



**ST MARK'S CHURCH**

Hearts on Fire. Hope Alive.

**FOR THE PEOPLE OF NORTH NOTTINGHAM**

**Annual Parochial  
Church Meeting  
2026**

# **ST MARK'S CHURCH WOODTHORPE**

Registered Charity 1131702

## **Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 12 noon**

### **AGENDA**

1. Opening prayer
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of previous APCM
4. Elections of Church Wardens
5. Electoral Roll report
6. PCC Annual Report
7. Financial Statements 2025
8. Appointment of Independent Examiner 2026
9. Fabric report
10. Deanery Synod report
11. PCC Elections
12. Deanery Synod Reps
13. Vicar's report
14. Any other business
15. DONM
16. Closing Prayer

# **St Mark's Church, Woodthorpe**

Minutes of the  
**Meeting of Parishioners**  
and the  
**Annual Parochial Church Meeting**  
Held on Sunday 27th April 2025 in Church

## **Present**

Bryan Mallows

Chair & Churchwarden

John Sargent - Churchwarden

Ann Gorman – Secretary

Jackie Carey – Treasurer

Headcount: 44 adults and 2 children

## **Meeting of Parishioners**

### **1. Welcome and Prayer**

Bryan welcomed everyone to the APCM with a difference – normally chaired by the vicar, but we haven't got a vicar! Bryan was elected at the PCC meeting to be chair at the APCM.

Peter Fisher opened the meeting with prayer.

### **2. Apologies**

Steve Leek, Sue Leek, Hazel Southgate, Bruce Roberts, Jo & Marcus Pratt, Gemma Thomas, Steve sheppard & Linda Sheppard

### **3. Election of Churchwardens**

John Sargent was invited to join Bryan.

Bryan explained that he would not be the only person speaking today and that he has invited several people to speak who have significant role's with the church.

Bryan explained about the process of recruiting a new vicar.

Bryan explained how he was no longer a church Warden last year and had stepped back from PCC. Janet Tyers replaced Bryan as Church Warden but has since left the church and Mark Wilkinson took over as Church Warden from John.

Bryan agreed to become Church Warden again to replace Janet until the 2025 APCM and was inducted by the bishop on 13 October 2024. Beginning of December – Matt leaving to go to Bramcote, two days later Mark Wilkinson informed Bryan that they were leaving and moving to Cornwall.

John stepped forward and offered to fill the gap until 2026 APCM and has been formally voted in by PCC in March 2025 as an Acting Church Warden. Bryan and John will be attending the Arch Deacons Visitation on 23 July 2025 to be formally inducted.

Bryan explained the role of a Church Warden.

John will do the role for 12 months (maximum) – John can stand down if we get another volunteer to take on the role.

Bryan done this role for 8 years – will step down as Church Warden at the 2027 APCM.

Proposed: Pat Fenton

Seconded: Kerri Ditchfield

All in favour.

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## **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

### **4. Minutes of the last meeting held on Sunday, 27 April 2025**

The Minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

### **5. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **6. Adoption of Electoral Roll**

The new electoral role was compiled this year and Ann Gorman gave the following update:

She reported that 113 members are recorded on the electoral roll. This is a decrease of 13 people since last year, this could be made up of people who have left or who have passed away or just not completed a form this time.

The list is made up of 39 males (-1), 74 females (-12).

There are 64 residents in the parish (-13) and 49 living outside it (same).

There are 85 families/households (-6).

If you want to be added to the electoral role, you can be at any time, please complete a pink application form and return to Ann/Wardens.

The report was accepted.

## **7. Election of Deanery Synod Reps & PCC members**

Peter Fisher is happy to continue to represent St Mark's at Deanery Synod, he has been doing this role for 9+ years now. However, he is our only Deanery synod representative and we can have two, so there is a vacancy for another rep. All happy for Peter to continue for another year.

Deanery Synod Report is in the Annual Reports 2024 document.

