

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
30th April 2025

1. Opening Prayer and Welcome

Rev. Paul Brooks, Incumbent of St Paul's Church, opened the meeting with prayer.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from 28 members. The meeting was attended by 86 members of St Paul's Church (list of Attendees available from the church office).

3. Approval of minutes of AGM held on 30th April 2024

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 30th April 2024, which had been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

4. Approval of Minutes of EGM on 23rd October 2024

The minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting held on 23rd October 2024, which had been previously circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

5. Matters arising from the AGM minutes

There were no matters arising from the 2024 minutes.

6. Matters arising from the EGM minutes

There were no matters arising from the 2024 minutes. It was noted however that with the benefit of tax returns the Roof Gift day target raised c.£120k against a target of £90k.

7. Report on the Church Electoral Roll for 2025

The meeting agreed the Electoral Roll for 2025 comprising 238 persons who had, to date, confirmed they were members of St Paul's Church and were eligible to be on the Electoral Roll (2024 - 224 members). The Church Administrator was confirmed as the Electoral Roll administrator.

8. Elections for Church Council for 2025 - motion to agree that the current Church Council continues until the new Trust Deed comes into place (expected later this year)

The motion was unanimously agreed. Rev. Brooks continued by thanking the whole team including Staff and Council, those who served as Church Trustees, on the Buildings Committee, Mission Support, Vicarage Trustees, the Centre Team and all those who minister at or through St Paul's.

9. Point of information: Any financial decisions made by this Council will be considered valid if passed by a majority of the elected members and the minister. Staff members who attend council meetings are ex-officio.

10. Election of Chair of Mission Support - Rob Baudains remains in post.

11. Election for Deanery Synod Members (4 positions) - elected in accordance with the Canons of the Church of England in Jersey 2022.

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Seconder</u>
Robert Kelly	Dianne Maguire	Mary Aliga
Alicia Monet	Mary Aliga	Dianne Maguire
David Smith	John Penny	Henry Le Ruez
Martyn Weeks	Chris Thomas	Ian Le Marquand

12. Buildings Committee

12.1 Update on roof repairs following Storm Ciaran (see 16.7)

12.2 Any other building matters (see 16.7)

13. Financial reports, accounts and budget for 2025

Steve Wilderspin presented the financial reports and accounts for 2024 and made the following comments -

- The formal financial statements prepared by Sue Kelly and examined by Alex Picot had been available for review in the church foyer.
- The accounts were prepared in accordance with the accounting rules for charities and set out the governance and objectives. Alex Picot had carried out an independent review and signed off the accounts which were then approved by the Church Council.
- A presentation was given of the key information -
The previous years deficit was not sustainable so we had budgeted for a break even by increasing giving by 11% and reducing the tithe from 22 to 20% on the understanding that should we have a surplus then this would feed back into the tithe. In the event this is what happened. Income actually increased by 4% with a net income of £260k. Though £12k short of budget expenses were also £12k short, mainly due to staff costs being less and courses and training also £5k down. Tax refunds remain healthy as do our reserves.

Steve then presented the budget for 2025 and commented on -

- Income was budgeted to be similar to the 2024 budget with an anticipated lower staff budget due to Esther's leaving. This would provide a small surplus of £3k. If this actually happens then we will use it to boost Mission Support as last year up to a maximum of 22% of church income.

13.1 Financial Reviewer's report for 2024 - received

13.2 Accounts for year ending 31st December 2024 - approved unanimously

13.3 Budget for 2025 - approved unanimously

Steve continued by thanking the finance team, Julie Brown who handles the banking, Ron Treby for the collection of tax and covenants, Sue Kelly for the preparation of the accounts and Maureen Richardson for her administration help.

Rev. Brooks followed by thanking Steve for all his work and then gave thanks to the Lord for His provision.

14. Appointment of Financial Reviewer for 2005 accounts

Alex Picot was unanimously appointed to undertake a financial review of the 2025 accounts.

15. Appoint Welcomers (Sidesman and women - list posted at the meeting)

Rev. Brooks conveyed thanks to all those serving in this very important ministry and asked for anyone new feeling called to this ministry to let Mary know.

The current Welcomers are: Clare Jouanny, Mabel Popo, Hugh Cathcart, John and Naomi Hood, Brian Miles, Mark Temple, Rosie Curzon, Pam Le Clercq, John Pallot, Victoria Donald, Kate Rodger, Barbara de la Haye, Shirley de Gruchy, Joan Gichorio, Dawn Thomas, Sam Muhwati, Eddie and Zena Vibert, Barbara Brown.

16. Presentation of reports

Written reports were received and unanimously accepted from staff and ministry heads as follows. The reports had been available in church and on the church website.

