

Minutes of the St John's Church Annual Vestry Meeting held on Wednesday 22nd April 2026 at 7:35pm

This meeting was chaired by the Rector, the Reverend James Dudley-Smith.

1. Bible Reading and Prayer

Ben read 2 Samuel 6:6, and summarised that the ark of the Lord/the presence of God is scary, but also brings many blessings and abundance. We see both the wrath of God and the love of God at the cross.

There followed a short time of prayer.

2. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Rob and Janet Dean, Rick and Lizzie Pudner, Jennifer Matthew, Clarence and Grace Spracklen, Andy Lane, Chris and Jenny Salberg, Nick Chatwin, Jane Krammer, Pauline Stirling and James and Doreen Maitland.

3. Minutes of the Vestry Meeting held on 30th April 2025

The minutes of the Annual Vestry meeting of 30th April 2025, which had been displayed on the Parish website, were accepted without amendment and were signed by James as a true record. There were no matters arising.

4. Election of 2 Churchwardens for St John the Baptist Church

Both Keith Ovenden and Lin Hann are willing to stand as churchwardens for a further year. James thanked them both for their continued hard work, highlighting many of their contributions.

Prayers were said for the churchwardens.

There being no further business, the vestry meeting finished at 7:46pm after a short time of prayer.

**Minutes of St John's Church Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Held on Wednesday 22nd April 2026 at 7:46pm**

This meeting was chaired by the Rector, Reverend James Dudley-Smith.

1. Minutes of the Annual Church Meeting of 30th April 2025

The minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of 30th April 2025 were accepted without amendment and were signed by James as a true record. There were no matters arising.

2. Consideration of the Electoral Roll of St. John's and St. Andrew's

Helen Peace reported that the number on the new electoral roll stands at 216 at St John's and 32 at St Andrew's, totalling 248.

3. Rector's Ramblings

Thanks were given to Janet Dean of her service to the church as PCC secretary for 13 years and thanks to Hannah Osborn for taking on the role.

James' section of the evening was a summary of points all beginning with the letter S - Shirt, Sabbatical, School-tie, Staff, Straw hat, Sermons, Scarf, Satelliting, Shorts, supporting mission, sunglasses, spreading the gospel, shawl, saluting, soon, strip. Points expanded on below:

James opened by saying thank you for all those who covered while he was on sabbatical. Ben was thanked for all his work.

We are all served by the staff team, Project Co-ordinator post and Life Skills manager new roles within the last year. James thanked all staff team.

Sermons this past year include Romans, John, life of Abraham, Nicene creed, Psalms, life of Elijah and Jude.

James, Ben and George able to move into other circles through their roles, Ben and James attend leaders' breakfasts, Deanery Synod, Diocesan synod, speaker for weekend away at Nailsea, co-chair of DEF, Diocesan Evangelical Fellowship.

Mission partners mentioned and mission committee thanked.

Gospel means good news, needs to be spread, so much goes on in our church to make the gospel known – church stewards, CAP team, lifeskills, Captain's Table, The Loop, Chaplaincy, Footprints, Tiny Toes and more. Events like Jesus: The Evidence. Planning a guest service for June, think about who you'd like to invite.

Saluting those who we can thank – Claire Coulson, John and Josie Brooks, Roz Chatwin, Chris Tune, Roger Fox, musicians, cake bakers and more! Thank you to all who serve.

Soon – holiday club, weekend at home.

4. Church activities: To receive the written annual report of the PCC for the year:

- a) The report on proceedings of the PCC as contained in the written Annual Report – taken as read.
- b) The report on proceedings of the Deanery Synod as contained in the written Annual Report – taken as read.

- c) Consideration of any matters arising on any other report included in the written Annual Report and any other relevant matter – nothing raised, taken as read.

5. Election of new members to the PCC:

- a) Four members of the PCC – The following were elected (there were six candidates): Gordon McFarlane, Greg Wright, Joy Neville and Helen Truett.
- b) Three representatives for the Yeovil Deanery Synod – There being three candidates for three positions, no election was required. The following were, therefore, duly appointed: Doreen Maitland, Tim Thurgood and Crawford Murray.

6. Mary Irwin: A report from the Yeovil CAP Centre

Mary opened by saying that CAP centre is celebrating 15 years of service and will be a Sunday service theme next month.

Last year, 2 new befrienders added to team and another in process of becoming a befriender.

Debt service continues, life skills has great team of coaches and Jennifer heads this up – life skills ran 2 courses and another coach being added to the team.

