

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

19th April 2026

AGENDA

ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

1. Minutes of last Meeting of Parishioners on Sunday 11th May 2025
2. Matters arising from the minutes
3. Election of Churchwardens

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. Minutes of last APCM on Sunday 11th May 2025
2. Matters arising from the minutes
3. To receive:
 - a) Annual Report on the Electoral Roll
 - b) Annual Report on the PCC and activities of the parish generally
 - c) Accounts and Statements of Funds and Property for the year ending 31st December 2025
 - d) Rector's Report
 - e) Further Reports in the Reports' Pack
4. Elections:
 - a) Election of Parochial Church Councillors
 - b) Election of Deanery Synod representatives
5. Appointments:
 - a) Sidespersons
 - b) Independent Examiner
6. Any other business (as notified in advance)

OUR LADY & ST NICHOLAS, LIVERPOOL

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

MINUTES of the APCM held on Sunday 11th May 2025 during the course of the 10am Parish Eucharist

PRESENT: 88 Adults and 10 children.

APOLOGIES were received from Jim Wrightson, Emma and Paul Howard and Nick Ledingham

Rev Michelle opened the meeting and stated the report pack had been previously circulated electronically and also as a hard copy.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISHIONERS

- 1. Minutes of the last APCM:** The minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 28th April 2024 were received by the members present and contents agreed, proposed by Eva Cooley and seconded by Laura Hutcheon.
- 2. Matters Arising from the Minutes:** There were no matters arising not otherwise covered by the Agenda.
- 3. Election of Church Wardens:** Rev Michelle reported there were two nominations for the posts of Churchwarden, Sarah Wrightson and Clare Ledingham being duly elected.

Signed _____

Dated _____

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

- 1 Minutes of the last APCM:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 28th April 2024 had been made available in electronic and hard copy. They were agreed by the members present and would be signed by the Lay Chair. Proposed by Roger Merchant and Seconded by Ali Harwood. Rev Michelle thanked Pauline Addy, PCC Secretary, for her work in preparing and keeping records for our PCC.
- 2 Matters Arising from the Minutes:** There were no matters arising not otherwise covered by the Agenda.
- 3 Matters to be received:**

Items 3(a) to 3(d) had been made available in electronic and hard copy consolidated into a Report Pack (Appendix A attached to these minutes). Rev Michelle invited those present to raise any issues on the contents of any of these reports. She thanked Jim Wrightson, Treasurer, for his continued hard work in keeping our accounts in good order. In the absence of any issues the Report Pack was accepted unanimously. Proposed by Peter Woods and Seconded by Kelly Montana-Wiliams.

Fr Bill provided the following verbal report:

In his address at our APCM last year our Rector, Reverend Canon Dr Crispin Pailing, said this: “As the church prepares for what I hope will be a short vacancy, I hope that we are in a position to flourish without a Rector. It absolutely should not be the case that the church slows down or even stops when there is no incumbent, but rather that it continues to develop, and the next Rector of Liverpool will jump on board at the point you are then, and not now.” I am reminded as I write this, of the playground roundabout that we would ride when I was a child, and my hope is that when the new Rector, Canon Philip Anderson joins us, he is adept as I once was at jumping on that spinning roundabout because the previous Rector’s hopes that we could flourish without him have borne out in bucket loads. Canon Philip will need all of his jumping skills honed when he joins in July. We are certainly flourishing as a church, but that flourishing is as a result of the work that Crispin began during his tenure and the legacy of foundations that he laid that each of us has been able to build upon. Interregnums are often difficult to navigate but the people here, be they clergy, musicians, liturgists, wardens, PCC or laity have navigated the waters skilfully to continue uninterrupted the bringing of the good news of the Gospel to the city of Liverpool. The revision of the Parish Profile as part of the recruitment process for our Rector was an opportunity for this church to reaffirm its commitment to being an open, inclusive church centred upon our weekly sacramental worship. Where people can come and meet with a living faith exhibited in the still quietness of this space, we should never underestimate the power in being open each day for all to enter and have their needs met, prayers spoken and candles lit. Our weekly Choral Eucharist and monthly evensong are witnessing a growth numerically, a deepening of our ethnic diversity and an obvious reduction in our age profile. All signs of our health and of a church rooted in community and faithful witness. The weekday services have continued, and our monthly Wednesday Healing Mass has a consistent congregation that value the opportunity we provide

