



ANNUAL PARISH AND ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 2026 TO BE HELD ON MONDAY 27 APRIL 2026 AT 8PM IN THE SAINT JAMES CENTRE

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ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2026

TO BE HELD ON MONDAY 27 APRIL 2026 AT 8PM IN THE SAINT JAMES CENTRE

AGENDA

1. Opening Prayer
2. Welcome and introduction
3. Election of churchwardens

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 2026

TO BE HELD ON MONDAY 27 APRIL 2026 FOLLOWING DIRECTLY AFTER THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING IN THE SAINT JAMES CENTRE

AGENDA

1. Welcome and apologies of absence
2. Minutes of the previous meeting – for **APPROVAL**
3. Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting
4. Reports to the APCM – for **NOTING**
 - (a) Electoral Roll report
 - (b) Rector's report on the proceedings of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2025
 - (c) Annual Fabric report
 - (d) Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod
 - (e) Safeguarding report: Compliance with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016
5. Financial Statements for the year ending 31 December 2025 – for **NOTING**
6. Election of Deanery Synod members and PCC representatives
7. Appointment of Auditors
8. Questions

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AND THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM) OF ST JAMES GERRARDS CROSS AND FULMER HELD ON MONDAY 28 APRIL 2025 AT 8PM IN THE SAINT JAMES CENTRE

PRESENT: Chairman (and Rector): Matt Beeby
Vice Chairman: David Steel and Gary Palmer
54 church family members and 2 clergy members
13 apologies

OPENING

The Rector opened the meeting with a reading from Luke 24: 5-8, 32, 35 and 44-45 and prayer.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Rector welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish meeting to be followed by the Annual Parochial Church meeting (APCM).

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

1. Election of Churchwardens

The Rector reminded the meeting that, in addition to members registered on the church Electoral Roll, any resident of the parish whose name is on the register of local government electors is entitled to vote at the election of the churchwardens.

The Rector further reminded the meeting that churchwardens are always elected to serve for one year at a time.

The Rector informed the meeting that Gary Palmer and Francesca Hall-Drinkwater had agreed to stand for election as churchwardens for another year. Andrew Bell, having served in this role for 10 years, had decided to stand down. John Young had agreed to stand for election as churchwarden in his place.

The Rector shared with the meeting the nominations for churchwardens, duly proposed and seconded and received before the meeting as follows:

Francesca Hall-Drinkwater	Proposed by: Wendy Blinco	Seconded by: Andrew Nealon
Gary Palmer	Proposed by: Graham Green	Seconded by: David Mulligan
John Young	Proposed by: Andrew Bell	Seconded by: Jonathan Rushworth

As no further nominations were received and in terms of Rule M9 (3) of the Church Representation Rules the Rector **DECLARED** that Francesca Hall-Drinkwater, Gary Palmer and John Young were elected as churchwardens until the 2026 Annual Parish Meeting.

The Rector thanked the churchwardens for:

- their encouragement to the Rector personally and to the wider church family;
- their wise counsel, their faithfulness to the gospel and their godly example in serving our church; and
- their great care and support of the staff team and the church family over the past year.

The Rector particularly thanked Andrew Bell for his unwavering dedication as churchwarden and for his prayerful and wise counsel, gospel courage and servant heart.

The APM expressed its gratitude to Andrew Bell.

Anna Barrett prayed for Andrew and gave thanks to God for his dedicated service.

Taiwo Akinseye prayed for God's blessing on Francesca, Gary and John and on their work to come in the year ahead.

The Rector closed the Annual Parish Meeting.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM)

The Rector reminded the meeting that only those who are on the Electoral Roll of Saint James are permitted to vote at the APCM.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from: Joan Filler, Martin Josten, Jane Josten, David Brodie, Megan Brodie, Janice Buchanan, Andrew Shingleton, Wendy Shingleton, Sarah Steel, Lydia Lucas, Richard Lawrence, Rebecca Coomber and Anita Mitton.

