

# ALL SAINTS CHURCH CHEADLE HULME

## ANNUAL VESTRY and ANNUAL PARISH CHURCH MEETINGS

Held in Church on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 11.30am

### MINUTES

#### Annual Vestry Meeting

1. Opening Prayers

The APCM was opened at 11.30am with prayers led by Rev'd Sarah Hancock. Thanks were given to those attending.

Minutes from the May 2024 Vestry Meeting were approved by all in attendance.

2. Election of Churchwardens

Andrew Hughes was elected Churchwarden in January 2025, and has agreed to continue. All present were in favour of this, with one abstention Kate Hughes (a vested interest, as his wife)

Janet Ashman has now served 6 years in the role, and has agreed to serve a 7<sup>th</sup> and final term. She will have a break next year. Volunteers are now sought to take on this role, and Janet will give appropriate training during this final year to anybody willing to take over from her. All present were in agreement to Janet remaining for a final term.

#### Annual Parish Church Meeting (Electoral Roll only)

1. Attendance and Apologies

Attending:

Rev'd Sarah Hancock (Chair)

John Ackerley, Linda Ackerley, Angela Aiers, Michael Aiers, Sue Aldington, Janet Ashman, Lisa Bacon, Margaret Bayley, Julia Ball, Sarah Ball, Alma Budd, Peter Budd, Margaret Epps, Anne Fleeson, Raymond Floyd, Heather Harrison, Ian Harrison, Pauline Hennell, Andrew Hughes, Kate Hughes, Constance Jones, David Jones, Lydia Karuku-Ndungu, Anne Lee, Nuala Lynn, Lily Mitchelhill, Paula Mostyn, Rev'd Janet Owens, Roger Owens, Jenny Pickering, Belinda Priestley, Stuart Priestley, Jenny Rothwell, Stella Rees, Clare Russell, Gay Saunders, Lesley Sharples, Christine Spencer, Alan Staniforth, Trevlyn Thomas, Karen Tunney, Peter Wills, Pat Yates

Apologies:

Steph Harris, Peter Nelson, David Pickett, Frances Pickett, Janet Valentine, Jeremy Valentine

2. Minutes of previous APCM held on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2024

The Vicar asked if there were any queries to the APCM minutes of 5<sup>th</sup> May 2024, none were heard. The minutes were thus accepted as a true representation of the APCM for 2024. All present were in favour.

3. Matters Arising

Rev'd Sarah advised that matters arising would be covered by the agenda.

4. Elections

*a) Deanery Synod Representatives*

Lily Mitchelhill and Julia Ball stated that they were both still willing to stand as the All Saints Deanery Synod representatives. All present were in favour.

It was noted that Linda Ackerley and Clare Russell are both also invited to Deanery Synod in their roles as licenced Pastoral Workers.

*b) PCC Members*

2 x PCC members due for re-election this year – Sarah Ball, Constance Jones – have both decided to stand down from PCC, effective from this APCM.

Another member - Lydia Karuku-Ndungu – also stood down from PCC, again effective from this APCM

Thanks were given to these 3 members for their valuable contributions to PCC during their tenure.

The following PCC members were re-elected to serve further 3-year terms:

- Katherine (Kate) Hughes - proposed by Janet Ashman, seconded by Clare Russell
- Janet Valentine – proposed by Christine Spencer, seconded by Roger Owens

The following new PCC member was elected to serve a 3-year term:

- Lisa Bacon – proposed by Katherine Hughes, seconded by Janet Ashman

The afore mentioned 3 x PCC members were thus elected to serve 3 years from today. All present were in favour.

*c) Appointment of Independent Examiner of Accounts*

Kate Hughes, Treasurer, proposed that Mitchell Charlesworth are to be engaged as Account Examiners. Seconded by Jenny Rothwell, all present in favour.

*d) Electoral Roll Officer*

David Jones, Electoral Roll Officer, was re-elected for another year. All present were in favour.

*e) Representatives on Churches Together in Cheadle Hulme*

Lily Mitchelhill and Rev'd Sarah are the representatives, and were re-appointed for another year. All present were in favour

*f) To Note : Readers and Licensed Pastoral workers on PCC*

The APCM noted the Readers Michael Aiers and Pat Yates, and noted Linda Ackerley and Clare Russell as licensed Pastoral Workers.

The APCM were in favour of retaining the afore mentioned in their positions.

Rev'd Sarah expressed sincere thanks to both Readers, to Rev'd Janet Owens who continues as licenced Clergy, and to Clare and Linda in their role as Pastoral Workers.

5. Notification of Sidespersons

The list of existing Sidespersons was presented to the APCM:

- Angela Aiers,
- Julie & Chris Baillie,
- Julia Ball,
- Raymond Floyd,
- Steph Harris,
- Dr. David Jones,
- Anne Lee,
- Lily Mitchelhill,
- Yvonne Rowlands,
- Lesley Sharples,
- Christine Spencer

All were thus accepted as Sidespersons.

