

Minutes of Uplyme Church Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting 28th April 2025

Attendees: Jan Impey (Church Warden), Sue Wells (Church Warden), Chris Buckingham (PCC Secretary) , Jo Clarke (Minute Taker), Rev Nicky Davies (Chair),
Rev Leisa, Jo Cursley, David Hardman, David Dare, Rosemary Dare, Brian Stansfield, Brenda Stansfield, Ann Gray, Jacqui Gannaway, Claire Gregory, Mike Maccoy, Jan Maccoy, Rob Smith, Jo Smith, Rob Walker, Sharyn Walker, Martin Wells, Brian Impey, Jenny Perham, Andrea Sheargold, graham Sheargold, Sue Daly, Janet Joiner, Esther, Carole Hodges, Robin Hodges, Bruce Roberts, Eunice Roberts.

Apologies: Jo and Paul Filmer, Kay and Simon Chaffin Johnson, Nicky Terry, Anne Hardman, Don Draper, Marilyn Kent.

The meeting was opened at 19.15 with a prayer and the showing of photos of church activities of 2024.

Annual Parish Meeting:

The election of Church Warden - Jan Impey was proposed by Sue Wells, seconded by Rob Walker. All voted in favour.

Rev. Nicky gave thanks to both Church Wardens and presented them with flowers.

Annual Parochial Parish Meeting:

A copy of the meeting of 2024 was approved and then signed by Rev. Nicky Davies. There were no matters arising.

Elections and Appointments.

- 1. Election of Representative to Honiton Deanery:** Robin Hodges was elected and voted to be Deanery Representative.
- 2. Election of PCC members:** Sue Wells was nominated by Rob Walker and Seconded by Jan Impey.
Jo Cursley was nominated by Chris Buckingham and seconded by Jan Impey.

- 3. Appoint PCC Secretary:** Chris Buckingham is willing to continue.
- 4. Appoint Electoral Roll Officer:** Mike Maccoy is willing to continue.
- 5. Appoint Independent Examiner of Accounts:** Martin Whitehead is willing to continue.

The Reports:

1. Church Warden Reports:

Report by Sue Wells.

‘Yet Another year gone by in a flash!

Thank you to all the various groups and teams of people, including a new Social Team, all helping to play their part in keeping Uplyme Church alive and functioning really well. When we put out a call for help....there is always someone willing to step up. The latest call was for the marquee erection for the Spring Fayre....a plea went out and responses came back and the tent was up.

There, sadly is one exception to the plea that has not been answered - the role of Churchwarden.

May I make a plea today for you all to listen out for God’s call. Don’t ignore it because when you answer his call - He then equips you with all the skills that you have to fit the role. And every Churchwarden brings something different and makes the role their own in the way that only that person can do. So many good things come your way, so interesting and a chance to meet lots of new people. By delegating and encouraging others to form teams, or take on tasks, results in very little to do, and you do what you can do and the rewards are just amazing.

Jan and I have attended the AVMC warden’s meeting over the year. During the interregnum we were supported by Mike Clark from the Diocese and Archdeacon Andrew Beane,

and we were part of the process of interviewing and appointing Leisa Potter as Rector who started with us in November. Giving Nicky a chance to focus on her role with Axmouth and Uplyme and our young people and families.

A huge thank you to that calming presence of Canon David Lawrence, who has faithfully served us here during the past years. David and Heather moved to Cheltenham to pastures new.

But, we have gained Paul and Judy Filmer, Paul, a retired priest, is in the process of getting his licence to enable him to help here at Uplyme and is now part of the music team.

Very sadly, we have lost a remarkable gentleman who died very unexpectedly and leaves an enormous hole to fill. Dear Roger Grose, who did so much to keep our worship active and alive. Who, together with Adrian Pearson, kept the music and the Festival Choir creative and beautiful. Who led and talked at so many of our services, always with a smile, always with respect and we are now discovering just how much he did behind the scenes. We miss that lovely man - can we pause and hold him and his wife Eleanor and son Dan in our hearts for just a moment.

May I end by saying thank you for all your support and ask you to keep on supporting Jan, It can be a lonely job for one person, much more fun with two. But, Jan I will be at the end of the phone, or WhatsApp to help when and if you need it. And you never know.....God may be calling right now!

