**PARISH OF CALNE AND BLACKLAND**

**Minutes of Annual Meeting of Parishioners held at St Mary’s, Calne**

**on Sunday 6th April 2025 at 11.30am**

Apologies were received from Richard and Deirdre Aldhous, Isabella Gage, Eddie and Margaret Sims, John and Teresa Michaux, Gill and Phil Bond and Alison Keighley.

The APCM commenced after the 10.00am Service of the Eucharist at St Mary’s, Calne, with 34 parishioners in attendance in St Mary’s Church.

**Annual Meeting of Parishioners 2025 (Vestry Meeting)**

**Churchwardens’ Elections:** The following individuals were nominated for election as Churchwardens:St Mary’s: Steve Keighley Proposed by: Lucy Hemmings Jonathan Billings

Jonathan Billings Proposed by: Steve Keighley Lucy Hemmings

St Peter’s Caroline Williamson Proposed by: Lucy Hemmings   
Lucy Hemmings Proposed by: Caroline Williamson Steve Keighley

Holy Trinity Phillip Bond Proposed by:

As no other nominations were received prior to this meeting, these nominees were duly elected.

ALL in favour.

Caspar extended thanks to Stan Annis for all his work at Holy Trinity Church for the past 30 years.

We are grateful for all his work and hope that he continues to support the Parish in his many other roles.

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The APCM commenced after the 10.00am Service of the Eucharist at St Mary’s, Calne, with 32 parishioners in attendance in St Mary’s Church.

**Minutes of 2024 APCM** were accepted and signed.

AOB – amendment to date in the Meeting of Parish of Calne and Blackland from 2023 to 2024. Partnership of churches – continuation of the wording.

During the new reordering of St Mary’s the Nave Altar will be raised to make things easier to see but we are varying the use of the Nave Altar along with the High Altar in services.

**PCC Election:**

Kathryn Miller Proposed: Andy Miller Seconded: Chris Robins  
Jane Ridgwell Proposed: Timothy Thomas Seconded: Andy Miller  
Carolyn Burleson-Webb Proposed: Keith Townson Seconded: Kathryn Miller  
Richard Aldhous Proposed: Steve Keighley Seconded: Jonathan Billings  
Deirdre Aldhous Proposed: Steve Keighley Seconded: Jonathan Billings  
  
**Treasurers report:** see separate treasures report. Graham explained the Endowment column in the accounts and highlighted that this fund is controlled by the Diocese, although there is a possibility that we may get access to some of these fund to aid us in the reordering of St Mary’s Church.

Graham extended thanks to Kathryn Miller for assistance with Gift Aid and Shirley Clifford for her help with banking.

Graham reminded everyone that they can email him with any queries over the accounts.

Revd Caspar Bush extended thanks to all the work Graham does for our accounts within the parish. Caspar also thanked Penny Spencer for her support of Graham’s work in the parish.

**Proposal – the accounts as laid out in the treasurer’s report should be accepted.**

**Proposed by Steve Keighley Seconded by Keith Townson ALL in favour.**

**Electoral roll –**Elizabeth extended thanks to all those who have redesigned the forms, helped get these to people who are unable to join us in services and our LPAs and Churchwardens for their support as well. The at the end of the previous roll it stood at 196 entries. 5 removed. 3 added to the roll.   
  
Now we have revised the whole role we now have 162 entries. Some will be added across the year.   
Proposed: Lucy Hemmings Seconded: Kathryn Miller ALL in favour

Revd Caspar Bush thanked Elizabeth for all her work in compiling the new electoral roll.

**Safeguarding –** The Parish Dashboard is now in place within our Benefice. With all new members of the Church team having been hired through the Safer Recruitment Process.

**Inventory and Fabric:**

**St Mary’s –** additions 2 new oil candles and 2 new candle holders (thanks extended to Roger Blake for their creation).

**Holy Trinity** – small changes to inventory.

**St Peter’s** no changes to inventory.

Triannual inspection across all the churches within the parish from the Diocese and we passed this. This was carried out by our previous Archdeacon Sue Groom. We do now have a new Archdeacon Louise Ellis.

**Sidespeople:**

Revd Caspar Bush extended thanks all the sidespeople across all the churches.