Proposed: Ron Box

Seconded: Alan Stuart

All in favour.

### **Church Wardens Team**

We are lucky to have support in managing services - thank you to the assistant wardens – Pat Fenton, Howard Lea, Fran Waddams (8.45 service) and Gordon Jeffrey (10.30 service).

Congregation applauded the assistant wardens in recognition and thanks for their support.

### **Parochial Church Council (PCC)**

We can have 12 members on the PCC.

Ann happy to continue as PCC secretary – Bryan thanked Ann and the congregation applauded her in recognition and thanks for the work she does.

### **Nominees**

Alan Stuart	Gary Ditchfield	Linda Sheppard
Sarah McNichol	Tom Bird	Peter Fisher
Kerri Ditchfield	Gordon Jeffrey	Jackie Carey
Halina Cranston	Daniel Fletcher	Pat Fenton
Steve Leek	Diana Mallows	Pat simpson

Bryan invited John Carey to pray for the new PCC.

Four new members of the PCC (Halina, Dan, Steve & Diana).

Applause from the congregation for the new PCC.

## **8. Fabric Report**

Very lucky to have so many volunteers and Tom has stepped into the role of chair for the Fabric committee.

Report circulated before APCM.

Tom invited to speak.

The current team; Pat Fenton, Alan Stuart, Steve Leek, John Sargent – great squad and grateful to be able to head the team.

The Fabric Committee look after the building and the grounds and work very hard to make the right decisions. Leaking tap to replacement of windows, roof repair etc – huge range of stuff. They meet every month and report to PCC especially with costs.

Bryan thanked Tom and the congregation applauded the team.

Every 5 years the church building is inspected – Quinquennial Inspection – this year in July!

## **9. Church Wardens Report**

### **9.1 Church**

Sometimes when things are familiar, we can take things for granted e.g. The church building – in very good order, cross lit up at night – guiding light, one bell rung every Sunday morning. Windows have been replaced and have made a difference.

Services – Thanked the Ministry team (Peter, Alan, Linda S, John C (stepped down and retired this year) with and without Matt. Two different styles of services at 8.45am and 10.30am.

Thanked Francis Bridger & Gillian Buck (piano) and Hazel Southgate. Andrew Philips is going to play the organ at the 8.45 service on 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month.

10.30am service – thanked the worship band which has gone from strength to strength – Dan and the new musicians Martin Cook, Hazel, Gemma (drums) and Nathan (guitar) – singers Melfia, Pearl, Cathy and Kerri.

Worship at this church is alive!

Thanked the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Team – Sammy & Marisa (Musicians) - Pat and David Simpson, Cathy, Ronnie, Tim, David Cuthill and Paul Honey – hope this will continue when new vicar arrives!

Thanked the sound desk team and projector team – Tom, José, Robbie, Emer, Steve Sheppard, Ron Myers and Paul Day - great job – thank you.

Thanked the chair team who put the chairs back on a Friday after Refresh; Pat Fenton, Tom Bird, Kevin Anderson, Stephen Palmer, Scott Hilton-Brown and John Sargent.

Thanked CYM – thank you to all the leaders and helpers.

We have received a rich blessing of visiting preachers and musicians; Fran, Jack & Rich Bull and Phil Williams.

The church building has hosted some great concerts from; Boots Orchestra, Woodthorpe Singers and Djanogly Community Orchetra.

The church building is used extensively during the week with Refresh café & Youth Café.

Thank you to Elaine Cuthill, our cleaner, who does a great job.

Beyond the building– home groups, Saturday breakfast, Parish Prayer – lots of things going on beyond the building.

Volunteers – people notice! Volunteers serve us but moreover ... Serve God – a fantastic team!

Thank you to Alan who manages the website.

## **9.2 Church Hall**

Traditionally Bryan manages the church hall and the other church warden manages the church.

We are very lucky, the church hall is a great design with a large and small hall, garden room, youth lounge, fully equipped kitchen, kitchenette, double glazed windows, car park and large rear garden.

