



St. Mary's Barnard Castle with Whorlton  
**Celebrating God's Love**



Minutes of the **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** of St Mary's Barnard Castle with Whorlton held on **4 May 2025** in church following morning worship at 10.30am

Present and apologies as for the vestry meeting.

1. Minutes of the APCM held 22nd April 2024. Joan Kemp Ambler proposed acceptance of the minutes and was seconded by Kim Harding. The meeting accepted the minutes as a true record. The minutes were duly signed as such.
2. Matters arising. None.
3. Electoral roll report: John Trevett reported that there are 114 on the Roll, a drop in number from 2024 although there are known to be some who did not complete the forms in time. John said that he would chase those up and update the Roll accordingly. Renewal of the Roll every 6 years is not an easy task to complete and thanks for John's efforts were duly recorded.
4. Churchwardens report on the goods and fabric of both Barnard Castle church and Whorlton church. Full details can be found in the Annual report on the church website but both Joan and Roy spoke briefly identifying the main items completed or undertaken at each church. It is worth highlighting that progress towards addressing the next stage of major works at Barnard castle church (east window of the south transept and repointing of the transept wall and the chancel on the south side) has stalled through lack of funds. That said, the churchwardens received a generous legacy of - £28,000 from the estate of Miss Alcock and have designated it for this project.
5. Safeguarding Report. Alec asked our Safeguarding Officer, David Ewart to stand so that everyone knew who to report to with safeguarding concerns. David emphasised to all that safeguarding was the responsibility of each and everyone, not just clergy and PCC members.
6. Annual report of the PCC 2024 and Vicar's comments. Alec pointed to the location of the Report on the church website and the printed copy on the notice board in the entrance porch.
7. Financial Statement and accounts 2024.

- i. Reception of accounts. Frances spoke to summarise the finances for 2024 as follows:

Income

- *Planned giving is down on 2023 by around £3.5K and across the two churches the income from regular services is also down slightly.*
- *There have been two generous legacies, but these have both been earmarked for projects and have not impacted on the general funds.*
- *The fees from weddings and funerals are up on 2023.*
- *There were a number of grants received, without which some of the expenditure would not have been incurred, including grants for the building projects and purchase of music for the community choir.*
- *The Flower Guild continue to contribute almost £2K to general funds (in addition to making the church looking lovely)*
- *The donations from Community Music events have broadly covered the salary and heating costs for the rehearsals.*

- Expenditure
- Parish share for 2024 was maintained at the 2023 level, although you will see it has been reduced to £65K for 2025
- Spending on maintenance for both churches was higher in 2024
- The gas and electricity costs were £2.5K lower in 2024
- Almost £30K was spent on major repairs in Barnard Castle and Whorlton, largely funded from restricted funds. Together with the Windows for a King project this accounts for almost all of the difference between 2024 and 2023.

#### Overall

- The overall impact on the General Fund would have been a loss of £5K but the eagle eyed among you may have spotted that there was a transfer of almost £10K from the designated funds created on the sale of Church Cottage some years ago and so the figures look healthier.
- However, the Church Cottage funds are fast decreasing and this option will not be available for many more years. The PCC will need to begin to address this in the near future.

*I d like to finish by thanking all those who support the Treasurer role*

*Those who count and bank the cash*

*Those who are part of the weekly team inputting the entries on the accounting system and setting up the payments*

*Those who continue to be bank signatories – providing a check on the payments made Jane Goldberg who deals with the Diocesan fees and the payroll calculation*

*Sue Peat who runs the payroll.*

- ii. Appointment of Independent Examiner: James Ferdinand will be asked to be Independent Examiner again.
  - iii. Appointment of Church Bankers. Meeting agreed to continue with The Co-operative Bank.
8. Deanery Synod Report. A Bishop of Durham has yet to be appointed. Barnard Castle and Stanhope Deaneries have merged.
 

Alec reminded us that we had welcomed Ana Moskvina and that she has become a highly valued member of the clergy team.
  9. Election of PCC members: In view of that fact that clergy, deanery synod members and church wardens are automatically PCC members, last year it was agreed that PCC would have 8 elected members. The following were proposed and seconded and duly elected by the meeting: Geoff Knott, Carolyn Knott, Liz Burdon, Catherine Wilkinson, Merrion Chrisp, Roy Long, John White, Seonaid Walker-Jones.
  10. Deanery Synod members: Helen Goodman was proposed seconded and duly elected by the meeting. One vacancy remains unfilled.
  11. PCC posts on committees
    - a) Parish Hall Association (PHA): Clare Trevett agreed to continue as church representative and Chair on the PHA and that was endorsed by the meeting.
    - b) Friends of St Mary's Committee (FOSMs). Trish Childs remains the church representative on FOSMs

Keith Miles spoke on behalf of the meeting to thank Alec for his continued service as Vicar of St Mary's with Whorlton, now totalling 25 years.

Close of meeting at 11.55.

Prayer. The Grace was said.