2. Minutes of the previous Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The minutes of the Annual Parish and Annual Parochial Church Meetings held on 22 April 2024, proposed by Ian Scott and seconded by Ann Green, were **APPROVED** (with one abstention) by the members and signed by the Rector as a true reflection of the meetings.

3. Matters Arising

The Rector dealt with the following matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting not addressed later in the meeting:

a. Governance review

It was **NOTED** that the Governance Review Implementation Plan (GRIP) has closed. Of the 21 recommendations, 18 are fully implemented, two are underway in separate projects and one is deferred.

b. Contending for the Faith

The Contending for the Faith (CFTF) working group continues to support the Rector, Ministry Team and PCC in our engagement with our diocese and the wider Church of England as we hold to a Biblical view of marriage and uphold the Church of England’s historic, traditional teaching on marriage and sexuality.

4. Reports to the APCM

a. Electoral Roll report

The meeting noted the Electoral Roll Report. This year a new Electoral Roll has been prepared from scratch, as we are required to do every six years. It now shows a total of 372 people for 2025. This is down from 508 in 2024.

Total 372, split as follows:

	Gerrards Cross	Fulmer
TOTAL NUMBER ON ELECTORAL ROLL	306	66

b. Rector’s Report

The meeting noted the content of the Rector’s Report and the verbal update by the Rector.

c. Report on the proceedings of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2024

The meeting noted the content of the Report on the proceedings of the PCC for the year ending 31 December 2024.

d. Annual Fabric report

The meeting noted the content of the Annual Fabric report for the year ending 31 December 2024.

e. Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod

The meeting noted the content of the Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod for the year ending 31 December 2024.

f. Safeguarding report: Compliance with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016

The meeting noted the content of the Safeguarding report and noted, in particular, that the PCC had complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to the House of Bishop's guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

The meeting also noted that the safeguarding policy is available on the front page of the church website.

The Rector **THANKED** Ann Green for all her hard work and asked the meeting to thank Ann and to encourage her that her ministry is hugely valuable and much appreciated.

The Rector encouraged the church family to contact Ann or the Diocesan Safeguarding team directly with any safeguarding questions or concerns, including anything to do with a member of the ministry or wider staff team.

5. Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

David Steel, the Treasurer, shared an overview of the financial statements and financial results for the financial year ending 31 December 2024.

The Treasurer **THANKED** Richard Lawrence for his commitment and dedication as our Planned Christian Giving Secretary.

The Treasurer also **THANKED** Megan Brodie and Shakira Armstrong for their hard work, support and help. The Treasurer highlighted that Shakira is new in the role, taking over from Hazel Robinson, and has done an excellent job in supporting the budget-setting and audit processes.

The Rector **THANKED** David Steel for his dedication to his role and for the faithful gospel convictions that underpin his service.

The Rector also **THANKED** Hazel Robinson (who stepped down from the Finance Officer role earlier in the year) and Shakira Armstrong for their support and hard work.

QUESTIONS:

1. Have we conducted any analysis of our regular giving to identify any positive steps we can take to encourage an increase?

The Treasurer reminded the meeting that only the Planned Christian Giving Secretary has access to individual information on giving. Quarterly reports are prepared looking at the data and the pattern of giving across the different congregations. Whilst we have seen an increase in giving units we have also seen a change in the make-up of the giving. At the top of the pyramid we see a small number giving a large amount. At the bottom of the pyramid we see a larger number giving smaller amounts, so for every large giver we lose from the top, we need more than one new giver at the bottom. The Treasurer confirmed that he was open to new ideas from anyone about how we communicate with the church family to encourage more sacrificial giving.