Lots of people book the church halls – birthday parties, one-off events and regular hirers etc.

The church hall is a fantastic revenue stream for the church and the more it's used the better. We can all be great ambassadors for the church hall – advertise it!

We have lots of regular hirers in the evenings; dance, zumba, brownies, beavers, meetings, but in the day time there are mainly groups for mums and babies/toddlers with the exception of Inspire Adult Learning.

Weekends – Rainbows and Mini First Aid.

If anybody belongs to U3A – please encourage them to use our hall, it's a great venue for something like that!

Thank you to everybody who supports the church and church hall buildings.

## **10. CYM Report**

Report circulated before APCM – any questions please phone, email or speak to Tim.

If you ask any youth/children's worker what bible verses underpin their ministry, chances are they will pick amongst others, Matthew 19:14.

*"Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these"*

This verse is unqualified – there are no conditions attached.

During the last 18 months he has been at St Mark's, this church does this better and more intuitively than any church he has worked for!

At the Easter service there was somebody wearing a bright sparkly dress, another in their pajamas, one displaying their best Usain Bolt impression and a couple sat on the sofa at the back ... and everything in between these 4 extremes! – if you want to see the health of the CYM in any church all you need to do is look at the fact that not one of those children doubted that they belong here and are welcome. No team can manufacture this (we have 45 CYM volunteers! ... Tim thanked all the CYM volunteers) this is the church living out its values in such a way that they know that they are welcome and invited to be involved, even if the way they come to Jesus is radically different to the way we do or how we did as young people ourselves.

The new parish profile shows a young person dancing up the aisle – this is not a staged photograph, this is essentially what St Mark's is all about.

In the 18 months Tim has been at St Mark's he has never once had to fight to ensure that "*Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them ..*" or advocate this. Everyone at St Mark's is on the same page, everybody wants this intuitively.

If we can carry this on into the next season, confident that the growth we want to see in this church, will happen.

Bryan thanked Tim for these words and for all that he does.

## **11. Safeguarding**

Pat Simpson – Safeguarding Representative.

Safeguarding is so important and we can't stress this enough how important this is in any organisation and especially within the church. Pat has been doing this role for many years and safeguarding has changed over the years, becoming more and more important.

Thanks to Ann for all the help she gives.

Pat said that she is happy to continue for another year but would now like to stand down and make way for somebody else to take this role on. Please speak to Pat if you are at all interested.

Bryan We probably have the best safeguarding in the diocese – with thanks to Pat for her organisation and Ann for her support.

## **12. Deanery Synod Report**

Peter Fisher is one of Deanery Synod representatives but if you would like to join him at any of these meetings, please speak to Peter.

Peter advised that there are only three meetings per year and the next one is here at St Mark's on 25 June 2025. The current Area Dean Sam Hustwayte is very keen to make improvements to these meetings to make them more interesting and more lively and has recently introduced 'puddings' to the start of a meeting! The

first part of the evening is a service, followed by meeting other people from other parishes within the deanery and enjoying a selection of puddings. This is followed by a speaker from the Diocese or from somebody linked with the business in hand and then the business bit of the meeting is tagged on the end followed by a bit of fellowship, because we are a deanery not a whole series of individual churches, we are actually a collected body, but we don't mix very much, so this an ideal opportunity to do this.

Peter could do with a little support!

### **13. Financial Statement for 2024**

Jackie Carey – First of all I would like to say thank you, to each one of you who helps support the church in so many different ways, not only money – skills, talents and time! Without this we wouldn't have the church we have today, so thank you.

2024 accounts have been available prior to the APCM. You will see that the planned giving which includes regular standing orders, and regular giving through the envelope scheme plus service collections it's provided us in 2024 with an extra £4881.00 compared to 2023 ... which is a wow! Also, those that are able to add Gift Aid, we were able to claim an extra £4558.00 compared to 2023 (this incorporates all the giving) – very big thank you!

