

**Minutes of the ST MARY THE VIRGIN, SILCHESTER**  
**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**  
**Held on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

The meeting opened at 11.50 a.m., immediately following the Vestry Meeting.

**Chairman:** Revd Steve McKay

**Clerk:** Mr Colin Hunt

**Present:**

Revd S McKay; Revd K West; Revd C Knight; Mrs J Hughes; Mrs S Speight; Mrs V Picton; Mr R Eldridge; Mrs S Hunt; Mrs H Williams; Mrs S Fletcher; Miss H Evans; Mr J Pynn; Mr C Hunt; Ms K Johnston; Mrs D Wraight; Mr M Jones; Mrs J Pearson; Mr J Barnett.

**Apologies** were received from:

Mrs J Filkin, Mr K Filkin, Mrs P Morgan, Mr D Morgan; Revd C Pynn.

The Chairman welcomed those attending the meeting.

Amongst other points made by the Rector:

- Worldwide, for the first time in a number of years, the Church has seen growth, especially in the Roman Catholic Church, and especially amongst young men. We must all take encouragement from this and must do our best to increase the growth momentum.
- We need to be aware that most of the young people who come into contact with our churches will have little or no handed-down or background knowledge of what Christianity is about. We need to re-think from first principles how we should make them feel welcome, and how we should conduct services so they have meaning for newcomers.
- Generosity, Hospitality and Friendship have been watchwords for the year just past – and we have made a start, but there is much more to do. Great efforts should be made to ensure that newcomers are always made to feel welcome. Sidespeople have a particular responsibility in this, and may need to accompany newcomers as they enter the church so that others need to be ready to take over at the entrance.
- We must be fully inclusive - ensuring our worship and welcome are intergenerational - suitable for young, old and everyone in between, both the regular faithfuls and those who have stepped into the church for the first time.
- Gratitude was expressed to all those who contribute in so many ways to make sure that the Parish and Church of St Mary the Virgin, Silchester, continues to run smoothly.

**1 Electoral Roll**

Mrs Williams reported that the new electoral roll for 2025 contains 61 names, 33 of these for people residing within Silchester Parish.

## **2 Minutes of the previous Annual Meeting**

There were no comments or matters arising from the minutes of the APCM held on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024. The minutes were approved by those attending the meeting, and a copy was signed by Revd Steve McKay.

## **3 Presentation of the Annual Report**

Electronic copies had been circulated to everyone reached by the parish email list, with additional access via a link to the website for St Mary the Virgin for all who might be interested. Hard copies were available in church on the day of the meeting. It was assumed that those attending the meeting had been able to read a copy of the report (which includes a copy of the Annual Accounts for 2024).

There were no questions on matters featuring in the Report.

## **4 Election of Officers**

**Deanery Synod** representatives: The current triennium began in 2023, when Mrs S Speight and Mr C Hunt were elected as the parish representatives. The next election for this role, unless either of the current representatives were to resign, will be in 2026.

**PCC Membership:** Membership in 2024/2025 consisted of:

The Rector, Revd S McKay (ex-officio), Chairman

Associate Priest for Silchester, Revd K West (ex-officio member)

The Benefice Curate: Revd Knight (ex-officio member)

Churchwarden: Mrs J Hughes (ex-officio member)

Deanery Synod Representatives: Mrs Speight and Mr Hunt (ex-officio members)

Elected PCC Members: Mrs J Pearson, Miss H Evans (both elected in April 2024); Mrs J Filkin, Mrs H Williams and Mr R Fletcher (all elected in April 2022); Mrs S Fletcher and Mrs V Picton (both elected in April 2023).

This gave a total of 13 (6 being ex-officio, 7 being elected or co-opted), which is 2 fewer than the parish is allowed. Those elected in 2022 reached the ends of their terms of office with the arrival of this Annual Meeting. Mr R Fletcher, after many years of service to the PCC, has decided not to stand for a further term. The parish is therefore in a position to elect (or re-elect) 5 people to the PCC for 2025/26.

The Secretary had received a valid nomination form for Mrs S Fletcher (proposed by Mrs S Hunt and seconded by Mr C Hunt). Mrs H Williams, also at the end of her term of office, was prepared to be nominated during the meeting (proposed by Mr C Hunt, seconded by Mrs S Speight). There being no others willing to serve as PCC members, Mrs Fletcher and Mrs Williams were declared elected following a unanimous show of hands. This leaves 3 membership vacancies for 2025/26.

PCC Membership for 2025/2026 consists of:

The Rector, Revd S McKay (ex-officio)

Revd Knight (ex-officio)

Revd K West, Assistant Priest for Silchester (ex-officio)

Churchwarden: Mrs J Hughes (ex-officio)

Deanery Synod Representatives: Mrs Speight and Mr Hunt (ex-officio)

Elected PCC Members: Mrs Picton (elected April 2023); Mrs Pearson, Miss Evans and Mr Eldridge (elected April 2024); Mrs Williams and Mrs Fletcher (elected April 2025)

This brings the strength up to a total of 12 (6 being ex-officio, 7 being elected), i.e. 3 fewer than the number allowed for our parish.

**5 Election of Sidesmen/women:** The following were proposed for the coming year:

Mrs E Baker; Mrs H Williams; Mrs K Hodge; Mrs A Withers; Mr & Mrs K Filkin; Mr & Mrs D Morgan; Mr & Mrs M Cole; Mr & Mrs C Hunt; Mrs C Osborne; Mr J Barnett; Mrs S Speight; Miss H Evans; Mrs V Picton; Mr R Eldridge.

Those present at the meeting voted unanimously to appoint all of these.

**6 Appointment of Independent Examiner**

Mr R Eldridge, Treasurer, proposed the re-appointment of Mr Scott Broadhead for the coming year. This proposal was accepted unanimously.

**7 Points from the Floor**

Mr Eldridge noted that car parking in the St Mary the Virgin carpark is very likely to become much more difficult when, as expected, Hampshire County Council introduces a charging system for parking in the Wall Carpark. It was agreed that an objection from the PCC to the HCC proposal should be lodged before the expiry of the consultation period.

John Pynn commented on the number of drop-in visitors to the church he sees when he is there to practise on the organ, and how this must provide an opportunity for mission.

It was noted that the Terrier and Inventory for 2025/2026 were up to date and available for inspection.

The meeting closed at 12:15 p.m. with a prayer of thanks.