16.1 Church Trustees (see written report)

16.2 Mission Support (see written report)

16.3 Vicarage Trustees (see written report)

16.4 Staff (see written reports)

16.5 Ministry Heads (see written reports)

16.6 Deanery Synod (see written reports)

16.7 Building Committee - Rev. Brooks reported that the north lower roof had been repaired, financed by insurance, and that the lower south roof was also now repaired. The old boiler chimney has been removed. The arch water leak is to be investigated further noting that previous years attempts to stop the leak had been unsuccessful. There is work to be done on a clerestory window which is cracked and there are plans to fit a protective screen to the lower west windows. He concluded by thanking the Buildings Committee for all their hard work and let it be known that the Building Committee are very keen to have some new members.

Although there was no verbal report from Safe Haven Church (a written report is available with the other reports), the meeting was reminded that this ministry, which started late autumn 2023 was now regularly attracting an attendance of 20 people.

17. New Church Trust Deed update

17.1 Briefing on proposals - Steve Wilderspin reminded the meeting of the problems with the old Trust Deed, notably that it was 112 years old, had outdated provisions and importantly lacked modern provisions. He then continued with the proposed solutions to address these problems which have been captured in the new Trust Deed. In order to ensure that we have competent oversight of compliance issues Steve reminded the meeting that we need to give consideration to appointing a Company Secretary.

17.2 Steve emphasised that now is the time to engage in the detail should anyone want to and has arranged a meeting next Wednesday 7th May at 7.30 pm for anyone who would like to attend.

17.3 Update on state of progress - Following discussions with the Bishop and the Dean, the proposed new Trust Deed will next pass to the Law Officers followed by the Charities Commission after which the Church will need to adopt or reject the new Trust Deed at an EGM.

Micki Lewin, on behalf of the church extended sincere appreciation to all those involved in the work to date.

18. Ministry updates:

18.1 Children's and Family Worker - Neil Gallaher

Neil highlighted the work with Little Lights, Sparklers, Flaming Sparks and Tiny Tots.

There were 59 children that were a part of the three Sunday groups with an average attendance of 30. This would not be possible to run without the teams for which Neil expressed thanks. Tiny Tots on Fridays was attracting 45 children along with their carers, again not possible to run without the amazing team.

School visits have been an important part of his work with 'Christmas in a Box', 'Easter in a Box', and 'Walk through the Bible' being much appreciated.

Neil concluded with an encouragement for anyone interested in being involved in the 'Life Exhibition' to let him know.

18.2 Youth and Young Adults - Joel Banks

Joel spoke of three significant shifts in the last year.

Firstly, 2024 was our first year at 'New Day' and we took 59 people. This year we are aiming for 80 (79 have already signed up) and with leaders and helpers our party is

112. There are other churches involved and the cost is £70k. The Youth's fundraising target (from all churches attending) is £20k.

Secondly, Youth Alpha attracted 20 - 25 people which have fed into 'Hangout' that is now seeing 40 - 45 young people a week, not all of whom come to St Paul's. More helpers are needed so Joel asked for anyone to let him know if they are interested in getting involved.

Thirdly, the Worship Nights, primarily aimed at young adults, now have about 23 young adults involved in this ministry.

18.3 Minister's address

Rev. Brooks commenced his address by thanking his family without whose support he could not function. The past year had contained three notably important dates, his and Sonia's Ruby Wedding anniversary on 24th July, being made a Canon of Salisbury Cathedral on 24th October and the anniversary of 30 years of ministry at St Paul's on 1st November.

Looking back the Minister gave thanks for the celebrations throughout the year, as well as identifying highlights of the year that included the Confirmations in November at St. Ouen's Parish Church, the Baptisms on Easter Day, five welcoming meals held at the Vicarage, the Church weekend with Matthew Porter, the 13 Life Groups and various visiting speakers.

Looking forward to 2025/26 the HOPE services have been moved to the first Sunday of every month. There will be a service of renewal of baptism vows in June, KCO will be visiting in July, then the St Helier Pilgrimage in July, the youth will be attending New Day in July and there will be Confirmations in the autumn. There will be an EGM to adopt or reject the new Trust Deed and a Church Weekend is planned for next March. Esther will become a permanent member of staff on 1st September working 30 hours per week as Media and Assistant Youth Minister. This will add to the expenses budget so there is a need for a corresponding increase in income. New coffee cups are on their way and lastly the considerable amount of work on the church roof should be completed.

The Minister then referred to 2 Thessalonians Chapter 1 verses 11 and 12, verses that are a call to holiness, a call to persevere in the good that we do as a church, such as disciples making disciples, support for world mission, serving the poor and being generous. There is a call to us to live by faith with an expectation that God moves and touches lives and an expectation that people will come to faith and that the reason for all this is so that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified.

The Minister quoted Hebrews 10 verse 25 which encourages us to continue coming together in regular worship and to not give up meeting together as some have and finally he suggested we should all accept the challenge to serve where God wants us to.

19. AOB - There being no other business, Hugh Cathcart proposed a vote of thanks to Rev. Brooks for his guidance and leadership. Rev. Brooks in turn thanked everyone for their support and attending the meeting.

20. Closing prayer

The meeting closed with the words of the Grace.