6. Electoral Roll Report

David Jones, Electoral Roll Officer, presented the report:

“The process of completing a full new Electoral Roll every six years takes at least two months.

Every new Roll over the last twenty years or more recorded a reduction in the numbers from the previous year, sometimes of 30% or more, but this year at All Saints we are only down by about 10%.

On the minus side, there were 26 fewer applications for renewal, but 15 new names have been added, so the total on the Roll is now 96.

Hopefully we will get more new applications in the next twelve months.”

7. Report on Proceedings of the PCC

The Vicar advised the APCM that the report, as compiled by the PCC Secretary, Christine Spencer, appeared verbatim in the Annual Report. The Secretary highlighted the key points to the APCM:

The PCC met on 6 occasions in 2024; membership was quorate at each.

PCC membership at the end of 2024, including ex-Officio, stood at 19 members.

The PCC has discussed and dealt with:

- a) Election of PCC Officers.
- b) Reports from Deanery Synod, Charities and other church committees, and also various correspondence.
- c) Adoption and implementation of Safeguarding Policy, including management of DBS checks and appropriate training
- d) Development of our Eco Church status
- e) Ongoing development and growth of young persons' groups (Messy Church, Mainly Music); Senior Fellowship, and outreach in the form of Friendship Café
- f) Potential implementation of services incorporating Prayers for Love and Faith
- g) The Churchwardens have undertaken the care and management of the church, its fabric, and its utilities.
- h) The Churchwardens have kept members informed at each meeting about all the church's various activities.
- i) The Treasurer has continued to produce carefully prepared detailed computerised reports of our income/expenditure, balance sheet and funding, and has given comprehensive explanations at each PCC meeting.
- j) The Facebook page continues to be populated by a team led by Sarah Ball.
- k) The Parish Rooms and its associated business; the supervision and management of the Parish Rooms Supervisor.

8. & 9. Treasurer's Report - Presentation of Accounts for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

Kate Hughes, Treasurer, presented the Accounts and Giving/Gift Aid Report.

**Accounts**

"The Accounts for year ending December 2024 can be found at the end of the Annual Report. They have been reviewed throughout the year by the PCC and this final set of Accounts has been approved by them and signed off on their behalf by Rev'd Sarah.

The largest item of income was a legacy from our friend Irene, of just over £42,000. This has been earmarked by the PCC for the major building repairs that are required, which the Churchwardens will no doubt explain. Unrestricted giving of this kind enables the PCC to plan and act responsibly as trustees, using any funds received for whatever is needed at that time.

The largest item of expenditure was the Parish Share of £75,344, paid at the standard Parish Share rate of 1.05. This should have been nearly £97,000 had we paid at the rate set for our Parish of 1.35. However, it is expected that this would be our largest expenditure. The church is not a manufacturer of goods, it is people based and our major cost is, as it should be, our incumbent and the training and support networks of those who hold major roles within our church community.

Thinking back to the last couple of APCMs, the main concerns of those meetings in relation to the finances were the Parish Share and the cost of our Accountants.

As you may know already, the PCC voted to reduce our payments of the Parish Share whilst we work towards enlarging our community and increasing our income. We will be keeping a record of any shortfalls occurring during this time and look forward to a time

when we will be able to pay our full set Parish Share without any difficulty, and once more support those parishes less fortunate than ourselves.

With regard to the Accountants, I have looked back over several years and have found that over that time we have reduced the cost of our final accounts preparation and examination from £2,700 to £2,040. Given the level of increase in the cost of living and inflation, this is quite remarkable. However, it is unlikely to decrease any further in the future.

### **Giving**

There was a small response to our appeals for increased regular giving, which apart from a few instances, has mostly stagnated. As a result of both this response and new parishioners joining our regular givers, pledged giving has increased by approximately £3,000 over 2024.

Thank you to all those who continue to increase their giving every year, to those who are still giving even though they are no longer able to join us in our building, and to those who have found themselves in a position to give an additional amount from time to time for whatever reason.

As Treasurer, I naturally urge everyone to consider annual increases in their giving every year. As we are all well aware, costs increase annually and what £10 would buy last year or the year before, never mind 10 years ago, is very different to what it will buy now.

Please take a look through the Annual Report and see what is going on here at All Saints, and think about how and where you are supporting these activities. We will be holding an Open Day on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June, where we hope there will be a representative of most if not all of these activities. Please do come along, find out more and ask questions. I will also be there, so if you have any questions in relation to our finances, where our money comes from and where it goes, please do come along and ask.

Thank you”

Rev'd Sarah thanked Kate, and invited comments/questions from the floor – no comments/queries raised.