2. *How is the amount of Parish Share calculated and have there been any implications with the Diocese since we started retaining part of the Parish Share?*

The Treasurer confirmed that there is a mechanism by which the amount of Parish Share is calculated each year, through a process that involves the Oxford Diocese and the Amersham Deanery. The meeting was reminded that Parish Share is a voluntary payment and we are therefore not creating a running or growing debt. The meeting was also reminded that the retained element will be spent on mission so we are not creating a saving for Saint James through retaining part of the Parish Share. Other churches who hold to a traditional Biblical view of marriage are taking a similar approach to Saint James with regard to retaining Parish Share.

3. *Can you clarify the reduction in the reserves in the Church Growth Fund that are set out on page 24 of the signed financial statements?*

The Treasurer confirmed that given the significant reserves held in the Church Growth Fund, the PCC had approved the use of these reserves to contribute to the funding of two staff posts.

4. *Given the reduction in the numbers on the Electoral Roll through the reset this year, does that have any financial implications for us?*

The Treasurer confirmed that there is still a gap between the number on the Electoral Roll and the number of regular giving units, so there remains an opportunity to close the gap between those who consider themselves to be part of the Saint James church family and the numbers who are regularly giving.

5. *Noting that the income from legacies was very small, should we consider more communication and education about the tax advantages available to those who leave money to the church?*

The Treasurer confirmed that we have done this in the past and would be open to thinking about this again. The Rector highlighted that a large lump sum would naturally point towards investing in a property but that the PCC is currently cautious on property acquisitions given the current climate.

6. *Should there be more regular discussion about money on a Sunday in church?*

The Treasurer highlighted that there are termly updates on a Sunday regarding church finances and the topic is also included at Prayer Central. The topic of giving is also included as part of the Connect course so that people who are new to Saint James are introduced to giving as part of their wider introduction to what it means to be part of a church.

6. Election of members to the PCC

a. Deanery Synod representatives

The Rector reminded the meeting that the Deanery Synod exists to support and facilitate growth of churches in the Amersham Deanery, which stretches from Chesham in the North to Denham in the South.

Clergy are automatically members of the Synod. Lay members are normally elected every three years and this last happened in 2023 when we elected 8 members (based on the numbers on our electoral roll). Deanery Synod members are ex-officio members of the PCC. Importantly, Deanery Synod members are also responsible for electing members of Diocesan and General Synods. The Rector informed the meeting that as John Young has taken on the role of churchwarden, he has stood down from his role on Deanery Synod. The Rector thanked John for his contribution.

We therefore have a vacancy for someone to serve initially for one year until the APCM in 2026.

One member of the church family has agreed to stand to fill this vacancy and has been duly proposed and seconded as follows:

Mark Nicholas	Proposed by:	Lawrence Tebboth	Seconded by:	Stephanie Summerell
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As no further nominations were received the Rector **DECLARED** that Mark Nicholas was elected as a lay member of the Deanery Synod for a period of one year.

The Rector noted that we now have one remaining vacancy on Deanery Synod.

b. Election of members to the PCC

The meeting noted the need to elect three people as Lay members of the PCC, to serve for three years.

The following members of the church family have agreed to stand for re-election to the PCC (for a three year term) following completion of their current term. Those standing, each duly proposed and seconded, are:

Bola Akinseye	Proposed by:	Bonu Ogunleye	Seconded by:	Gary Palmer
Richard Lawrence	Proposed by:	Peter Whittle	Seconded by:	Jane Josten
Simon Bailey	Proposed by:	Peter Whittle	Seconded by:	Andrew Bell

As no further nominations were received and in terms of Rule M9 (3) of the Church Representation Rules the Rector **DECLARED** that Bola Akinseye, Richard Lawrence and Simon Bailey were elected as members of the PCC.

7. Appointment of Auditors

The meeting noted that we re-appointed Wenn Townsend, Chartered Accountants as our auditors last year, and they have now completed their audit of our accounts this year.

Proposed by David Steel and seconded by Ian Mitton the meeting unanimously **APPROVED** that Wenn Townsend, Chartered Accountants be reappointed as auditors to the PCC for a term of office ending at the close of the 2026 APCM.

