

PARISH OF PRESTON PLUCKNETT

Minutes of ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING – St James

1.15pm Sunday 26th April 2026 in St James Church Room,

1. Opening Prayer led by Rev John Hanson
2. Apologies for Absence were received from Lynne Biles, Frances Croxford, Erica Rusling and David Newton
3. Minutes of meeting held on 11th May 2025 were approved as a correct record.
4. Election of Churchwardens Ivor Jones and Melodie Andrews were thanked for all their hard work over the past year. Both were elected as churchwardens for the year ahead. Ivor was proposed by Chris Harris and seconded by John Hanson. Mel was proposed by Graham Hardacre and seconded by Andrew Blair.

followed by the:

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING, St James

1. Minutes of meeting held on 11th May 2025 were approved as a correct record
2. Presentation of Electoral Roll by Ivor Jones. There are 100 people on the St James electoral roll. Over the year 4 have left the electoral roll and 2 have been added.
3. Presentation of Log Books and Inventories by Ivor Jones. During the year we purchased a new amplifier, completed the quinquennial repairs, and installed a defibrillator on the S wall of the church by the main entrance.

4. Election of Members to the PCC. Malcolm Iremonger, proposed by Graham Hardacre and seconded by Margaret Clapperton, and Graham Hardacre, proposed by John Hanson and seconded by Ivor Jones, were both elected to the PCC.

5. Election of Deanery Synod representatives. Chris Harris, nominated by Sandie Porter and seconded by Graham Hardacre, was elected as Deanery Synod rep, along with Rhoda Wilson from St Peters (proposed by Sue McFadden, seconded by Jan Burt)

6. Annual Report of the proceedings of the Church Council

- a. Annual report

Rev David Keen summarized the annual report and the main sections in it.

- b. Group reports on the life of the church.

A booklet containing details of all the different activities of the church, including St Peters, and our youth and family & children's work, was distributed. We celebrate and give thanks for the rich variety of church life, and for all who serve the church and the community in a variety of ways.

7. Finance

- a. Annual Report of the Financial Affairs of the Church and Accounts of the Church Council for the year ending 31st December 2025

This was presented by Rev Keen and approved by the meeting. Details of the St James accounts were explained, and questions of detail can be raised with the PCC or church Treasurers. Francis Croxford, Lynne Biles and Joanna Newton were thanked for all their hard work behind the scenes on church finances.

- b. Appointment of Independent Examiner –
Chalmers, proposed by David Keen seconded by Graham

Hardacre, and approved by the meeting

8. Vicar's remarks

Rev David Keen summarized some of the changes to the parish over the previous 20 years, and Rev Sarah Sanderson set out some thinking about a vision encompassing the whole parish, including St Peters, Lufton and Augusta Park. This was followed by discussion, comments and questions.

Points raised include

- Is it too early to have a vision? No, will help give clarity and direction to our parish profile, and what we are seeking in a new vicar.
- Is what we have 'broken' at the moment? No, what we are doing as churches and in the different centres is very good, but we need something which gives it coherence as a parish, and which sharpens the focus on what is important. It's been noted that the vision picture shared at the meeting looks like an eye: focus is important!
- Churches are being encouraged to engage with children and young people, so we include our Youth work and Children and Families work as 2 key centres, alongside the 5 physical centres of St James, St Peters, Community Centre, Augusta Park and Lufton church
- Is it too much about ourselves and not enough about God? The starting point of the vision is our response to the love and call of God, but we agreed that incorporating Prayer and Worship into the picture would be good.

9. Any Other Business

Graham Hardacre was thanked for his work as Verger

The meeting was closed in prayer by Melodie Andrews.