to receive the laying on of hands and anointing for healing. The Roman Catholic Mass on Fridays affords our neighbours the space to meet to celebrate in their own tradition and is evidence of our links and work in ecumenism. Our ministry in 'Occasional Offices' the baptisms, weddings, and funerals that continue apart from our regular worship, are opportunities for us to share the good news. We have seen this year a steady flow of families bringing children to baptism, of couples seeking to marry in this place and sadly a number of members of our congregation and others connected that we have had the privilege of commending into the safe arms of God. As clergy we are mindful of the opportunities given to witness in these occasional offices and are thankful for the trust placed upon us by so many. As I mention Occasional Offices, I give thanks for the work of our Parish Administrator, Jean, who is the first contact point and during the interregnum has been a constant source of reference and support for us all. As the Parish Church of the City of Liverpool we have continued to strengthen our civic links through work with the Lieutenancy, High Sheriff, Lord Mayor, City Armed Forces and Merchant Navy. Services held have been as diverse as the 200th anniversary of RNLI last September to the Freedom of Association of the City of Liverpool granted to the Royal Navy Flagship HMS Prince of Wales. That service last December, witnessed 400 people worshipping in church and required me to bless the full Ship's company and massed RM band outside in Chapel Street before they marched bayonets drawn through the streets of Liverpool. Certainly, a first for me. During the year we have also enabled solemn acts of memorial to take place, highlights have included the vigil for all affected by HIV and Aids alongside Sahir House. The service of remembrance for those massacred in the Genocide at Srebrenica was an opportunity to bring our friends from different faiths into church as, was also, the Commonwealth service. As I speak of memorials the service held here in February to mark the 3rd Anniversary of the unjust invasion of Ukraine by the aggressor Russia was a poignant moment in the year which, again, saw our church filled with hundreds of the Ukrainian diaspora and I know the beauty of the children's voices moistened many eyes. Often when I give the sentence of introduction and welcome at a wedding, I speak of the fact that there has been a Christian presence on this site for over 800 years and that the Holy Spirit and the prayers of the faithful is evidence in the very stones of the building. I describe Our Lady and St Nicholas as a 'Thin Space', a place where Heaven touches Earth and Earth touches Heaven. Places of Divine Encounter that 'Thin Space' became a reality to me in the most unexpected of ways in the midst of our busy Christmas schedule. As many of you will know, we are blessed with many organisations coming here to begin their celebrations for Christmas, celebrations in words and music. We have so many, sometimes may seem a chore to the teams that work on them and the arrival at Christmas morning, a relief when no more carols are to be sung. In the midst of the business, I met my divine encounter and found my Thin Space in the contrast between the exquisite voices of our own St Nicholas Singers and the soaring crescendos of the Lighthouse Gospel Choir. I am not ashamed to say that in the moment tears fell, and they were mine. In our Gospel reading from John, the Jews that Jesus meets in the Temple looked for Jesus to prove he was the Messiah, the chosen one of God 'If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly' they asked him. Jesus's response was to tell them that all the evidence that they needed was in his works done in his Father's name. My sheep hear my voice, I know them, and they follow me

In his first Papal Mass yesterday following his election, Pope Leo XIV said this "He (God) has done so in order that she may be ever more fully a city set on a hill (cf. Rev 21:10), an ark of salvation sailing through the waters of history and a beacon that illumines the dark nights of

this world. And this, not so much through the magnificence of her structures or the grandeur of her buildings – like the monuments among which we find ourselves – but rather through the holiness of her members. For we are the people whom God has chosen as his own, so that we may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called us out of darkness into his marvellous light.” The prayer for each one of us as we move forward into the next stage of our journey towards heaven, is that we can continue to evidence the ‘Thin Space’ of our lives as the people of God.

4. Election:

- a) **Election of Parochial Church Councillors:** Nominations had been received for Pauline Addy, Nicholas Ledingham, Andrew Derringer, Elaine Price, Rebecca Selman, Peter Summerfield, Rupert Litherland, Ali Harwood, Sian Loftus, Cassel Mathews, Laura Hutcheon and Emma Howard. There being no nominations from the floor, it was agreed. unanimously that all the above were elected to the Council for the period ending 10th May 2026.
- b) **Deanery Synod representatives:** Emily Ridgway, Victoria Ekpo, Kelly Montana-Williams and Stephen Derringer continue to serve as Deanery Synod representatives. Rev Michelle thanked all PCC members and Deanery Synod representatives for the work carried out during the past year.

5. Appointments

- a) **Sidespersons:** The “panel” of sidespersons were thanked for their work and it was agreed unanimously that those on the present list would continue in the role.
- b) **Independent Examiner:** Susan Buckley, SBA Accounting Limited, was reappointed, proposed by Jim Wrightson and Seconded by Peter Summerfield and all agreed.

6. Any Other Business

There being no further business Rev Michelle declared the Annual Parochial Church Meeting closed and the Eucharist concluded with God’s Blessing from Rev Michelle.

Signed _____

Date _____

Churchwardens report APCM 2026

The highlight of the past year was undoubtedly the arrival of our new rector, Fr Philip, who was finally licensed and installed in December, after an 18 month interregnum.

