



The Parish of
Medstead and
Four Marks

19/5/2026

**Minutes of the
Annual Parochial Church Meeting**
Tuesday 12th May 2026, 7.30pm
at the Church of the Good Shepherd

Present: 49 persons were present
Apologies: Apologies were received from 16 persons
(see Appendix 1)

1. Welcome and Introduction

Howard thanked everyone for their presence at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. He expressed the regret of PCC that this APCM had needed to be postponed before necessary financial reports could be presented.

2. Giving Thanks – Worship and Prayer

Matt Senior led us in worship including songs of praise to our God “To God be the Glory” and “King of Kings”. Howard led us in prayer.

3. The Election of Churchwardens (two posts)

The wardens (David Duffin and Andy Walters) were thanked and applauded for their service over the past two years.

Heartfelt thanks also were given to Debra Barnes as Assistant Warden. She has decided that it is time to retire from that office. She together with Stephen Blackshaw and Ian Jurd have served St Andrew’s well particularly at a time when both elected Churchwardens came from the COGS worshipping community. APCM agreed with Howard’s proposal that Ian and Stephen should continue to be recognised locally as Assistant Wardens of the Parish.

Nominations were received for Andy Walters (proposed by Martin Beckwith, seconded by Lynda Beckwith) and David Duffin (proposed by Frank Maloney, seconded by Pamela Maloney). There being no further nominations, Andy Walters and David Duffin were duly elected. Howard led the meeting in prayer of thanksgiving and recommissioning of our Church wardens.

We then moved from the Annual Meeting of Parishioners to elect Wardens (the Vestry Meeting) to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

4. Presentation of Electoral Roll

Matt Senior on behalf of Frank Maloney, the Electoral Roll Officer, presented the 2026 Electoral Roll. This represented an update of the Roll since the 2025 major revision. As many members as could be contacted were asked about their continuing membership.

- Number on Roll: 198
 - Residents of the Ecclesiastical Parish: 160
 - Not living in Ecclesiastical Parish: 38

- Number of families represented: 66
 - Members in households with more than one 134
 - Individual members 64

- Changes since last year:
 - Roll up by: 3
 - Those added to the Roll 8
 - 6 rejoined after last year's Renewal
 - 2 new members
 - Removed from the Roll 5
 - 2 moved away
 - 3 have "gone to Higher Service"

5. Election of representatives on Deanery Synod

Our parish is part of the Alton Deanery. Members of Deanery Synod are elected from each parish. These elections are for three-year terms and were scheduled by the Diocese to take place in 2026. It was therefore necessary to hold fresh elections, although our four members elected in 2024 had served only two years.

As our total number on the Electoral Roll had dropped below 200, the Parish was only entitled to three representatives.

Frank Maloney did not seek re-election to Deanery Synod (but see section 6).

Jacqueline Jurd (proposed by Frank Maloney, seconded by Pamela Maloney), Pamela Maloney (proposed by David Williams, seconded by Frank Maloney) and David Williams (proposed by Pamela Maloney and seconded by Frank Maloney) were each willing to stand for re-election to Deanery Synod for a three-year term.

There being no further nominations, Jacqueline Jurd, Pamela Maloney and David Williams were duly elected.

6. Election of PCC members

The three newly re-elected representatives to Deanery Synod whose three-year terms all end in 2029 also became members *ex officio* of PCC.

Jill Williams had been a member of COGS PCC since 2020 and then of the PCC of the Parish of Medstead and Four Marks. She had decided not to seek re-election. Howard thanked her for her service over these six years.

John Lofthouse (proposed by Andrew Walters, seconded by Stephen Blackshaw) was willing to stand for re-election for a full three-year term having completed an initial two-year term. Frank Maloney (proposed by Pamela Maloney, seconded by Andrew Walters) was willing to stand for election for a full three-year term. There being no further nominations, John Lofthouse and Frank Maloney were duly elected.

There remain three vacancies on PCC. Howard asked members to consider offering to fill those vacancies, particularly as we are looking for a better-balanced representation from the two worshipping communities of the Parish. With Jill stepping down, it was confirmed that only two women now serve on PCC (n.b. both are members by virtue of being Deanery Synod representatives).

7. The Annual Report and Accounts

Howard introduced the annual report and reiterated that they were available both on paper and via the website. He reminded members of the purpose of this document:

- a. To describe to the Charity Commission what the Parish does – its activities and the values which underpin them
- b. How the Parish, in particular the PCC, uses the resources at its disposal.

He reminded the meeting of the wide range of contributions that people make to the services in the churches and local care homes, the Home Groups and other mid-week events meeting needs of the different generations. He thanked everyone who participated in any of the roles and responsibilities of the Parish: sharing the Good News of Jesus, making disciples, supporting activities and events in prayer.

Chris Nunn (Treasurer) presented his commentary on the Accounts for our last accounting period, the calendar year 2025 (see Appendix 2). He echoed Howard's encouragement over the many opportunities to serve, drawing attention to how full the Parish diary is:

<https://goodshepherdfourmarks.org.uk/activities/church-diary/>

Some of the uncertainty remains through the complexity of the process of merging the accounts of the two former Parishes. We are thankful for the support that our bookkeeper Tori still provides.

Chris gave a brief overview of the current situation, showing how that the substantial proportion (74%) of our annual budget goes towards the mission of the Parish while the remainder (17%) covers general running costs – what he described as “keeping the lights on” and the rest (9%) is allocated to projects. While the general fund deficit reported for December 2025 had been -£17.5k, after further income had been recognised as attributable to 2025, the final figure reduced to -£14.5k. Other expenditure for the solar panels and COGS roof repair resulted in a statutory headline deficit: - £48,159. Howard reminded the meeting that this figure was well covered by historic surpluses.