**St Mary’s:** Kevin Burleson-Webb,Kathryn Miller, Rosemarie Berrie, Eddie Sims, Deidre Aldhous and Kevin Wells.

**St Peter’s:** Emma and Julian Miller and Sarah Smith

**Holy Trinity:** Stan Anniss and Jack Robinson

Proposer: Steve Keighley Seconded: Mary Pilcher-Clayton ALL in favour

**Partnership of Churches:**

Steven Colby has now stepped down as Chair of the Partnership of Churches. The Messy Church team are still running services across the Partnership. There have been lots of successful events that have happened in th town. Open the Book is part of Partnership of Churches, and this is still successfully running in our schools and pre-schools. If you would like to be a member of the Open the Book team do contact Steven Colby.

The Zion Chapel is potentially being closed; the book shop is looking for further premises as they are currently housed in part of the Chapel. We may not be able to keep the Christian Bookshop running within the town as they would be unable to afford the commercial rent. So please pray for this.

Our representatives are Jenny Colby, Steven Colby and Revd Caspar Bush Revd Sarah Errington.

Proposed: Felicity Grenfell Seconded: Steve Keighley ALL in favour.

If you are interested in joining the Partnership of Churches, then please do speak with Steven Colby or Revd Caspar Bush.

**Reports** received from Bellringers’ Report, Bible Studies Groups, Buildings Group, Calne Deanery Synod, Calne Mothers’ Union, Family Services, Holy Trinity Churchyard, Safeguarding, Home Communion Team, Lay Pastoral Assistants, Ride and Stride, St Peter’s Church, SMUF’s (St Mary’s Under Fives) and St Mary’s Churchwardens.

**AOB:**

**St Mary’s Church Reordering**

There is now a small subgroup of volunteers (Kevin Wells, Jane Ridgwell and Revd Caspar Bush) who are running the fundraising for this project.

Anna Hardy who is the Diocesan Generous Giving Advisor is giving us advice on where we can find grants to aid us with our reordering.

The South Chapel leaks when the wind blows from the South, but the roof is in disrepair, and it is need for redecoration. Heritage Lottery Fund are interested in preserving heritage and helping people to connect with local places of heritage and so we are currently working on seeking funding from them to redo the roof and redecorating the South Chapel. Once we have a price from the architects and then we can give this to the Heritage Lottery Fund to see if they are willing to grant us these funds. The PCC may need to look at asking a professional bids wrier to aid us in the wording of the grant applications.

Anna Hardy has recommended that we potential look at hiring a Community Engagement Officer to aid our connections within the town.

Alongside the above, we have some indicative prices from George Chedburn (the Diocesan Architect) for a detailed design of Phase 1 (Toilet, Kitchen, Children’s Area, Disabled Access and Dias). The Phase 1 estimate from the architect is £300,000 that is just the building work costs (£40,00-£50,000 in architect fees). Order of magnitude costing is currently looking to be £450,000 (with £60,000-£70,000 in architect fees). We will also be looking potentially at refurbishing the organ and this will be roughly another £500,000.

The Buildings Maintenance group are keen to have a launch date is the 28th June 2025. This will include a public presentation on what we are planning to do within our church, and all people will be able to ask questions.

We have already received some very generous donations to start the architect conferencing for the project. Any donations would be greatly appreciated, please do speak with Revd Caspar Bush or Graham Spencer if you are able to provide any amount in donation towards the initial fund of a Bid Writer and architect fees.

We do have some money left from previous legacy donations but this will need to be built upon to in order to complete the initial starting blocks of hiring a bid writer and architect fees.

**This concluded the business of the APCM for 2025.**

**Meeting of Calne and Blackland PCC**

Caspar welcomed Carolyn to the PCC.

Kate will circulate a list of dates for PCC meetings 2025-6 after the APCM.

**Appointment of Officers:**

Graham agreed to stand again as Treasurer, Kathryn (Kate) Powell as Secretary, Kevin Well as Vice Chair, Eddie Sims as Safeguarding Officer and Elizabeth (Liz) Roberts as Electoral Roll.

Proposed by Mary Pilcher-Clayton Seconded: Steven Colby ALL in favour

Standing Committee Members are currently: Revd Caspar Bush, Jack Robinson, Stan Anniss, Jonathan Billings, Steven Keighley, Graham Spencer, Kate Powell, Caroline Williamson, Lucy Hemmings and Phillip Bond

First standing committee meeting will be Tuesday 20th May 2025.

The first PCC meeting will be Thursday 5th June 2025 at 7.30pm.

All these appointments were agreed by all PCC members present.