

**CHURCH OF ST MARY MAGDALENE, GREAT HAMPDEN
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

**Notes of the Annual Meeting held on Sunday 18th May 2025
in St Mary Magdalene Church, Great Hampden**

*** Opening Prayer given by Kayleigh ***

Attendees: Rev. Deiniol Heywood; Rev. Nigel Spoor; Kayleigh Lucas (Asst. Curate); Val Gristwood (Church Warden & Safeguarding Officer); Tony Blackburn; Roger Craft; Libby Rodda (Secretary); Jonathon Knight; Jim Rodda; Val Firth

1. **Apologies for absence:** Alan Costin (Treasurer); Dorothy Charles.
2. **Minutes of last Annual meeting** (16 April 2024) were confirmed as accurate.
3. **Matters arising** There were no matters arising.
4. **Church Wardens:** Val Gristwood was appointed as the Churchwarden supported by Roger Craft and Tony Blackburn.
5. **Electoral Roll:** Alan Costin said that the Electoral Roll was not yet completed and so he is unable to say how many will be registered. Last year there were 43 people on the St Mary Magdalene roll.
6. **Financial Statement and Annual Report:** These had been circulated in advance of the meeting and the Rector expressed the Council's grateful thanks to Alan Costin for all the extra work involved in the project costing and expenses of the "2023 and Beyond Project". In his written submission to the meeting, the Treasurer said that there was unlikely to be a surplus for the current year on the General Fund, in part due to increased electricity consumption. The Rector suggested that a campaign was need to increase the Annual Giving programme for the Church.
7. **2023 and Beyond Project:**
The Rector expressed the Council's huge thanks to Tony Blackburn for overseeing the work on this project, most of which has now been completed apart from some 'snagging' of structural work. The church can now enter a new phase of extended use for worship and celebrations. Many thanks were also expressed for the successful fundraising work of Glyn and the Fundraising team.
8. **Fabric Report:**
Tony reported that all the usual maintenance checks had been made during this year and that some of the metal on the roof had been replaced, an electricity smart meter has been installed and alarm systems updated.

9. **Deanery Synod Report:** The Rector reported that the last meeting of the Synod had been informative and interesting. Noted that Jim Rodda would no longer be the Deanery representative for St Mary Magdalene PCC, as from the date of this Annual Meeting.

10. **Annual Review of Safeguarding Policy:** A copy of this Policy, drawn up to the Diocese of Oxford template, is on the noticeboard in Holy Trinity Prestwood and also on the PCC website. The members made the decision that, as there were no activities or issues at the St Mary Magdalene Church that involved either children or vulnerable adults, this policy can be reviewed. There are no outstanding issues and Jonathon and Dorothy will complete the update and it will have to be approved at the next meeting of the PCC.

11. **Election of Officers:** Noted that Deiniol is leaving the Parish and his replacement, once appointed, will take over chairmanship of the PCC. Alan Costin is willing to remain as Treasurer. Libby Rodda is retiring as Secretary and, along with Jim Rodda, will stand down from the PCC. Therefore, a replacement will have to be found for the position of Secretary. It was confirmed that the officers appointed to SMM PCC for the year 2025/2026 would be as follows:

- Rev Deiniol Hayward – until August 2025
- Rev Kayleigh Lucas
- Rev Nigel Spoor
- Val Gristwood – Churchwarden
- Alan Costin -Treasurer
- Secretary – Vacant
- Val Firth - Minute Secretary
- Tony Blackburn
- Dorothy Charles
- Roger Craft
- Jonathan Knight

12. **Report from the Rector:** This would be the Rector's last report to the PCC prior to his resignation in the summer. Deiniol expressed his heartfelt thanks to all the PCC members for their work in and at the church during his tenancy, and in particular to all who had helped with the temporary move to Hill House venue at Hampden House for services while St Mary Magdalene was being renovated in the last year.

13. **Future Events:** The Patronal day will take place as usual on 20th July, followed by a reception at Hampden House. Concerts to take place in the church were planned and before he leaves Deiniol intends to set up a Focus Team (planning group) to bring ideas for future community outreach, events and celebrations at the church, to work with the new Rector.

14. Matters of General Parochial Interest: The Rector believed that, with the power of Prayer, things can only get better. “Prayer is the foundation on which we build.” Tony Blackburn expressed the PCC's sincere thanks to Deiniol for all his work and devotion to St Mary Magdalene church over the past 17 years and the huge legacy he leaves.

There being no other business, the meeting closed with a prayer of thanks given by Kayleigh.