Money coaching – 2 courses run last year, good feedback received.

Emma Handcock was thanked for her work as admin point of contact.

CAP blessings included electricity top ups, new oven, bed, shoes, school uniform, supermarket shops. Great way to show God's love, offering to pray for them and inviting them to events. 60 to 70 people attending events like Pampering day and Summer BBQ.

Food for thought group meet twice a month for those wanting to find out about Christian faith. Very encouraging response.

Finance – 50k needed a year to run the centre and completely rely on God's provision. Money comes through via regular donations and fundraising. Yeovil half marathon for example.

To finish, Mary showed video and pictures slideshow of CAP centre work.

7. Alan Irwin: Update on the Financial Affairs of St John's Church for 2025

Alan spoke through some slides reporting the Finances of the church, mentioning that donations have held up well, with many people giving through standing order.

Around 10% of incoming finances given to mission partners

Alan spoke about the Peter Wakely fund, now drawing on it heavily, but it is supporting the work that we are doing.

Received very generous legacy from John and Josie Brookes – will total £440,000.

Question asked – Alan confirmed that our Parish Share can only be used to support clergy or parishes who have signed the CEEC statement of faith, as we pay via the Diocese's Restricted Fund.

Alan ended by thanking everyone for their giving and to encourage reviewing of giving.

Giving underpins so much of what we do.

8. Appointment of the Independent Examiner for 2026

All were in favour to ask Craig Howes to continue to be our Independent Examiner.

9. Prayers of love and faith

James is writing another update for the church family to read about the prayers of love and faith. PCC has had many meetings about the above, we have been seeking to respond to CofE, dialoguing to our bishop and others, seeking way forward so that we can go on ministering in the CofE with good conscience. Your clergy and PCC do not agree with CofE actions, but there is acceptance of a difference of opinion across church family.

10. Ann Thurgood: Safeguarding in the parish

Ann opened by saying we have recently revised Safeguarding policy in line with CofE, considerably longer than the other one. Please look at Appendix A, important, gives guidelines on appropriate behaviour when doing anything on behalf of church.

Each diocese has regular audit, Bath and Wells were audited last year, very positive outcome, good practice in individual parishes highlighted. Frequent challenges, nothing major, please pray for those who have to make decisions based on Safeguarding.

James thanked Ann for her work as Parish Safeguarding Officer.

11. Candy Price: Our parish ministry for children and young people

Candy opened by saying there is clear spiritual hunger in the young people, JOY and Friday youth contributing to discussion, asking questions. Encouraging that young groups are well attended and large in number.

Challenges include shift post COVID in ability to find volunteers to regular service. Some teams smaller than ideal.

Candy attending Growing Young Disciple Academy – listen to input from tutors, how can we better serve youth and church family.

Finished by requesting prayer for how to serve older youth, regular volunteers, co-ordinator roles needing to be filled.

12. Report upon the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of St John's Church, including the confirmation and maintenance of the Log Book.

The log book and terrier have been updated and signed by the Rector; and the silver has been mustered and is correct. Keith thanked Phil Juggins for all his work for the fabric committee.

All lighting has been changed to LED, this will make financial savings in the coming year.

Roof alarm in working order. Upcoming projects include taking the pipe organ out and replacing with digital organ, proposing creche room with video to livestream so parents can access.

13. Helen Peace: Report from the Pastoral Care Co-ordinator

Helen gave a fun presentation on the life of our church family. Helen gave thanks to church leadership, PCC and wardens for all the work done on HR, particularly for new sabbatical policy. Special thanks to Lin Hann for her work on this.

Thanks to everyone who volunteers for things – lifts, meals for families, Captain's table, Gone Fishing café, baking cakes, meeting with someone, 1-2-1s, praying, reading the Bible together, fellowship group, Parish prayer chain.

A few things to highlight:

- Norman's 90th birthday exhibition with proceeds going to CAP.
- David Matthew and David Creswell – thanks be to God for recoveries made.
- Chris and Jenny Salberg – prayers and love for them
- Deaths and celebrations – mention church family members who have died and new members who have been born!

Helen ended her presentation with the usual slideshow made up of amusing photos.

14. Rector's Roundup

One last 'S' – Jesus – Saviour, Son of God, Shepherd. In him is our unity. Colossians 2:19 read. To be a united church, we must hold fast to Jesus.

15. AOB

Keith thanked James, Ben and George for their continued ministry.

The meeting closed at 9:27pm after a short time of prayer.