



ST MARY & ST JOHN, ROTHLEY PARISH CHURCH
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF PARISHIONERS
Sunday 6th April 2025 at 11am in the Church

PRESENT: The Vicar (Revd. Rob Gladstone) in the Chair and 87 parishioners.

1. WELCOME AND APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY FOR THE MEETING

Rob welcomed those present, and Susan Pinkus (PCC Secretary) was proposed to take the minutes of the meeting. This was agreed.

2. OPENING PRAYERS & READING

Rob opened the meeting with prayer and a Bible reading from Joshua Chapter 1, followed by a few thoughts on this passage.

Rob reported that it had been a challenging year, both at Diocesan and National level, exacerbated by safeguarding issues and the resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury. Minster Community discussions have been going on for two years and still nothing is settled. Our potential Minster Community is currently preparing its first draft of a working agreement between the churches. Financially, Rothley is in a good position, but there are challenges across the group as a whole. In the meantime, Rob's work as Area Dean of Goscote has become increasingly demanding, given several clergy vacancies; this cuts into time available for his primary role as Vicar of Rothley. However, as he comes towards the end of his full-time stipendiary ministry, Rob hopes to focus much more on the gospel than on administration. Rob wished to thank the ministry team: David Wilson, Valerie Joyce, Sue Willetts, Andy Willetts, Nigel Elliott, Alison Godfrey and Sneha Ninan. He was happy to announce that Sneha will be joining us as a full-time stipendiary curate from June the 30th this year. Rob thanked everyone for their encouragement and blessing and also added thanks to his family for their constant support.

3. MINUTES OF THE 2024 MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

The minutes of the meeting of parishioners held on Sunday April 7th, 2024, had been circulated prior to the meeting. These were agreed unanimously as an accurate record of the meeting.

4. ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS

Lisa Cook and Nigel Willey had been appropriately nominated and seconded and were unanimously approved.

Rob thanked the retiring wardens, Margaret Rouse and Fred Sleath, for all their hard work and support over the last year. Also, the work of the Assistant Wardens has been invaluable and very much appreciated. Rob made a small presentation to our retiring Churchwardens.

Rob also wished to express our gratitude to Ray Prince who will be stepping down from his role as Church Building Manager on May the 31st. Ray was also presented with a small gift. Also stepping down from her role as Safeguarding Officer was Wendy Ferguson. Rob thanked her for handling all the changes which have taken place over the last ten years in this area of church life. Wendy was also presented with a small gift.

The meeting closed at 11.29am.



ST MARY & ST JOHN, ROTHLEY PARISH CHURCH
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
Sunday 6th April 2025 at 11.30 am in the Church

PRESENT: The Vicar (Revd. Rob Gladstone) in the Chair and 87 members on the Church Electoral Roll.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: 4 apologies for absence were received.

2. MINUTES OF THE 2024 ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

These were circulated before the meeting and agreed as an accurate record.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 2024 ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

A short summary of the current position of the Church Building Improvements Project was presented.

4. REPORT ON CHANGES TO THE CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

Rob gave huge thanks to Marion Whitby for her hard work on this. The new electoral roll stands at 220, down from 261 last year.

We were asked to formally accept the new electoral roll. Proposed by Valerie Joyce and seconded by Liz Barker. All agreed.

5. THE ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR 2024

This is a legal requirement for Churches registered with the Charity Commission. Rob thanked Sue Wilson for the collation and presentation of this document, and to all the many contributors. It is not required to agree them, as that has already been done by the PCC (Trustees) and the Independent Examiner.

6. SAFEGUARDING REPORT

Rob reported that there had been no major safeguarding incidents this year. He drew attention to the Safeguarding section of the Diocesan website, which contains useful information, including details about training. Five new National Safeguarding Standards have recently been published and the PCC will discuss these throughout this year. Helen Jones and Ruth Whalen will be working together as Safeguarding Coordinators and Wendy will be happy to help with induction and direction.

7. TREASURER'S REMARKS

Sue Wilson thanked everyone for the part they had played in the ministry of this church, day by day and week by week during 2024. Their generous contributions of time, talents and funds are evidenced on every page of the Annual Report and Accounts for 2024. Sue asked that this document be used as a resource as it provides detailed information about all the activities we have undertaken here in Rothley to try to fulfill our Christian calling, as well as full details of our finances. This document gives a comprehensive overview of the life of this church.

For the first time in at least 12 years we recorded a significant deficit, £10,700, on our general day-to-day income and expenditure at the end of 2024. The details are laid out and explained in the Annual Report, and Sue intends to give updates on the current year's situation as we progress through 2025.

Sue also wished to thank the six people who work with her as a team on Church finance:

Rafe Cherry, Chair of the Finance Committee

Charles Poole, Stewardship Co-ordinator

Trevor West, External accounts and payroll

Linda Cherry, Church collections banking

Wendy Philpott and Susan Pinkus, co-authorising bank transfer payments

Sue brings all the work together as Treasurer and thanked the team for all their work and their support throughout 2024.

A question was asked about our Parish Contribution to the Diocese of Leicester. Sue explained that the Parish Contribution is a gift and the PCC decide each year how much we should give. We are currently giving far more than the minimum expected. We have always given generously, but we may have reached the point when we cannot do this any longer. However, Sue did point out that once we become part of a Minster Community, what we give will be important to support the paid ministry within that Minster Community so will be a decision that needs to take other churches into account.

8. ELECTIONS TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

PCC Representatives

The following members were stepping down from the PCC:

Wendy Lewis
Wendy Ferguson

Thanks were given for their valuable service and contribution.

For election to PCC this year were:

Helen Jones
Susie Clark (second term)
Richard Croker
Margaret Rouse

All appointments were duly nominated and seconded and agreed unanimously at this meeting.

Rob added his thanks to all those members serving currently.

9. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR 2025

Sue Wilson, Church Treasurer, proposed Scott Bradford of Newby Castleman Chartered Accountants, Loughborough, to conduct the Independent Examination of the Church accounts for 2025. This was seconded by Sandra Shaw Pearce and agreed by the meeting.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

A letter will be written to the Pook family to express our thanks for making the Victoria Mills car park available to the congregation on Sundays.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND QUESTIONS

Margaret Rouse wanted to give thanks for the help and support received from the Assistant Wardens this year; they are: Chris Garnett, Simon Taylor, Nigel Willey, Jean Johnson, Marion Whitby, along with Richard Neill and Richard Yates as Vergers for funerals and weddings.

Rafe Cherry asked how we plan to raise the remaining funds needed for the Church Building Improvements Project. Rob replied that generous giving has always been part of Christian discipleship. We have £288,000 banked, £125,000 of which was set aside by the PCC initially. Clive Jackson will be looking at further grant applications when the necessary permissions for the alterations have been received.

Rafe also asked about our involvement at Broadnook. Rob reported that he is now a member of the Broadnook Community Trust. A welcome leaflet had been produced which would be distributed to all new residents with the developers' welcome packs. More welcome events would be arranged at Broadnook as sufficient new residents arrive. Rob also reminded us that at 6pm on the 4th Sunday of every month there is a forty-minute prayer meeting focusing on evangelism, where Broadnook is a regular feature.

David Wilson expressed thanks to Rob and Sarah. David thanked Rob for his faithful, biblical ministry and pastoral work in the parish.

Fred Sleath added a few words about serving positions still waiting to be filled at church and reminded people to contact him if they were interested.

9. CLOSING PRAYERS

Rob returned to Joshua Chapter 1 with a reminder that God never forsakes us but encourages us to be strong and courageous; he is with us always.

The meeting closed at 12.11 pm.