8. Questions and encouragements

The meeting noted the thanks, encouragements and suggestions shared by various members of the staff team and church family as follows:

- The growing number of people attending Explore and showing a real interest in grappling with the big questions of life and faith.
- The growth in The 5:30 service and the number of young people professing faith and growing as disciples.
- The excellent provision for kids and youth, led so well by Anna Barrett and Luke Douglas.
- The growing number of new faces on a Sunday.
- The amazing musicians and choir who lead our worship. The exceptional talent and leadership of Josh and Sean who work so creatively and humbly together.
- Dan Hubbard joining the team and being a great blessing to the church family.

9. Looking forward

The meeting further **NOTED** a verbal update by the Rector, highlighting various things to be thankful for as a church family, together with some of the challenges and opportunities we are facing. In particular:

- We are experiencing growth at Saint James. Growth and change can often feel slow and / or it can feel uncomfortable, but the Rector encouraged the meeting to enjoy what God is doing.
- We should be grateful for the growing numbers and diversity participating in our Explore courses. The Rector encouraged the meeting to give thanks for that and to keep praying for lasting fruit.
- As we continue to grow we will need to face into the challenges of reduced space, the challenges of clashing service times between Gerrards Cross and Fulmer and availability of the ministry team during coffee for pastoral conversations. We may need to think, at some stage, about introducing two morning services at Gerrards Cross. That would come at a cost as it would involve asking more of people in terms of serving. It would also come at a cost relationally – as we grow we cannot expect to know everyone or to have relationships at the same level of depth, which is one of the reasons why Growth Groups are so important.
- We have refreshed our pastoral care framework so that people are cared for and picked up. It is working well, by God's grace.
- Training leaders. We need more people to lead Growth Groups and to be equipped to handle the Bible so that they can care for and disciple others.
- Serving Together. We want to be a church where everyone is doing something and nobody is doing too much. We would love to see more people getting involved.

- Contending for the Faith. The future direction in the Church of England remains troubling and we need to be ready to respond to whatever might unfold following the decision to introduce Prayers of Love and Faith. The Rector asked the meeting to pray for wisdom, courage and grace in our dealings with the Diocese and for unity in our church as we submit to God's word on these issues.

10. Thanks

Gary Palmer **THANKED** everyone for attending the meeting. He also **THANKED** David Irvine as PCC Secretary for his work in recording the meeting.

The Rector **THANKED** all who serve in various aspects of church life and activities, and the PCC and staff team for their dedication and commitment.

Andrew Bell **THANKED**:

- The staff team, both ministry and operations, for doing a wonderful job, under God, of leading the church family and helping us to grow as disciples;
- The many members of the wider church family who serve the body of Christ in so many ways;
- Matt for the way he works exceptionally hard and continues to faithfully live out the promise he made when he joined Saint James in 2019 to open the Bible with us at every opportunity, using it to teach, rebuke, correct and train in righteousness. We are so blessed by the solid biblical teaching we receive week by week, but also in smaller groups and in 1:1 conversations;
- Amy Beeby for her constant support, advice and encouragement to Matt as well as serving in many ways in her own right; and
- James, Emma and Edward Beeby, for coping so admirably with the demands placed on family life by Matt's demanding role.

Andrew encouraged the meeting to pray faithfully for Matt and for all our leaders, that they may be bold and fearless and remain faithful to the gospel.

Andrew then closed the meeting with prayer.

CHAIRMAN

DATE

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

Following completion of the annual revision, the church Electoral Roll has been amended as follows:-

	Gerrards Cross	Fulmer
Names removed – those who have died	4	3
Names removed – those who have moved away	6	1
New additions	12	1
TOTAL NUMBER ON ELECTORAL ROLL	308	63

The number on the Roll now stands at 371 for 2026. The 2025 Roll was 372.