Report by Jan Impey.

2024 Churchwarden Report from Jan Impey
For APCM on 28th April 2025

'My first year as a Churchwarden has been, interesting. There have been times when I've felt like a rabbit in caught in the headlights. Others when it's been calm and quiet and I've wondered if I've forgotten something. I have had to learn a lot, mainly because I've never been a member of an Anglican Church before coming to Uplyme. Nicky, Sue and Jenny have been very patient with me and we have worked well together, sharing the load. But all of you are also part of the team and I have received much support and encouragement from you all, thank you.

I continue to be amazed by what this church achieves and feel that God is truly blessing our many activities and groups. I'd like to mention a few which, for various reasons, are not included in the Group Report. The Social Team, which only started last year, have organised or been involved in so many events - Spring Fayre, Ukrainian evening, Uplyme fete, Art Festival, Harvest lunch & Christmas Craft Fayre to mention but a few. The new Electoral Roll has 66 members, 53% from Uplyme, 24% from Lyme Regis with rest from Axminster, Bridport, Charmouth & Rousden. We continue to be an Eco Church, and currently hold the silver award but working towards gold. Please know that, even if your name or what you do is not mentioned,

we really appreciate everything you do and are very grateful for all the time you give and effort you put in.

The Churchwardens are responsible for the building and are to report any issues to the APCM. Structures are not my forte, so I refer you to the Building Team report which lists all the work completed in 2024 as well as ongoing projects.

The saddest part of this report is that our wonderful Sue Wells is stepping down as warden. I can't tell you how many times I have bombarded her with questions and I'm incredibly grateful that she and Martin are moving nearer to the church, not further away. I'm also thankful that she is staying on the PCC as the Building Team representative. Sue has a saying, which is the most wonderful thing to hear at meetings when jobs need doing. She says 'I can do that'. Her willingness to do so much, her cheerfulness even when things go wrong and her knowledge of all things to do with Uplyme Church have made the best tutor I could have had. A massive thank you Sue for all you have done and have offered to continue doing.'

2. The Revised Electoral Roll:

Report by Mike Maccoy.

The revised Electoral Roll has 65 church members in total. There has been a reduction of 12 members and 6 new people have joined. The reduction is due to people moving away and the passing of others.

Mike was thanked for his work on the Electoral Roll.

3. PCC Annual Report:

The PCC report was written and circulated prior to the meeting.

4. Financial Report:

The Financial Report was written and circulated prior to the meeting. Sharyn Walker told the meeting that the church income 'ticks along' each year. Bank interest rates had gone up and there is a new heating contract. There is a slight deficit but the church accounts normally show this. There is a good balance in the Building Fund for work that is required as stated in the Quinquennial Report.

Thanks were given to Sharyn for the report all her work throughout the year.

5. Annual Fabric Fund:

The written report was circulated in the Group Reports document prior to the meeting.

Thanks were given to Andy Bateman, Andrew Lightfoot, Geoff Linsley and Rob Walker for all their work on the church fabric and building.

6. Worship Report:

Worship Reports were written and circulated in the Group Reports document prior to the meeting.

7. Deanery Synod Report:

There was no Deanery Synod Report presented.
Rev. Julie Lomas is now Rural Dean.

8. Team Vicar Report:

Report from Rev. Nicky Davies.

'I can't believe how time flies! This is my fifth round of APCMs. We continue to pray and work hard as a leadership team in Uplyme and in 2024 it has been encouraging to see the high numbers attending church regularly remaining, as we continue to focus on providing worship for all. Our Together@Ten on the third Sunday of each month is now firmly established as a wonderful, creative, uplifting worship time. We have also developed our first Sunday communions as a whole church worship time, where all ages come together to partake in the Eucharist. We are praying hard that more families will join us. We continue to offer a range of worship, including Healing and Wholeness, Choral Evensong, Morning Worship, Compline and more. I continue to be encouraged and inspired by the collaborative working that goes on – what a wonderful team and church family. It is a joy to work closely with our churchwardens Jan and Sue. I know how much they do. And I am so very grateful. I wish to say a big thank you to the PCC who are active and supportive. In the last year we have trialled joint PCC meetings with Combyne and Axmouth which are going well and has significantly reduced the number of meetings I need to attend. I am ever grateful to our treasurer Sharyn, aided by Jan, who keeps our finances in good order and very pleased that we could pay our share of the Common Fund. This is the money that goes to the Diocese for providing clergy. I would also again like to record my thanks to all those who contribute