We would formally like to record our thanks to everyone who worked tirelessly to keep things going at St Nick's over this period, but in particular to Fr Bill, Revd Michelle and the rest of the clergy, and also to our Parish Administrator, Jean Wynne. It was wonderful that the parish not only survived such a long interregnum, but actually flourished, with our attendance figures growing in both number and diversity during the period.

We have had, as usual, another busy year fulfilling the multiple roles of a large civic parish church. We have provided a spiritual home for the regular and occasional worshipping communities, including those attending for weddings, baptisms, funerals, memorial services and our usual raft of carol services, the latter providing a rapid initiation for our new Rector during Advent!

We have continued to be a place of welcome as the civic church for the City of Liverpool, hosting the usual selection of services, including the Lord Mayor's Civic Service, Merchant Navy Day, Armed Forces Day, World AIDS Day, Commonwealth Day, various commemorations for local military and maritime associations and services in February to mark the 4th anniversary of the war in Ukraine and also the centenary of Girl Guiding for the north west region. All of these organisations regard St Nick's as their spiritual home and we are honoured to be able to serve them in this way.

We continued to be a central venue for a range of cultural events during the year, including art exhibitions, concerts and a book launch, our regular coffee mornings for members of our congregation but, most importantly, an inclusive place of welcome for all who enter our church.

As ever, we are extremely grateful to our relatively small but dedicated group of volunteers who give their time and energy to all aspects of our mission to ensure that everything runs smoothly. We are also grateful to our PCC and other committee members, buildings manager, Deanery synod reps, sides people for our many services, readers, intercessors, organists, singers, altar serving and sacristy teams, flower arrangers, Sunday School leaders, those who open and lock up church daily, various rota co-ordinators and those helping with refreshments, gardening and church cleaning. In particular we would like to say a big thank you to Peter Summerfield and Pauline Addy, in their respective roles as PCC Lay Chair and PCC Secretary, both now stepping down after many years of loyal service. We could not continue to fulfil our role at the spiritual heart of the city without the commitment of our members, and for those of you who are new to Liverpool Parish Church who feel that you may have something to offer then please do speak to us. We are always in need of more help!

We have just enjoyed a wonderful Lent, Holy Week and Easter and are very much looking forward to Fr Philip's continued leadership as he develops his ministry and the mission and spiritual life here at St Nick's.

Clare Ledingham and Sarah Wrightson, Churchwardens

Liverpool North and Walton Deanery Synod Report

Over the past 12 months, the deanery has been discerning how best to move forward with the "Fit for Mission" diocesan initiative. There have been many discussions, with a wide range of voices heard, and often more questions than answers as we seek a clear and faithful way ahead.

Towards the end of the year, in light of the significant challenges facing the deanery—particularly the high number of clergy vacancies—it was agreed that a pause in the process would be helpful. Some PCCs have made firm decisions regarding the options presented and chosen not to engage further at this time. Others have felt that additional information is needed and that they are not yet in a position to make fully informed decisions given their current circumstances.

Bishop Ruth has listened carefully to these concerns and invited all parishes within the deanery to complete a short survey. The findings will help shape a way forward for the whole deanery, and this is the stage we have now reached.

As noted, the number of vacancies remains a significant concern, and the difficulty in recruiting clergy continues to have a wider impact. Nevertheless, the deanery has sought to support one another wherever possible. With the valued assistance of retired clergy, parishes have continued faithfully in their ministry.

Across the deanery, parishes remain committed to serving their communities and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ through worship, outreach, and local activities. Our hope and prayer is that we will continue to work together, listen for God's call, and see the deanery grow and flourish in the years ahead.

With the valued assistance of retired clergy and self supporting ministers, parishes have continued faithfully in their ministry.

Fabric Report

During the last year, maintenance and improvement to the Church building was carried out on a regular basis. There were no significant major works undertaken this year and no major disasters which led to large scale works or repairs. Much of the day to day jobs such as changing light bulbs and minor repairs were able to be carried out by myself and ably assisted by the wardens. To highlight a few tasks for your information:

Maintenance and inspections of the heating system, fire alarms, lift and fire fighting equipment.

Gas safety checks on boilers in the apartments.

Repairs to the parking bollards on the forecourt.

Leaking waste pipe in the crypt.

Replacement of electric cooker in the Gladstone flat, together with the need to upgrade the consumer unit to modern standards, as well as safer light fittings.

The bell ringers have undertaken to complete the work on the baffles in the bell chamber and to fit new curtains in the ringing chamber, as part of their legacy.

We now have new energy contracts which cap the cost of gas and electricity for 3 years, which in this time of uncertainty is good news. The main gas meter has been replaced with a new smart meter to enable remote readings.