RECTOR'S REPORT ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE PCC FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Please refer to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025, available from the Church Office and on the Saint James website.



ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

The Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025 are available from the Church Office and on the Saint James website.

ANNUAL FABRIC REPORT

As churchwardens, we are again enormously thankful to Edwin Clark for his continued efforts in managing the maintenance, repair, and enhancement of our buildings, to Martin Paine who has recently stepped down after 8 years from ownership of all our annual maintenance contracts, ensuring that regular service arrangements are in place, and to Mark Nicholas for additional oversight and administration. We are also thankful to Graham Green who has taken on the task of ensuring our service and maintenance contracts are working effectively.

Governance of the buildings work

The PCC Standing Committee continues to undertake the governance responsibilities assigned to the Buildings and Fabric Team (BAFT), a committee of the PCC that has not yet been formed. This arrangement is working effectively and is likely to continue for the foreseeable future.

Summary

It has been a busy year with some big projects, namely, major works to fix roof leaks within the Saint James Centre, installation of solar panels on the Centre roof, major work to the 'Space' structure in Gerrards Cross church, internal decoration of Fulmer church and rebuilding of the external entrance wall and pillar at Fulmer.

St James Fulmer

1. Woodworm treatment applied to floors, all pews and general woodwork (excludes the tower that was done in recent years).
2. Church interior repainted including ceiling.
3. Roof tile repairs to all external elevations.
4. External flood lights replaced with LED.
5. Rebuilt external wall and gate pillar, repaired gates (knocked down by vehicle).

St James Gerrards Cross

1. Major work to the 'Space' repaired cracks in structure above all window arches. Repaired leak in roof parapet joints. Internal decoration.
2. Repaired external brickwork to chancel.
3. Painted external church lift.
4. Rotten beam in tower treated and repaired.
5. External flood lights replaced with LED.
6. New radiator installed in gents WC and decorated panel.
7. Fire doors fitted to 'tech' church office.
8. Fire alarm installed and associated electrical preparation.

St James Centre

1. Major work to the Centre roof to repair several leaks. New external fan and outlet with new internal access doors in roof, replacement lights, and decoration.
2. Installation of 48 x 535w Solar Panels on the Centre roof.

3. Replaced external timber base struts on windows.
4. Repairs to tap in kitchen.
5. Clearance of car park storm drains.
6. Various taps repair/replacement in WCs.

Staff Housing

38A Lovel Road

1. Alarm maintenance.
2. Clearance of blocked drains

7 Gaviots Close

1. New shower thermostat and mastic.
2. New front door.
3. New internal stop cock and new outside tap.

Further works recommended in the 2023 quinquennial report are ongoing and will be undertaken when appropriate.

**Francesca Hall-Drinkwater, Gary Palmer, John Young
Churchwardens**

REPORT ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE DEANERY SYNOD IN 2025

The function of the Amersham Deanery Synod and Team is to equip, enable, support, and facilitate growth and renewal in the local church throughout the Amersham Deanery. The Area Dean's responsibilities include holding Deanery Synod meetings. Synod Meetings aim to bring members together to learn discuss and feedback on items of common interest. Deanery Synods are chaired by the Area Dean of Amersham, and the Lay Chair.

Each parish or benefice provides lay representatives to Deanery Synod depending on the parish electoral role size. Deanery Synod members are also PCC members. The number of Deanery Synod representatives from St James will reduce by one to a total of six as from July 2026. Members of Diocesan Synod and General Synod are also members of Deanery Synods. Deanery Synod members across the Diocese form the electorate for General Synod elections due Summer 2026.

Amersham Deanery Synod met three times in 2025. There was no Synod meeting in March. The June Synod was held at the Parish Centre Holmer Green. The meeting agenda included the AGM of Amersham Deanery Trust. The main topic of discussion was the development of parish Mission Action Plans, and included presentations from Rev'd Jonny Rapson and Rev'd Samuel Thorp.

