

# APCM Meeting 2025 - AGENDA

## Meeting of Parishioners (Vestry Meeting)

1. Prayer
2. Minutes of Meeting (*from Previous year*)
3. Election of Churchwardens
4. Prayer for new Churchwardens

## Annual General Meeting

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of Meeting (*from Previous year*)
3. Matters Arising
4. Reports -
  - Electoral Roll  
(*written by the electoral roll officer, with a copy available for inspection at the meeting*)
  - Churchwardens –  
(*Report on the proceedings of the PCC and the parish in general*)
  - Fabric  
(*on the good and ornaments of the Church written by the Church Wardens*)
  - Treasurer –  
(*this must be independently audited and published for at least 7 days - including a Sunday service before the mtg*)
  - SGPN Report
  - Governor's report
  - Deanery Synod  
(*Report on the proceedings of the Deanery synod written by the Deanery synod representative*)
  - Safeguarding Report
  - Vicars Report
5. Elections:
  - Deanery Synod Rep –  
(*elected for a 3yr term, 1 if electoral roll is less than 50 2 if up to 100*)
  - Election of PCC Members –  
(*upto 6 if electoral roll is less than 50, 9 if 50-100, 12 if 100-200*)
  - Ex-officio (Chair), Churchwardens, Deanery Synod Rep, ALM's
6. Appointment of Independent Examiner
7. Safeguarding review of Policy
8. Parishioners' Questions
9. Date of next APCM

## **PCC mtg following the APCM:**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Election of PCC officers
  1. Lay-Vice Chair
  2. Treasurer
  3. Secretary
  4. Electoral Roll Officer
  5. Safeguarding officer (local independent person)
3. Signing of "Fit and Proper" declaration by all PCC members (including CW's, Deanery synod reps etc)
4. Dates of PCC mtgs for the coming year (please bring diaries)

## **Claypole Benefice Combined Vestry Meeting & Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting 11:45am, Sunday 7th April 2024 at St Peter's, Claypole**

**Attendees** : Bridget Rosewell (BR) (Chair),  
Fiona Libby (FL), Mike Libby (ML), Catherine Thornton (CT),  
John Padley (JP), Tony Tucker (TT), Linda Tucker (LT), Helen Donger (HD), Barbara White (BW), James White (JW), Martin Parnell (MP), Steve Jarman (SJ),  
Aubrey ??, Paul and Rosemary ??  
Libby Mason (LM),  
Dick Loynes (DL), Lynda Loynes (LL)  
Mavis Arnold (MA), John Lawrence (JL)

### **Agenda Item Action**

Welcome

1. Apologies - Apologies were received from :  
Daphne Streets, Oli Phillips

### **Vestry Meetings**

2. Appointment of  
Wardens

*Prior to this meeting :*

St Martins, Stubton - ML was re-elected.

*At this meeting :*

St Peter's, Claypole - JP and BR were re-elected

All Saints, Fenton - LM was re-elected.

All Saints, Westborough - MA and JL were re-elected

St James', Dry Doddington - DL was re-elected.

### **APCM**

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising. Were circulated prior to this meeting and all present voted in favour of them being a true record.

There were no matters arising.

4. **Electoral Roll** The numbers on the Electoral Roll for the 5 churches are as follows :

St Martins, Stubton - 43 (Officer - ML)

St Peters, Claypole - 47 (Officer - BR)

All Saints, Westborough - 8 (Officer - JL)

All Saints, Fenton - 12 (Officer - LM)

BR asked if the congregation could join the St James electoral role to improve the ability to form a PCC. This resulted in the following :

St James, Dry Doddington - 10 (Officer - DL)

#### 5. **Wardens Reports**

Copies of written reports were received from St Martin's, All Saints Fenton and All Saints Westborough and passed to FL. Any relevant highlights were expanded upon in the meeting.

6. **Treasurers Reports** Treasurers reports were circulated from St Peter's, All Saints Fenton, St James, All Saints Westborough and from St Martin's. Discussion around finances again raised the question as to whether the pooling of all church funds may lead to better returns...It was proposed that CT should work closely with OP to resolve finance processes.

7. **Deanery Synod** No report

8. **Safeguarding** There were no issues reported from any of the parishes at this meeting.

9. **Ministers Report** No report

#### 10. **PCC Elections**

##### **St Peter's**

BR and LM proposed Helen Donger for the PCC

BR and SJ proposed Tony Tucker for the PCC

Both were duly elected.

##### **St Martin's**

ML and CT proposed Ian Phillips to join the PCC.

He was duly elected.

#### 11. **Independent Financial Examiners**

All parishes were happy with their current independent financial examiners.

#### 12. **Fit & Proper Person Forms**

All PCC members need to complete a form and give it to FL who is maintaining a list and will follow up with those yet to provide.

#### 13. **Any Other Business**

The suggestion was made that we move toward having one PCC covering all 5 churches rather than 5 separate PCC's. To be discussed further.....

#### 14. **Close** -

The meeting closed at 12:15pm

# Dry Doddington REPORTS 2025

## Electoral Roll

There are fourteen people on the Electoral Roll - all forms held locally.

## Church Wardens/Fabric Report

The festival church of St James's at Dry Doddington has had a quiet, if interesting year!