to the life of the church here in Uplyme. Those who clean, those who do flowers, the wonderful bellringers and many others who contribute so much. A big thanks to both our Worship Team and Worship Committee for your commitment to both leading and planning Sunday worship. It is so great to work closely together like this. A vote of thanks to Adrian, Kay, Eunice, Bruce, singers, and other band members who add so much to our worship through their musical gifts.

I believe it is essential that we offer learning opportunities across AVMC.

Roger used to be a key person to help plan and lead these sessions. He is sadly missed by us all. Going forward we can look at opportunities to link in with the great training being continually developed and offered by the Diocese, combining this with local training, if we so wish?

Across the team, I was extremely busy with funerals as I covered the interregnum. I am grateful to other ministry team members, including Roger, who supported me in this. Louise and I led a wedding preparation event in February for our wedding couples. It was a good afternoon together and we had some very positive feedback. I've also been privileged to take some lovely baptisms. It is wonderful to be able to serve the community, and I pray that God will be visible in all we do.

My work with young people across AVMC continues. During 2024 I managed to be active in five of our AVMC primary schools leading worship and assisting with RE teaching.

In Uplyme we were delighted that Lucy Smith agreed to be our youth co-ordinator for Friday Night Fun (FNF) which takes place in our church and is mainly serving young people from Mrs Ethelston's School. This has been going well and is much valued.

Lucy and I were among the leadership team at the October Surf Weekend which is a great time away together. A group from FNF went on this and had the most amazing time, with opportunities to hear about faith in a relaxed way.

In AVMC Nicola Russell took on co-ordinating safeguarding during the interregnum, which was a huge help. Jo and Noreen in Uplyme, our administrator Louise and Robin Hodges, continued to ensure DBS checks took place. Online Safeguarding Training continues to be available and is essential for people in key roles. We are also planning an in-person event, for those who need/prefer it.

It is a year since we published our joint AVMC Mission Action Plan. Each parish is asked to consider it at every PCC meeting to ensure that we are moving forward with our aspirations. Here in Uplyme the PCC take time to reflect on our goals and it continues to be a useful document on which we can build now that our new Team Rector Leisa is with us.

Despite the interregnum I continued to feel well supported by the AVMC Ministry Team, Louise in the office, churchwardens and many others who make this such a great place to be.

There is much to be thankful for, and lots to look forward to, as we seek to join in with our diocesan vision to grow in prayer, make new disciples and serve the people of Devon with joy.'

Rev. Leisa Potter - Team Rector:

Rev. Leisa thanked everyone for the warm welcome that she had received on joining the AVMC. She told the meeting that there are interesting times ahead and that herself and Rev Nicky are moving forward with plans for the Minster and village churches, they are committed in working together.

Lay training, for lay leaders, a shorter training that Rev. Leisa has experience of in the Portsmouth Diocese , is being looked into for use here.

Work within schools and for young people is being looked at with the hope that in the future a Youth Worker or Curate could be employed.

Rev. Leisa gave a big thank you to Rev. Nicky for all her hard work during the Interregnum.

Our Bishop is attending the Minster on the 28th September to open the present Re-ordering of the Minster Church. It is hoped that displays of activities throughout the Mission Community can be shown. There will also be recognition of 40 years of the Choral Society. The theme for the whole event will be Creation.

A.O.B:

S.Wells - Don Draper is stepping down from the PCC. The PCC have bought a gift for Don in recognition for all he has done over the years.

D. Hardman - asked why Planned Giving has dropped and that 6 people give 40% into the method of church support. S. Walker explained that some people have moved away explaining the drop in numbers.

- More help with transport for people coming to church is needed. PCC to action this. Linked to this it was pointed out that more space is required at the bottom of the steps for the cars helping with transport.

The meeting was closed with the sharing of the Grace at 8.10 pm.

