

ST NICHOLAS BATHAMPTON
MINUTES
of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners for the Election of Churchwardens
and of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
held on Sunday 26th April 2026
at 5.00 pm in the Miller Room

Both meetings were chaired by the Rector, Jonty Frith (JF), who welcomed everyone, thanked Jan Williams, Helen Williams and others for the fine tea and opened in prayer.

Annual Meeting of Parishioners for the Election of Churchwardens

(open to all resident in the parish or on the church Electoral Roll)

1. Ian White was thanked for his humble, capable and dedicated service as churchwarden over the past year, as was Margaret White. They were presented with card and a flowering plant.
2. **Election of Churchwardens, 2026-27.** Ian White and Ian Williams were both nominated, with the experience of both noted. Both were elected; all were in favour.
3. **Recognition of Sidesmen.** JF thanked Jane Buckley for leading the Sidesmen / Stewards team, as well as the Sidesmen themselves: Ian & Jan Williams, Robin & Angela Donald, Tim & Penny Laver, Sylvia Perry, Jane Buckley and Helen Williams. JF noted the importance of their service in supporting the Churchwardens and sharing their load. Jane Buckley invited other APCM attendees to volunteer.
4. JF led a prayer for the churchwardens, Ian White and Ian Williams, and for their wives, Margaret White and Jan Williams.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

(all welcome, but voting open only to those on the church Electoral Roll;

* denotes a non-ER-member)

Present:

Rebecca Bragg-Woodward	Peter Hunt	Andy Lloyd Williams
Jane Buckley	Hilla Hunt	Natalie Mills
Robin Donald	David Lascelles	Nigel Shepherd
Angela Donald	Tim Laver	Rita Warboys
Phil Edge	Christopher de Leeuwe	Ian White
Molly Edge	Hannah de Leeuwe	Margaret White
Jonty Frith*	Ian Lewis	Ian Williams
Becky Frith	Linda Lewis	Jan Williams
Barney Frith	Michael Peddar	Helen Williams
Carl Fullaway	Sylvia Perry	Ann Wills
	Ian Robertson*	

1. **Apologies for absence:** After the singing of 'Christ Alone', apologies were received from Paul Bryant, Susie Shaw, Sally and Steve McGee
2. **Minutes of the 2025 APCM:** These were taken as read.
3. **Reports:** These were taken as read with attendees praying for each item: PCC (Peter Hunt), Finance (Ian Williams), Churchwarden's Report (Ian White), Rector's Report (Jonty Frith), Deanery Synod (Tim Laver), Diocese (Phil Edge), Groups (Linda Lewis), Music (Margaret White), Prayer (Ian Lewis), Stewards (Jane Buckley), Worship Committee (Margaret White), Prayers & Readers Rota (Jan Williams), *Re:Generations* (Rebecca Bragg), *Re:Generations* Appeal (Robin Donald), Men's Group (Mike Peddar), Coffee (Helen Williams), Pastoral Visiting Team (Angela Donald), Parish Outreach (Jonty Frith), World Mission (Ian Lewis), Junior Church (Hilla Hunt), Bathampton Primary School (Pippa Dowsett), Administration (Natalie Mills), Safeguarding (Jane Buckley), Cleaning (Natalie Mills), Flowers (Andy Lloyd-Williams), Technology (Chris de Leeuwe), Bells (Jonty Frith) and Fabric (David Lascelles).
 - a. **Electoral Roll:** It was noted that the Electoral Roll has risen from 53 members to 55 members in the past year: there were two new members and no members had either left or died. 35 lived within the parish; 20 lived without. 24 were men; 31 were women.
 - b. **Parish Annual Review:** This was taken as read.
 - c. **Financial Statements 2025:** Ian Williams noted that these had been approved by the PCC and presented a static single picture of our finances, so do not reflect the movements between the thirteen accounts. Therefore, while the balance at the year's end has seemingly decreased by £2,500, this is a static comparison of a moving system. Income mostly derives from voluntary donations and legacies and, without the *Re:Generations* Project, income is roughly similar to 2024: voluntary giving has decreased by 1% from 2024; recovered tax has also decreased, although this is due to 2024 being atypically high; and 'other' income has also decreased due to fewer weddings etc. Expenditure is similar to 2024, with about 50% given to the Benefice Share, while a significant saving has been made from having no Children & Families Minister, so there has been a £5,000 decrease in expenditure from 2024. The church was thanked for their generosity, and Ian Williams noted the usefulness of the new financial software.
 - d. **Fabric:** The report was taken as read.
 - e. **Deanery Synod:** The report was taken as read.
4. Elections:
 - a. **Appointment of independent examiner for 2026 accounts:** JF noted that Andrew Morrison would be happy to stay in this position for no payment. JF proposed that Andrew Morrison be appointed as the independent examiner for the 2026 accounts. All were in favour.