Gift aid – thank you Howard Lea. If you want to know more about Gift Aid, please speak to Howard, he has 17 years' experience and would really like to retire! If anybody else would like to come on board, then please speak to Jackie or Howard.

We also had a legacy in 2024 from a church member who remembered us in their will. There are leaflets at the back if anybody is interested in doing this – legacies can be allocated to something specific but we prefer it to be for the work of the church and the money goes to wherever we need the money.

Collections at services – cash at the font and we've also got the machine at the back of church as well, all money goes under 'Collection at Services'. You can see on the accounts how much we receive in contactless giving as well as cash and cheques.

The question Jackie was asked:-

"why is the church and church hall in the overheads section of the accounts which is under 'church water, waste, repairs and Hall water, repairs and equipment' .. why is it so much higher than 2023?"

One answer: Windows. We replaced the main hall windows with UPVC, double glazed at a cost of £5,130 and we also replaced the ladies and gents toilets, to stop getting frozen pipes and the store cupboard and replaced a blown window in the kitchen at a cost of £1,231. We also in 2024, paid 75% of the cost of the church windows and that was £10,960. In 2023 and 2024 we raised £10,205 from your giving which meant that we expected to have a deficit of over £14,000/£15,000 in 2024, we had -£1,113.00 – so a big thank you for your generosity. However, we have had the windows done and this year we have raised another £1,249 towards that, but, we have had to pay for the windows and the total of the windows came to £14,789. So, we are £3,335 down paying from giving without having to dip into other church funds. We're going to keep the Windows

Appeal open until June 2025, so if anybody does want to make a donation, please will you put 'Windows' by your donation if you do it through BACS, then Jackie knows its for windows. A big thank you to Mark Wilkinson and his team, the prices that Mark quoted were something like £5,000/£6,000 cheaper than the next quote we had.

Gas costs for Church/office – 28 February 2025 to 30 March 2025 (since we've had the new windows and removed one meter, combining the church with the office), the bill was £506.44 compared to December 2024 to January 2025 which was £691.26, which is almost £185.00 cheaper.

There are some other areas where St Marks' benefits:-

- Hiring the church and the church hall – we get a lot of profit from that – encourage people to use it.
- Donations toward the flowers – flower team do a great job, thank you.
- Interest from savings (shares & Deposit) – get interest twice a year. We have to keep £35,000 available for emergencies.
- Ink cartridges collection & old mobile phones – Alan sends them off and we get a donation for them.
- Appeals for special events - e.g. Burundi Sunday, windows
- Azaria and David – support in Guatemala.
- Parish Share
- Training for LLM's and Youth Ministers'
- Donations used for Deprived areas – churches in Nottinghamshire
- Reloved sale - Safe Families/CYM (raised £1790.11 from March sale) and Prison Fellowship 'Angels Tree Project' (£400 + doubled up by the government from October Sale). The Reloved March 2025 sale raised - £1,043.50 – thank you for your team Kerri.

Thank you to finance team – Howard, Gill Nall, Ann and Flona (independent examiner).

Jackie proposed to appoint Flona as our Independent Examiner, Flona has agreed to do this for another year - All in favour. Jackie thanked Flona for her support.

Jackie appealed for help with finance. Jackie is willing to do this for another year and Howard and Gill both also want to step down. If you are interested in any of the roles, please speak to Jackie. You don't have to be an accountant or have worked in finance – please pray about it.

Bryan – thank you to Jackie for all the hard work.

The Annual Accounts document and the Independent Examiner's Report were accepted as read – all in favour.

## **15. Any other business**

None

## **16. Date of next meeting**

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2026

The meeting closed with The Grace

# **ST MARK'S CHURCH**

## **WOODTHORPE**

Registered charity No. 1131702

### **Appointment of Independent Examiner**

The PCC have elected to subject the accounts to independent examination and having made appropriate enquiries, propose Fiona Myers as Independent Examiner until the next Annual Parochial Church Meeting.