The solar panels continue to serve us well with a generation of over 30 megawatts since installation.

We are hoping that the roof leak over the sanctuary has been repaired once and for all, after many years of buckets needed.

This year should see the Quinquennial inspection of the Church building and parish centre by the Diocese. We know that there will have to be some re-pointing, but await the outcome of this inspection.

Some possible projects for the future may include replacing the interior floodlights with LED units, and also the possibility of ground source heating for the building.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Wardens and Peter Woods for their continued help and support.

Stephen Derringer

Buildings Manager. April 2026.

Justice, Peace and Creation Report

The Justice, Peace and Creation group comprises Guy Barker, Becky Selman, Steven Shakespeare and Sarah Wrightson.

The group was renamed in November 2025, having previously been known as the World Action group, to reflect more accurately our priorities.

A key priority for 2026-27 will be promoting more opportunities for reflection on how we live our commitments to justice, peace and care of creation more widely. As a starting point we have drawn up a calendar of key dates related to our three themes: e.g. World Earth Hour, Carbon Fast for Lent, Big Plastic Count, which we are communicating to the congregation – with practical ideas for implementation - via the weekly bulletin.

A key focus for our Eco work, as part of our drive to achieve Eco Church silver status, is the church garden and ways that we can promote more sustainable gardening practices and care of it. We have begun by planting some native pollinator species – ably helped by some of the children – and if these bed in well we will be doing more of this over the next few months.

We are also working on a Net Zero Carbon 2030 plan with Faiths4Change which we hope to bring to the PCC meeting in May for approval.

We have continued our support of charities – many with local links - this year. With £3000 to distribute, the following allocation of funds was agreed:

Asylum Link (£1000)

YMCA Dutch Farm (£500)

Community by Nature (£500))

DEC Middle East Appeal (£500)

It is intended that the remaining £500 will be donated to a women's refuge.

We plan to invite representatives from one of the charities we support to come to St Nick's one Sunday do a presentation about their work followed by a light lunch (to serve as a fundraiser for them). More details to follow shortly.

This year we have made one grant from the Education Fund to a member of the congregation. But applications are welcome from all members of the congregation who wish to apply for small grants to support their children's education. Please speak to Sarah Wrightson if you are interested in applying.

Safeguarding Report

The PCC has complied with the duty to have 'due regard' to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance and has displayed safeguarding information on the noticeboard in the Narthex.

'Safeguarding Matters', the Diocesan bulletin, helps to inform our practice within the Parish and any changes we may be required to make and we are grateful to the Diocesan Safeguarding Team for their support with safeguarding advice. We are now signed up to the Safeguarding Dashboard, which helps us to monitor our progress with regard to safeguarding and helps us to plan our next steps.

Our Safeguarding policy was reviewed, updated and accepted by the PCC in September 2025 and will undergo its annual review in September 2026. A hard copy is available in the Parish Office and also online, with any other safeguarding documents. We have risk assessments in place with regard to children/vulnerable adults and continue to review our practice with regard to the safety of our children/young people. To this end, we now lock the inner door to the Parish Centre during Sunday Service, but a keyholder is always available to allow access to the downstairs toilets.

Safeguarding continues to be an item on the agenda at every PCC.

In line with the Diocesan policy of Safer Recruitment all post holders who require a DBS have one. As part of this process, and, depending on the role our volunteers undertake, different levels of Diocesan Safeguarding Training have been completed and we are extremely grateful for the willingness with which everyone approaches this. A significant number of the congregation have now completed some form of safeguarding training, whether it be leadership, basic, foundation or awareness of domestic abuse. Training continues to be ongoing as new volunteers accept roles and others renew their training every three years.

The Lead Recruiter role, with regard to DBS, as of December, is now the Rector.

Our Safeguarding Officers continue to be:

Rev Michelle Montrose (Vulnerable Adults)

Sarah Wrightson (Children)

SL Wrightson April 2026

Sunday School Report

Our Sunday School continues to serve the young people of Liverpool Parish Church in an engaging and welcoming way. We are encouraged by a core group of children—particularly in the Early Years and Key Stage 1 age groups—who attend regularly with their grown-ups. They are supported by a dedicated team of leaders who faithfully prepare sessions based on the lectionary, ensuring a clear connection between the readings in the main service and the themes explored with the children.

Older children, typically aged nine and above, are increasingly involved in the life of the main service, contributing in a variety of ways, including serving and reading scripture.

The children's corner at the back of the church continues to provide a valuable space for families, enabling children to play while still participating in the service. Its presence throughout the week also offers a visible sign to visitors—whether attending weddings, baptisms, or other occasions—that children are welcomed, valued, and included in the life of the church.

We look forward to continuing this ministry, supporting our young people, and sharing with them the love and care shown to us all through Jesus Christ.