### 9. Report on the Fabric of the Church

Janet Ashman, Churchwarden, presented the Churchwardens report to the APCM:

“We started the year with the clear up of the cellar after it flooded in December 2023. It was quite a mess, with the loss of many memorable things and, as the Flower Group store a lot of their materials down there, a great loss to them. Tables and shelving were purchased by the Flower Group, and most of the remaining things are now stored off the ground.

In the summer we hired a skip, and finally cleared the cellar of all the debris still down there. A lot of the congregation turned up, and also some people from the parish. The cellar was cleared, and parts of the church grounds were tidied up. Light refreshments were served and it turned out to be an unexpectedly joyous occasion.

Unfortunately the pump under the Meeting Room floor continues to be a problem. If it fails it can cause the cellar to flood. We have had a new pump fitted this year, and had an electrical fault caused by the pump. We have looked into having a sensor put in the sump next to the pump, but felt this was not the answer. We are now looking at a sensor to be put in the cellar – this would detect any water on the cellar floor.

All the annual checks were completed, with no insurmountable problems revealed.

The church had a leak in one of its radiators, and the Meeting Room boiler was being very temperamental. It was discovered that small bits of gravel were getting into the boiler. A small filter has now been fitted, and we are hoping this will solve the issue.

The Gardener has kept the church grounds tidy, with no major work being required.

Due to a generous legacy from one of our congregation, we have been able to have the coping stones on the roof at the West end of church re-set, and also pointing work done. This was causing internal damp, hence the plaster peeling off in that area of the church.

The coping stones were removed, the flashing underneath extended, and the stones re-set. The next major phase will be the removal and re-plastering of the inside area which cannot be started until the walls have fully dried out. This is not the only area of peeling plaster and damp in our church – the Chancel wall and North side are also showing signs. As our finances are in a pretty bad state, these problems are unfortunately going to get worse.

Money also needs to be spent on a new side door, which at present jams in wet weather. Estimates have now been received. As this door is the only access to the building when the main door is locked, we had work done on the small South door in the church, and had new keys cut.

Once again, we would like to thank you for all your help over the last year. We would not be able to do our jobs without you”

Janet Ashman and Andrew Hughes, Churchwardens.

Rev'd Sarah extended grateful thanks to both Churchwardens, Janet and Andrew. She then invited comments / questions from the floor:

*Comment* – the North wall has been an issue for over 50 years, since a fireplace had been there...

*Question* – the side door has a ramp, but if people wish to use the main door, can a grab handle or similar be fixed to the main door for easier access? Rev'd Sarah advised this would require a faculty, but agreed to look into it.

*Question* – how does the damp sensor react to a wet floor? Andrew H (churchwarden) advised the sensor is 2” from the floor. If any water exceeds 2” then an email alert is sent to him (Andrew) to enable him to activate the pump. He also advised the pump is a cheaper domestic version and not very effective; now pricing up for an industrial version.

## 10. Report on the Life of the Church in 2024 by Rev'd Sarah Hancock

“At All Saints we continue to seek to be an inclusive church where ‘All Are Welcome’. Where everyone is celebrated and where all are affirmed no matter where they are on their journey of faith. We took this one step further in 2024 with the PCC voting for the church to use the Prayers in Love and Faith.

To make sure we are welcoming in all areas of our church we divided this up into three areas: Welcome at our door with the focus on worship, welcome to our building with our focus on the work needed for the upkeep of our building, and finally welcome beyond our front door with the focus on mission and to our wider community.

So taking each of these areas let's start with **Welcome at the Front Door: Worship**

In 2024 our welcome at the front door has included:

Our church services such as Parish Communion (which we stream) and Evensong on a Sunday, BCP communion on a Sunday and a Messy Church as our regular services and our special services such as Advent preparation service, Ash Wednesday, Ascension, and our memorial service as well as extra ones at Christmas and Easter. And we can also add in our Weddings, Funerals, and Baptisms.

We can look around at our services and think I wonder how many people actually walk through our doors. On a Sunday & Wednesday services we have seen our numbers towards the end of 2024 increase on a Sunday morning, with our Wednesday congregation numbers remaining steady. Our offshoot church service in Hillbrook Grange has also seen an increase in numbers attending that service, run by Pat Yates and Linda Ackerley.

*EASTER:* we had around 165 people come through our door from Maundy Thursday to Easter Sunday - this is slightly lower than in 2023, but still a good number.

*CHRISTMAS:* Our numbers jumped to 605, which is over 100 more people attending than the year before – I just want to say again a huge thank you to everyone who stepped in last minute to cover services while I was ill. I will try my best this year to make it to Christmas Day!

I know these numbers do have a few repeats as people come to many services over Easter and Christmas, but this is 770 opportunities to share our welcome at the door just over those two periods.

We welcomed 565 people (+1dog) to All Saints in 2024 just for Baptisms, 868 people who came to say goodbye to their loved ones who had died, and we welcomed 124 people to church for a wedding – that is a lot of welcoming!

