

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Parish of Wandsworth St Paul's (Wimbledon Park)**

held at 12pm on the 11th May 2025 in St Paul's Community Centre

MINUTES

Present: Church Members

Apologies: Mike Bower, William Fairbarns, Arciana Bower, Preethika Chandran

Welcome and opening prayer

The Chair, Revd Susan Bolen, welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with prayer.

No AOB

Church Meeting

1 Minutes of the APCM held on 19 May 2024

Correction to treasurer's report, item 5, 4th line, typo. Will be corrected. Correction to "treasurers" on two occasions. With those amendments, the minutes were **received**. There were **no matters arising**.

2. Revision of the Electoral Roll

The electoral roll was completely revised this year. The electoral roll stands at 85. It was 101. There were 11 late forms to go for this year (2025-2026). There have been both departures and arrivals during the year. Contact details will be updated on Churchdesk with permission. Churchdesk is GDPR compliant. Invitations are welcome to those wishing to volunteer to take over this work from Joan.

3. Election of Churchwardens (Parish meeting rather than Church Meeting)

Gill Thompson and Mike Lowe have kindly offered to stand again. They are currently our present Churchwardens. This was **approved**.

4. Election of members to Parochial Church Council

Preethika Chandran's nomination is **approved**.

Ann Parkin is coming off the PCC after 6 years of service. We thank her for all she has done for the PCC and for all she continues to do for the Choir, music reporting, pewsheet admin and for altar serving.

5. Treasurer's Report for 2024 – Adoption of Accounts

On behalf of the Treasurers : Gillian; Craig; and Sylvia, Gillian Jago provided the report. Apologies that these were not circulated earlier. Back page of the report is the Examination Certificate from our external examiner, Richard Holman. He verifies that the accounts are correct and everything is in order. We are grateful to him for that.

A slightly larger format this year.

Church general fund: "Church PCC" Deficit is just over £8k, slightly larger than what is written in the report due to timing of cashflow payments. Donations continue to be strong and contribute to fund our work. We held a Financial appeal in October 2024. Very grateful for all who contributed so generously. , which kept our final results significantly healthier than originally anticipated. . Community Centre and Church Hire resulted in a strong income stream, assisted further by the rental income from our house on 90 Augustus Road. Thank you to Sam, Guy, Philip, Mike who are all been involved in this significant work. . In addition, we received a generous legacy from Joan Wilson for which we are very grateful. The Pantry continues to be well funded. Christmas Fair was very successful and raised money for our new fence on Augustus Road. *Updates on The Pantry and the fence will be provided by way of separate note.* We have reduced the deficit vs 2023 and continue to work on closing the gap so we can return to surplus. We are currently focussing on using technology to streamline processes e.g. electronic system for petty cash. It is a team effort in the Finance Committee – Sylvia, Mike, Gill, Susan thank you. Thank you for your significant commitment of time.

Community Fund for overseas help. There was a discussion led by Deidre about what steps could be taken to generate funds for overseas projects. There was a proposal for a separate appeal for such international causes.

Parking and vehicular access. There was a discussion about the parking around the church and proposed use of land for parking. Both matters would be taken to the PCC for discussion.

Queries were raised in respect of (i) the reredos restricted funds, money dedicated for the plaque which was good news; and (ii) the availability of the accounts prior to the meeting (7 days prior to the meeting and 14 days thereafter).

Thank you to Gillian and the finance committee.

Accounts have been adopted by the PCC and received by the APCM.

A vote of thanks to Richard Holman, whose reappointment as the examiner this year has been approved.

6. Annual report and any other questions.

There were discussions regarding naming the deceased in the annual report. It was confirmed that permission from the next of kin to publish names would be sought.

There was a discussion regarding the bringing together of the messy church and regular Sunday service congregations, especially in respect of electoral roll membership. There are annual events such as Easter and Christmas that bring them together, but they are not regarded as separate entities, and there are many who are members of both. The relaunch of Junior Church is very welcome. There was a discussion in relation to the frequency of family services which Susan has taken under advisement.

Votes of thanks were given to the housekeeping team.

Votes of thanks were extended to Susan and Jack and their families for all that they do, breathing life into our church.

7. Update to annual report

Welcome: Summer fete 12 July. Thank you to Mike and Helen Lowe for welcome meals.

Nurture & Outreach: plans for junior church relaunch in autumn. Thanks to Lesley, Candice, Preethika, Anne Minors. Plans for adult confirmation/faith exploration course – all welcome, Quiz night on 19 July – organised by Lesley Hazel. Help needed. It would be nice to think this was the start of a fundraising group.

Communications: relaunched website up, new Parkside Post editor – Preethika and many thanks to outgoing editor, Juliet.

Doreen Hewitt noted that delivery of the Parkside Post remains a serious and urgent problem. We don't have anywhere near enough and as much as 2018. We are failing to deliver to hundreds of houses. We need more people or the magazine will not survive. Thanks were extended to Doreen for everything she does on the Parkside Post and everything else she does. SB agreed to put out the call for volunteers again.

8. Any other business.

Mike Lowe offered thanks to the many people who have done work to make everything in the report happen. Formal thanks to all of the work, most of which is voluntary work. And to those who have made this meeting. To Susan, to Gillian for her expert work on the finances. To Helena, who runs the PCC and this meeting.

Susan gave thanks to Gill, Mike, Jack, Sam, Guy who she said made a good team. And TW who has been with us again. She gave thanks for Norman and Kevin. Thanks were also given to Sebastiaan. Finally, also to our safeguarding officer, Claire who also looks after the servers. More servers are needed.

Helena Butcher
13 May 2025
15 April 2026