Chris thanked the PCC Finance Team for their efforts further to protect the historic funds associated with the former parishes and the development of a suitable Reserves policy. He also spoke about the benefits of having solar panels installed at COGS and thanked Bob Moore for the detailed analysis he had done on the performance of the system.

Questions were raised from the floor of the meeting:

- David Craigen asked about how the solar panels had been accounted for: as capital assets to be depreciated or as expenditure. PCC was asked to look further into this aspect of the accounts.
- Chris also reported that for the first four months of 2026 for which data are available, while the annual budget was set with a significant deficit, the amount by which expenditure is actually exceeding income is smaller than had been predicted.
- Questions about the style of presentation of accounts to APCM. What has been presented to APCM was taken from the Annual Report designed according to Charity Commission requirements. It was generally agreed that a more appropriate layout would better suit a presentation at an APCM. Howard acknowledged that PCC had not yet been able to find a more accessible form of presentation. The Treasurer and PCC were asked to decide an appropriate format before the next APCM.
- A question was asked about our CMF payments and whether we might be able to avoid having a deficit budget by reducing our contribution. Howard reminded the meeting that in setting the sum the Diocese asks of us they refer to officially recognised indices of relative affluence. Our parish sits in all but the top-most band. This implies that we can best afford to give not only for support of our own incumbent but also for other services such as the courses the Diocese provides and from which we benefit. Most importantly we support those parishes that minister into more disadvantaged localities. To reduce our contribution would be at the expense of those parishes.

We had to postpone the APCM mainly because of late return of our accounts from the Independent Examiner. PCC at its next meeting will review our present arrangements with a view to getting our schedule back to what it should be (i.e. APCM before the end of April).

8. Presentations

- a. Virginia - Youth and Children's ministry. Virginia took the meeting through a summary of all the outreach happening to bring the Good News to children. (See Appendix 3)
 - Summer Club at the end of the schools' summer holiday;
 - The Monday afternoon Youth Club, which has led to establishing a Tuesday afternoon Youth Bible Study;
 - There are regular contacts with the two Parish primary schools and with local nurseries.
- b. Jane Hughes - Families. Jane gave an update on the community outreach (See Appendix 4)

- To parents with 'tots'
- The under-5s Summer Club "Tots' Room"
- The Nativity Trail
- The Easter Trail and craft café
- The drop-in café supporting the Four Marks Community Cupboard
- Providing counsel and support to young families who may be struggling.

Jane and Virginia thanked all those who have stood with them in this work and asked for continued prayer. Their presentations drew applause and thanks from the meeting. Howard emphasized how important it is to the present life and future growth of the Parish and that we should continue to support our staff and all the volunteers who help them maintain this vital work.

- 2)
- c. Howard Wright - Vicar. Howard gave an update on developing ideas for the reordering of the sanctuary at St Andrew's (See Appendix 5). It would be advantageous to add a hospitality space and toilet facilities. An earlier plan would have kept many of the Victorian pews, but the intention now is to keep the historical roots while making the space far more welcoming, versatile and useful, for example:
- when bringing in children and their parents from Medstead Primary School
 - when conducting weddings or funerals
 - when holding events such as fund-raising concerts

3)

Howard read from Ephesians 4:11-14

¹¹So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

He reminded everyone of God's goodness over the recorded eight centuries of ministry in St Andrew's, and the planting out from St Peter's Ropley of a chapel in Four Marks in 1908 leading to the building of COGS in 1953. We owe a debt of gratitude to those who have gone before. We should also consider the importance of maintaining unity in our faith and our ministry to the generations in decades to come. Going on to maturity, producing fruit, making disciples.

9. Closing Prayer

Howard closed the meeting with prayer and the dismissal:

Go in Peace to love and serve the Lord in the Name of Christ – Amen.

Parish of Medstead
and Four Marks

Annual Parochial
Church Meeting
12 May 2026

Attendance
& Apologies

Attended

Caroline	Andrews
Debra	Barnes
Stephen	Blackshaw
Sharon	Blackshaw
Deborah	Brooks-Jackson
Keith	Brown
Andrew	Burton-Thorne
Patrick	Busby
Wendy	Busby
David	Craigen
Roger	Douglas
David	Duffin
Rachel	Duffin
Sylvia	Gray
Janet	Griffiths
Timothy	Griffiths
Jeremy	Griggs
Robert	Hughes
Jane	Hughes
Mark	Hughes
Helena	Hunt
Timothy	James
Elaine	King-Smith
Martin	Knapp
Virginia	Knapp
John	Lofthouse
Frank	Maloney
Pamela	Maloney
Christine	McGrath
Robert	Meekums
Elaine	Moore
Robert	Moore
Mary	Newell
Christopher	Nunn
Lyndsay	Prewer
David	Rowe
Hazel	Rowe
Matthew	Senior
Susan	Stiles
Brian	Stutley
Christine	Titheridge
Ian	Trotter
Lynn	Vine
Neil	Vine
Andrew	Walters
David	Williams
Jill	Williams
Howard	Wright
Virginia	

Apologies received

Carole	Arrowsmith
Jane	Eckles
Emma	James
Ian	Jurd
Jacqueline	Jurd
Elisabeth	Linley
Jack	Linley
Jolyon	Lucas
Valerie	Lucas
Jane	Parker
Robert	Parker
Gillian	Payne
Natalie	Senior
Marian	Smith
Michael	Smith
Helen	Wright