- b. **Deanery Synod:** JF noted that Tim Laver & Peter Hunt were standing again and both were duly elected. JF noted that Deanery Synod this year would be voting for representatives to General Synod
 - c. **Parochial Church Council:** JF noted that the PCC has three vacancies and two casual vacancies (Charles Laurie having stood down and Ian Williams having become an *ex officio* member). Two nominations had been received from Carl Fullaway and Chris de Leeuwe, both of whom were duly elected to serve until 2029.
- 5. **Rector's Remarks:** JF thanked Andy Lloyd-Williams for arranging the flowers and the flower-arrangers since 1969, and aptly presented her with rose. JF noted the development of the church's vision around what is going on and why; it is focused on devotion, discipleship, fellowship, growth and generosity. PCC has recently approved new 'team' structure, replacing committees with people with responsibilities. JF encouraged attendees to join these teams, noting that Margaret White leads the Worship Team, Ian Lewis leads the Fellowship Team and that JF leads the Outreach Team. JF reminded attendees of the need to support one another in prayer and to recognise our reliance on God. JF reflected on our theme verse of Romans 12:1-2. JF thanked attendees for being part of the church family, of which it is a joy and privilege to be part.
- 6. **Any Other Business / Questions:** One congregant raised two questions:
 - a. The first asked for a clear explanation of the Ephesian Fund. JF responded that some members of the Church of England find it problematic to give to their parish church, when some of that money goes elsewhere. JF noted that it is good to be supporting one another, but that it causes problems when the direction of some decisions seems to be undermining gospel ministry. The Ephesian Fund's mechanisms enable some to give in a way that supports their local parish church and beyond, directed to ministries that uphold the doctrine of the Church of England as we have received it. It operates in two ways, the first of which is that individuals can give to the parish church through the Ephesian Fund; this restricts the money's future usage for churches whose Rector or PCC sign up to the Church of England Evangelical Council's Basis of Faith. The second way is that some parishes give their Benefice Share to their diocese through the Ephesian Fund. £10 million has already been given through this means, and most dioceses have gratefully received it; however the Diocese of Bath & Wells is not happy to receive it this way, although quite a large amount of money has been given by some parishes that way and it is unclear what the Diocese will do with it. Our diocese has set up an alternative restricted fund, although our PCC has not as yet taken a decision to use this. JF suggested looking at the Ephesian Fund website for further details.
 - b. The second question asked whether the church family could receive more information before the PCC makes significant decisions. JF thanked the

congregant for her question. He agreed that the PCC should consult and hear the church family's views, such as through the *Re:Generations* consultation, but noted that it was the PCC's responsibility to make the decisions. **Action:** PCC to consider how to share more information with the church family.

7. **Date of Next Meeting:** JF noted that this would be announced later in the year.
8. **Prayer:** JF prayed to close. The meeting ended at 18:11

Consultation on the *Re:Generations* Project

1. **Update on installation of heating:** Ian White (IWh) prayed to start the meeting, thanking God for suitable funds and personnel. He read 1 Peter 1:3 & 2:1, noting that the church is a living building with Jesus as its cornerstone, and he suggested that we should keep what is good and change other elements so we can worship God better, enjoy greater fellowship and serve others for His glory. IWh presented a summary of the heating work done by December, and noted that we are still awaiting a new electricity contract from Pozitive Energy.
2. **Initial work on *Re:Generations* Project Phase 2:** IWh noted the creation of a 'Re:Generations Steering Committee', which identified four proposed categories for Phase 2: accessibility to the church entrance, which is currently very difficult for wheelchair users and others, and to the toilet areas, which do not meet current regulations; changes to the office and vestry areas through the creation of a crèche, and of better office working and storage space; the reworking of the choir area to open up the space; and the removal of the pews to form a flexible space throughout the church. IWh noted other necessary work, such as improvements to the wiring, lighting and IT, as well as the need to replace the heating system in the extension in the short to medium term.
 1. **Update on early designs:** IWh spoke through the projected designs for each of the four different categories.
 2. **Early cost estimates:** IWh shared the early cost estimates for the four different categories, noting that these estimates excluded lighting, IT, later heating and VAT.
3. **Updates on *Re:Generations* Project Finances & Donations:** Robin Donald (RD) updated the church on the Project's finances; there has been an income of £110,301.37 and a net expenditure (after VAT refunds) of £71,730.24, which gives a current balance of £38,571.13. The Appeal Committee was thanked, and RD shared that specialist trusts, such as those related to disability access and Australia, would be approached.
4. **Consultation:** The Consultation was explained by Ian White and started at 18:46. Several questions were asked before congregants circulated. The first asked whether starting Phase 2 with the current balance would facilitate fundraising. A second asked whether the proposed glass door would be self-opening. A third asked whether the third and fourth categories on the relocation of the choir stalls and the removal of

the pews could also attract accessibility grants; IWh noted that this work would aid accessibility. A fourth question was asked whether updating the sound-system would be included in the new wiring quote; IWh noted that this would not be included and that there was a need for a quick fix. A final question was asked about issues with Zoom; IWh noted this was helpful to know and that this should be fixed. Congregants were encouraged to fill in response forms ranking the proposals in order of priority and adding any comments and ideas. The consultation was to remain open for two weeks.