The September meeting of Synod included an update from the Deanery Link Missionaries Steve and Lindsey Poulson, working with young people in Honduras. This was followed by a presentation on the Assisted Dying Bill currently proceeding through parliament from Peter Ladd from CARE (Christian Action Research and Education).

At the December Synod, held at the St James Centre Gerrards Cross, the Rev'd Jonny Rapson was welcomed as the new Area Dean. At the Synod, the Deanery Treasurer reported on the revised Parish Share allocation for the current year (2025) and the planned allocation of Parish share for the coming year (2026). Synod voted to accept the allocations, but it was also noted that not all parishes agreed with the allocations. The synod then heard Michael Cooper of the work of Samaritans Purse.

Finally, Synod thanked Rev'd Peggy Ludlow for her service over the past five years as Area Dean, as she and Brian retire from Chenies Benefice.

All Synod presentations are available on the Deanery Website.

<https://www.amershamdeanery.org.uk/ddocuments.html>

From 2026 the Amersham Deanery Team will include Rev'd Jonny Rapson (Rector of Amersham) as Area Dean, and as Assistant Deans the Rev'd Lucy Fyfe-Jamieson (Vicar, Beaconsfield) and Rev'd Christoph Lindner (Rector Denham).



In a wider context, the Rt Rev'd Dave Bull, former Rector of Marlow and Area Dean of Wycombe became the Bishop of Buckingham. The Rev'd Guy Elsmore retired as the Archdeacon of Buckingham. His replacement will be the Rev'd Cassa Messervy formerly Team Vicar of Seer Green and Jordan.

Lawrence Tebboth

SAFEGUARDING REPORT: COMPLIANCE WITH THE DUTY UNDER SECTION 5 OF THE SAFEGUARDING AND CLERGY DISCIPLINE MEASURE 2016



I write to confirm that the PCC of St James Gerrards Cross & Fulmer has due regard to safeguarding guidance, as required by Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016. This means that everyone who serves at the church takes safeguarding seriously, acting with care and attention to the House of Bishops' guidance.

The PCC undertakes a shared responsibility for Safeguarding which appears as a standing item on every PCC agenda. Each PCC & staff member has also received my annual update document which summarises Church of England Safeguarding reviews and best practice. Our Safeguarding Policy was reviewed and approved at the November 2025 PCC meeting and is in line with the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance. The next review will be in October 2026. Our Safeguarding Notice is found on the front page on the church website providing guidance for raising a safeguarding concern and a direct link to our Safeguarding Policy. Details can also be found on posters in both churches and the St James Centre.

It is a good time to remind ourselves that: *"Safeguarding is not an imposition from central church, a hoop to be jumped through, or just a policy - it is a way of being, woven into the very fabric of our ministry, ensuring that care, trust and protection are lived out in every interaction, decision and relationship."* Gareth Morley, Area Dean of Bracknell

All our staff - and volunteers working with children and vulnerable adults - are Safely Recruited, the process being fully documented on Church Suite. All of those in church appointed serving roles are also required to complete Basic Safeguarding training. So, with the inception of our Pastoral Care Co-Ordinators this year & a refreshed Visiting Team, our church family is shown practical love and support.

Safeguarding needs to be an integral part of our church culture. It is a shared responsibility rooted in love, trust and care. We believe every person, especially every child and vulnerable adult, should be safe, heard and supported. Safeguarding is not just a policy. It is a commitment to protect the dignity and wellbeing of all who come through our doors on their Christian journey.



We cannot eradicate all risk, but risk is reduced if people are more aware, are curious and speak out if they suspect something is not right. Every concern will be listened to, no matter how small. When there is a healthy culture, we are not defensive and we learn from our mistakes, which means the situation or incident is less likely to occur again. When people are vigilant and curious, abusers find it harder to hide and abuse is less likely to occur. A reminder that Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

Ann Green
PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

March 2026