiner

A copy of the report approved by the independent examiner was provided to all attendees to review along with a 2025 budget. Andy Bryce provided a summary.

Andy was pleased to note the ongoing stability of the Vines finances during 2024. We recorded a small deficit of £2,662 but this can be covered by reserves.

Most of our income continues to come from regular giving but building hire and dividends from investment also make up an important share of our income.

On expenditure, we continue to commit to giving to partner organisations and to the Common Fund, with our contribution to the latter remaining steady. Payroll costs cover the salary of a part time administrator and part of the salary of our children's worker.

We still have a substantial amount of money set aside in designated funds, but we have continued to draw down from these funds including paying for the children's worker and some expenditure on buildings.

Andy briefly summarised the budget for this year.

Members were reminded of the opportunity to give regularly to The Vine through the Parish Giving Scheme. Andy concluded by saying thank you to all who faithfully give financially to the church.

A question was asked about the level of funds to cover all the required expenditure on forthcoming building works.

Paul Sheridan answered that there was a "wish" list and an "desired" list. The funds would cover important work but not all the "wish" list

A question was asked about the investment fund of over £600K can this be used to support the ongoing designated funds. PS & AB replied and clarified that this would be very complicated and would need Diocese and PCC approval, but only a "certain" amount could be accessed.

A further question from Ben Widdows was asked about the projected spend this year and it was clarified that this would be discussed further in PCC

Sarah Lightfoot of Seven Hills Accounting has been formally approved as the independent examiner for The Vine Sheffield, and the accounts were accepted unanimously.

Andy was thanked for his service.

Vicar's report

A paper report was distributed at the meeting. In his verbal report, Will Briggs highlighted the key points.

He confirmed that the Vine would soon be in vacancy but was confident that the team in place left the church in a healthy state.

Will highlighted that St Stephens building and his role was being investigated but that it was business as usual for the HOP and Arabic Fellowship and St Phillips.

His hope was that the building would not be a burden on the wider parish and that resolution could be reached in the near future.

Will moved to accept the report, seconded by Martin Horton. Report approved unanimously.

Other reports

Other reports were also distributed for members to read at their leisure. There being no further questions raised from any of the reports, Thanks were given for all the reports and the volunteers involved

Safeguarding

We were reminded that Siobhan Melville continues to be the nominated safeguarding officer and that Sharon Jacobs is deputy SO. Any safeguarding concerns should be reported to them

AOB

No points were raised.

Closing prayer

The meeting was concluded as Gill Briggs prayed.