And we are seeing these encounters bear fruit. Our services in the latter part of 2024 and into 2025 have had increased attendances as people feel welcomed as part of our church and find their spiritual home here.

Secondly our **Welcome to our Building: Buildings**

We are aware of the building works that are needed for our church. We started the work in the library corner with the outside being seen to, and waiting for the inside to dry out now we have stopped damp progressing through the wall.

We are collating quotes to replace the back door that was sticking, but that first day it had dried out I nearly whacked myself in the head with it. The first quote for the door was around £7,000.

With our Eco Church we have twinned our Ladies' toilet, and this year we have twinned the Men's. We hope to twin our accessible toilet soon.

You may have noticed some black and yellow tape in our churchyard. This is due to unsafe headstones, which we will be looking to rectify in the very near future.

### **And finally our **Welcome beyond the Front Door: Outreach, our mission to our community****

We did lots of things during 2024 such as: Pancake Party, Tea at the Vicarage, Mainly Music, Craft Club, Schools visits to our church, School Assemblies (I have started regularly going into Thorn Grove), Friendship Café – term times and one off in August - Flower Group Christmas Coffee Morning, and Mulled Wine & Mince Pies at the Vicarage, Makers Market returned for the second time! Halloween Hot Chocolates on Hill Top Avenue – I recommend training on how to share the gospel to people dressed as dinosaurs, it was not covered in mine! Beetle Drive, Harvest Lunch, Charities Coffee Mornings, Bingo and Quiz night.

All these areas if we count up all the opportunities we have to share the welcome of God to others we are looking at well over 1,000 moments of making a connection, sharing hospitality, telling others about Jesus, and taking a moment to say – “God is at work here”. We are seeing people come from our Friendship Café into church, we are seeing families journey from Mainly Music to Messy Church, we are seeing people we encounter in our parish coming through our doors – for some the first time they have stepped into our church.

### **So, What's Next?**

Keep doing what we are doing, but this next chapter to look at what is welcoming beyond our front door? To encourage each other to become bolder in telling others about the amazing Gospel of Jesus Christ. This might sound terrifying, and I'm not expecting you to don your sandwich boards and start yelling on the street corner. But it's to become confident in telling our story of our journey with Jesus. How God welcomed us into his family, the Church, and how we want others to join us too. It's about looking at where we can build on connections with others, so that we aren't just interacting with them once a year on Hill Top Avenue, or over a pancake just before Lent.

Our PCC this year met with a representative from the Diocese who talked about next steps for those who are part of our Messy Church congregation, and how we build up that congregation and community. We haven't got the answers yet, but I have a feeling it includes cheese and wine..!

As part of encouraging us to become bolder in our outreach of welcome beyond our door we will be having a sermon series in the summer on what is mission, why do we tell others about Jesus, and why is it important?. And as always there will be plenty of opportunities in what we are currently doing to have a go at telling others about Jesus.

Our finances are still precarious but are finally moving in the right direction. This is partly because we have reduced our Parish Share to 1.05 for this year, and also our giving has slightly increased. I ask you again to consider if you would increase your giving this year to help enable us to build on what we are doing, and to continue to be a place of welcome for anyone seeking or wanting to strengthen their faith.

In 2025 we have seen a significant increase in our numbers on a Sunday morning and on average we have around 60 people each week. This year, Easter did send me and Rev'd Janet into a slight panic when the number for communion started at 100! We have seen people take significant decisions in their faith, especially in our Messy Church congregation. We saw Euan being confirmed, and then this year Lewis who is 7 decided to get baptised saying it was the best day of his life! This is what we can do with the donations and support to All Saints Church.

I have heard numerous accounts of members of the church helping each other out, supporting each other, cheering each other on and building friendships – we know this particularly on a Sunday because we often turn the lights out on you all whilst you're still chatting! All Saints Church continues to be a place where we worship, serve and give, in order that all who encounter us - whether at our door, in our building, or beyond our door - are welcomed in such a way that they know that they are loved by the Living God. Amen”.

11. Any Other Business

No further business was heard.

*Angela Aiers proposed a vote of thanks to everybody involved in the running of the church in whatever capacity*

The meeting was concluded at 12:20

12. Date of the next Annual Parish Meeting 2026

**10<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 11.30am.**

*Note: Trevlyn Thomas (Organist / Choirmaster) – commented this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in May. She asked if the APCM could be held instead on either 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, due to Sung Evensong being held on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday. Rev'd Sarah will review calendar and update as appropriate.*

**Post Meeting update: Date of next APCM was amended to 17<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 11:30**

The APCM was to be followed by a brief meeting of the PCC, to elect to PCC posts - including Secretary and Treasurer - and to review the Safeguarding Policy.

Signed.....

Name.....

Date.....