

**St Thomas of Canterbury Church, Goring on Thames**  
**Annual Meetings held in the Canterbury Room**  
**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 11.00 a.m.**

**Minutes**

- Chairman:** Ben Phillips, Vicar  
**Secretary:** Henry Parkinson  
**Present :** Jenny Boyd, Bridget Braham, Jonathan Clifton, Alison Gray, Harry Hogg, Judith Hogg, Rob Howard, Alun Hughes, Brenda Kerr Muir, Sue Melsher, Simon Merritt, Sarah Meyrick, Mary Plowman, John Tye, Matt Walker, Melissa Walker.  
**Apologies:** Judith Aguda, Bill Bird, Alison Gray, Robin Middleton, Wendy Middleton, Elizabeth Parkinson, Marilyn Purdie, Peter Purdie, Don Shrimpton, Hazel Shrimpton.

**Welcome:** The chairman opened the meeting by welcoming those present and noting apologies for absence. He led the meeting in prayers of thankfulness for the year and for listening to what God has to say to us. He remembered those from the congregation who had passed away during the year: Norma and Duncan Bryant, Phoebe Christie, Mike Collinson, Elizabeth Edmunds, Joan Fountain, Tony Laurence, Caroline Wardle, and Harry Wincott, and more recently those who had passed away in 2025: Garry Alder, Anthea Stoneham and Philip Turner.

**Annual Meeting of Parishioners**

**Election of Churchwardens:** The Chairman started with a big thank you to the current churchwardens for all their work and this was warmly applauded by the meeting. He reported that two nominations for churchwarden had been received: one for Mrs Brenda Kerr Muir, nominated by Judith Hogg and seconded by Melissa Walker; and one for Mr Rob Howard, nominated by Matt Walker and seconded by Chris Tassell. There being no further nominations, Brenda Kerr Muir and Rob Howard were unanimously agreed by the meeting and elected. The chairman thanked Brenda and Rob for their willingness to serve again for a further year.

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

1. **Minutes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2024:** The Chairman asked if there were any comments on these. None were expressed, and all present indicated that these be accepted. The Chairman signed the minutes.
2. **Parochial Church Council (PCC) Statutory Reports:**
  - a. **Electoral Roll:** Judith Aguda, Electoral Roll Officer, was unable to attend but had submitted a written report showing that there are 95 names on the new Electoral Roll for St Thomas' Church. The chairman thanked Judith for her work as Electoral Roll Officer.
  - b. **PCC and Parish Activity during 2024:** Written reports produced by the leaders of the various church organisations had been received by the PCC Secretary and combined into the "Reports of the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council and the Parish in 2024". The report had been made available online via a link in the weekly notices, a copy of the report had been displayed on a notice board in the church and copies were available at this meeting. The Chairman thanked all those who had helped to deliver the activity and mission of the church during the year.
  - c. **Financial Statements of the PCC for the year ending 31st December 2024:** The accounts had been made available online via a link in the weekly notices, a copy of the accounts had been displayed on the notice

board in the church for the previous week and copies were available at this meeting. Don Shrimpton, PCC Honorary Treasurer, was unable to attend but wished to encourage the use of the Parish Giving Scheme for regular donors and the use of the card reader machine in the church for one-off donations, both of these approaches helping to minimise paperwork and time required to process them.

The chairman asked if there were any questions on the accounts, but none were raised. The chairman offered his thanks for all who have given during the past year, financially, of their time, and of their spirit, and also for the hard work of the treasurer.

**d. Report on Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church:** Rob Howard reported that the main works from the previous quinquennial inspection had been completed and mentioned two further minor projects which are in planning: the construction of some steps from the north drive and changing the supply for a couple of churchyard lamps from an expensive independent source to the metered supply from the church.

**e. Proceedings of the Deanery Synod:** The Chairman referred the meeting to the written reports. He also reported that following John Blair's end of office as Area Dean, he (Ben Phillips) will become an *Associate* Area Dean to be sworn in this June to support the new Area Dean, Jeremy Taylor.

### **3. Elections of Parochial Representatives of the Laity:**

#### **a. To the Parochial Church Council**

Nominations had been received for Bridget Braham and Elizabeth Parkinson who were both willing to serve for a second three-year term of office. This did not exceed the number of vacancies (5) and both were therefore elected to the PCC. The chairman thanked the returning and remaining PCC members and also noted that Alison Gray had stood down from the PCC as from the APCM, and he thanked her for time on the PCC and all her service to the church.

**4. Appointment of the Independent Financial Examiner:** The chairman noted that the Independent Financial Examiner was from Mercer Lewin Ltd and Don Shrimpton had proposed that this company should continue in this role next year. This was agreed unanimously.

**5. Vicar's Address:** The chairman noted that the C of E is experiencing difficult times and that holding together the Anglican communion is particularly challenging. We must continue to pray that God's spirit will be at work among us. Our call is to keep encouraging each other and new people and offering ministry including through the occasional offices of weddings and funerals. The chairman said that he was planning to reintroduce the use of the common cup at communion during the summer season, but that it was also perfectly acceptable to receive bread only for those who would prefer this. We would return to the use of intincted wafers for the winter season. Related to this, the current team of chalice bearers (Judith Hogg, Rob Howard, Brenda Kerr Muir, Matt Walker and Melissa Walker) were (re)approved at the meeting.

On behalf of the meeting, Rob Howard thanked the vicar for leading us so well throughout the year.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 11.30 a.m. with a prayer for the church and ourselves.