

THE PARISH OF ST THOMAS OAKWOOD

Minutes of the 86th Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Sunday 18 May 2025 with the Revd. Richard Alldritt in the Chair.

1) Looking back with thanksgiving

We watched a video of some of the highlights from church life over the last 12 months, followed by some statistics of church trends over the last year. Rich also used the statistics to begin to look ahead and set a vision for the forthcoming year. Elsa Maycock concluded this first section of the meeting in prayer.

2) Looking forward in prayer

- a) Ryan Scott spent some time setting out the evangelistic strategy of the church with particular reference to the recent 'Quiet Revival' report and 'Talking Jesus' survey. What is happening both nationally and locally in our Discover course is very encouraging.
- b) Rich fed back on the recent survey considering whether to serve refreshments in the church or in the hall. There was no obvious conclusion from the survey - and respondents articulated the arguments on the both sides. There is a strong feeling among some that the hall is better on the grounds that the children are better served. There is a strong feeling that the church is better on the grounds that more people are now staying, and the way it is more natural to continue conversations on from the service rather than the barrier that entering the hall was for many. Rich shared that the PCC were strongly in favour of continuing in the church. But that he personally feels conflicted and thinks we need a bit more time to think things through.
- c) Rich also shared an update on things in the wider church. It has been a particularly difficult year in the Church of England (CofE) with the resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury and the deep divisions over the Prayer of Love and Faith ('PLF'). Rich gave an update on the current situation regarding PLF and where things are likely to go in the next 12 months, as well as outlining the work of the Alliance.

Rich concluded this section of the meeting in prayer

3) Election of Church wardens

Pippa Reid and Andrew Lewis were nominated and seconded. No other nominations were received and there were no objections, therefore Andrew and Pippa were duly elected.

4) Election of representatives to serve on the church council

Janelle Budinski, Hannah Giles, Chris Goodlad, Innocent Izamoje, Harriet Mitchell, Ronke Omotoso, Elliott Owen, Duncan Njoroge, Stella Roberts, and

Richard Stones were nominated and seconded. No other nominations received, or objections received, therefore duly elected.

Note that PCC also includes Rich as incumbent, Ryan Scott as Curate, Church Wardens (Pippa Reid and Andrew Lewis) and Deanery Synod Representatives (Mohan Yogendran, Charles Maycock and Andy Reid).

5) Finance Update

Chris Goodlad presented the annual report and gave an update on church finances.

6) Questions

Questions were asked both from the floor and anonymously on Slido about a range of topics and areas of church life including the Church of England, the appointment process of the Archbishop of Canterbury, service patterns (including the service of the Lord's Supper), home groups, St Matthew's Ponders End.

The meeting was concluded by saying the grace together.