



The Parochial Church Council [PCC] Blessed Mary, Upham
 Minutes of the APCM meeting held on
 Sunday 29th April 2025 at 12:30pm in Church

Present:	Twenty-three members of the Church were present, with Revd Hunt in the Chair
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<p>1. Welcome and Prayer</p> <p>The meeting commenced with a prayer</p>	
<p>2. Apologies</p> <p>None were received</p>	
<p>3. Approval of the Minutes of 28th April 2024</p> <p>The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting</p>	
<p>4. Matters arising from the minutes.</p> <p>There were no matters arising</p>	
<p>5. Statement of Financial Accounts</p> <p>Mr Beloe had sent out a financial report prior to the meeting, copies of which were available for those who did not have access to a computer.</p> <p>He highlighted the following points:</p> <p>The cost of the bell tower work came to in excess of £7K, but through the generosity of the village and the work by the bellringers, alongside grants and claiming back the VAT, the full cost had been covered. With thanks to everyone for their generosity, particularly the work by the bellringers, which saved in excess of £10K.</p> <p>Income over the year had been good, with income from services having gone up due to the use of the credit card machine. There was a brief discussion about the position of the machine, which will be discussed further in PCC meetings.</p> <p>Expenditure had been much the same as previous years.</p> <p>The Diocesan share has increased and could go up over the next 10 years to something unaffordable. This needs to be discussed with the Diocese.</p> <p>Planned giving is not increasing year on year and Mr Beloe asked that, if anyone were able to give regularly and was not currently doing so, it would be very helpful if they could. Revd Hunt is planning a series of talks about stewardship over the coming weeks.</p> <p>Mrs Ashe suggested that as many as possible could use Easy Fundraising to help the Church. Mr Beloe explained that nominating the Church and shopping through the website</p>	

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<p>gives money directly to the Church.</p> <p>Fabric:</p> <p>There is currently scaffolding in the Church, part of the ceiling fell down and is being repaired. There is also work required in the choir vestry. The builder has suggested doing it at the same time, the scaffolding could be moved, and it will reduce the overall cost if it coincides with the currently work. It was agreed that this was a very good idea. The cost of the current work is estimated at £7.2K.</p> <p>Mr Beloe offered a vote of thanks to both Mr Richard Clark and Mr Barney Dunford for all that they do in maintaining the fabric of the building.</p>		
6.	<p>Electoral Roll Update</p> <p>Following the work on the new electoral roll, it was confirmed that there are sixty-five names on the new roll. Down from seventy-five names on the previous roll. Mrs Penter thanked Mr Beloe and Mr & Mrs Dunford for all their help with the new roll. Revd Hunt and Mrs Penter will meet soon to review the new electoral roll and compare this with the Church list.</p>	JH/AP
7.	<p>Elections and Appointments</p> <p>7.1 Election of Wardens</p> <p>We do not currently have any indication of anyone who would like to put themselves forward to be Church Warden, Revd Hunt commented that it is not an ideal situation. Revd Hunt, Revd Beloe and Mr Beloe all miss having a Church warden and everyone was asked to encourage anyone who might be interested.</p> <p>7.2 Election of PCC officers</p> <p>All the PCC officers have indicated that they are happy to continue.</p> <p>7.3 Elections of PCC members</p> <p>Mrs Rosemary Bickle is up for reselection, Mrs Judy Benham is standing for selection to the PCC.</p> <p>7.4 Appointment of Independent Examiner</p> <p>Mrs Sue Harris has indicated that she is happy to continue as the independent examiner.</p> <p>A vote was taken to cover all the above appointments.</p> <p>Proposed: Mrs Jane Perrott</p> <p>Seconded: Miss Claire Carpenter</p> <p>Carried unanimously.</p>	
8.	<p>Annual Report (inc. warden's report)</p> <p>8.1 Report Highlights</p> <p>Revd Hunt drafted the report in the absence of a Church Warden. Copies were available at the meeting for those who could not access electronically.</p>	

With thanks to Mrs Bickle for submitting the Deanery Rep report. The Bells report was published in the parish magazine and needs to be added to the main report. Miss Carpenter offered to forward it to the office.

Revd Hunt thanked all the ministers for everything that they do. He also thanks Sam in the Office and Kate for all her work with the Children, Families and Young People.

Revd Hunt commented that we are in a good position to grow as a village Church although sometime keeping links with the school is a challenge. We currently have two vacancies for school governors, Revd Hunt is in discussion with potential candidates.

Church Fete: the weather this year was challenging, but overall, it was a success, as was the Harvest Festival.

Church Architect: we do not currently have one, that is work in progress.

As a Congregation, we have lost some wonderful people this year and we give thanks for their contribution to the life of the Church.

Churchyard: Mr Beloe is working on a compromise with our neighbours with respect to the dead trees. The Community Payback group will be helping with work in the graveyard, Mr Beloe and Mrs Ashe will meet with them when they come.

Church: Mr Beloe asked if an interior spring clean could be organised for when the scaffolding comes down.

Mr Beloe proposed a vote of thanks to Janie Massey for organising all the Church flowers.

Questions?

Mrs Ashe asked about safeguarding training. She has done work with children through the Mothers Union and has concerns about cover. Mrs Kate Smyth suggested doing awareness training as a skills update.

There are a few spaces on a first aid course being run on Monday 19th May. The qualification lasts for 3 years and anyone who is interested should contact Mrs Kate Smyth.

8.2 Deanery and Diocese Report – highlights

A comprehensive report was included in the pack.

Mrs Dunford asked about Revd Emma Anderson and why she was starting another Church? Revd Hunt said that new things are needed and the Bishop had launched Barn Church “by mutual agreement”. Revd Hunt felt that normally new Churches are started with a plant from some of the local parishes, but this was meant to be a separate entity. Whilst he felt uncomfortable with the way it had been handled, Barn Church will sit within the Deanery, licenced under Revd Andy Davies. There was a feeling, in the meeting, that there was a danger that people would move

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<p>from within the existing parishes to Barn Church and it would diminish the current parishes.</p>	
<p>9. Rectors Vision Report (discussion and Q&A) Walk. Listen. Talk. Eat. Just as Jesus did. Revd Hunt explained that we have had this for the past couple of years as a vision and as it seems a good model, we are not about to change it. It is a good model for what we need as Christians. He suggested a book "Practising the Way" as a useful resource to start to think about allowing God to change you.</p>	
<p>10. Any Other Business Fete: Mrs Dunford announced that the fete would be held at Upham House on 28th June. If anyone who can offer help, please let Mrs Dunford know. Mrs Bickle announced that she was organising another concert, this time with an art exhibition, the concert to be held on 27th September. Mrs Dunford announced that "tea, coffee and cakes" would be restarting at The Brushmakers on the 1st Friday of each month, from 11am. Mr Beloe asked if everyone could please only use the paper recycling bin for paper. Mrs Dunford outlined the VE Day commemoration celebrations happening in the village. There would be the lighting of the beacon at the recreation ground on 8th May, refreshments being served by The Brushmakers from 8pm. On Sunday 4th May there would be an exhibition in the Village Hall about Upham in the war.</p>	
<p>11. The Grace The letting finished with the Grace at 13:15hours.</p>	