Excluding the annual Christmas tree festival on two days in December the church has been used ten times for religious purposes. There has been one wedding, two baptisms, three funerals and four services ( two holy communion, one Christingle and one Mothering). The disappointing aspect of our own services have been, despite welcome support from our neighbouring churches extensive "advertising", the poor attendances from members of our village.

We do not have a PCC and from the fourteen members who are on the electoral role only three would be willing to serve. We have continued to take part as an active member of the joint PCC of all our parishes which meets regularly at Stubton.

We have held two fund raising events during the year being the Harvest Supper and Craft Fair and Christmas tree festival. These events plus other income has meant that we had a surplus of £898 for the year. However we have had a deficit on the fabric fund of £2,296 which has been paid out of reserves.

We have had to repair subsidence on the north west corner of the church and many jobs need doing to the outside, for example, cleaning gutters and painting them. The biggest concern is the floor of the church, interior walls and electrical supply/fittings. We have currently lodged an application for a faculty to replace the floor, repair the walls and to upgrade the electrics. The worrying aspect is the estimated cost of £70K which it is appreciated some, hopefully, will be obtained by grants, but the majority will have to be raised locally.

During the year we have welcomed our new priest in charge Jon and we all hope that his dedication and youthful enthusiasm will persuade our villagers to turn to the church.

**Dick Loynes**  
**Churchwarden**

## Treasurers Report

Dry Doddington - St James										
Receipts and Payments Accounts			Unrestr'd	Designated						
	Note	General Funds	Fabric Funds		Total Funds 2024		Total Funds 2023		Total Funds 2022	
		£	£		£		£		£	
Receipts										
Voluntary receipts										
	Collections	780.01			780.01		964.35		562.47	
	Planned giving	660.00			660.00		610.00		660.00	
	Gift Aid Recovered	314.39			314.39		713.38		-	
Other voluntary receipts										
	Donations	40.00			40.00		-		-	
Activities for generating funds										
	Fundraising	1,860.01			1,860.01		1,678.37		1,270.80	
	Grant income				-		-		-	
Receipts from church activities										
	Sundry				-		-		-	
	PCC fees				-		-		-	
	Funerals	274.00			274.00		589.96		232.50	
	Weddings	517.00			517.00		489.00		2,366.00	
Total Receipts		4,445.41	-		4,445.41		5,045.06		5,091.77	
Payments										
	Accountancy & Professional fees				-		25.00		-	
	Parish share	2,250.00			2,250.00		-		-	
	Fees to Diocese				-		-		-	
	Water				-		-		-	

	Electricity		197.72			197.72		318.22		88.55	
	Gas					-		-		-	
	Insurance		544.67			544.67		816.60		769.54	
	Vergers & Cleaning					-		-		-	
	Organists & bells		240.00			240.00		100.00		400.00	
	PF1 - Funeral expenses					-		348.00			
	PF2 - Wedding expenses		241.00			241.00		229.00		858.00	
	Donations					-		-		-	
	Rectors and rector expenses					-		-		217.08	
	Admin support					-		-		-	
	Postage & stationery					-		-		-	
	Upkeep of church and repairs		54.00			54.00		60.91		2,014.20	
	Organ tuning & repairs					-		-		-	
	Sundry Expenses		20.00			20.00		20.00		24.00	
	Accountancy & Professional fees					-		-		-	
	Capital works			2,296.50		2,296.50		3,740.88		-	
	<b>Total payments</b>		<b>3,547.39</b>	<b>2,296.50</b>		<b>5,843.89</b>		<b>5,658.61</b>		<b>4,371.37</b>	
	<b>Excess of receipts over payments</b>		<b>898.02</b>	<b>-2,296.50</b>		<b>-1,398.48</b>		<b>-613.55</b>		<b>720.40</b>	
	Funds brought forward 1 Jan		8,030.25	20,363.24		28,393.49		29,007.04		28,286.64	
	<b>Funds carried forward 31 Dec</b>		<b>8,928.27</b>	<b>18,066.74</b>		<b>26,995.01</b>		<b>28,393.49</b>		<b>29,007.04</b>	
		<b>Note</b>				<b>Total Funds 2022</b>		<b>Total Funds 2023</b>		<b>Total Funds 2022</b>	
	<b>Statements of Assets and Liabilities</b>		<b>£</b>			<b>£</b>		<b>£</b>		<b>£</b>	
	Bank Current Account - Natwest		26,670.62			26,670.62		2,421.80		1,007.04	
	Bank Liquidty account - Natwest					-					
	Dry Doddington - interco acc		324.39			324.39		25,971.69		28,000.00	

[illegible]

## Deanery Synod Report

The last meeting I attended was 27<sup>th</sup> March at Caythorpe which was poorly attended. We seem to go over the same ground at every meeting, ie very few services and still expected to pay for many of us, a large amount of Parish Share.

It was noted that Archdeacon Justine is moving on after 10 years in our deanery, but no mention was made of who is to take her place.

We were reminded that there should be a Deanery representative from every church in the Benefice as some churches are not represented at meetings and it is important that all are aware of the latest news from the Diocese.

The Local Mission Partnership Poster is to be updated as some church situations have changed.

The new Loveden areas are, **Loveden West** comprising Long Bennington, Claypole (these two being Hub churches), Community churches at Sedgebrook, Allington, Foston and Stubton; Festival churches at Dry Doddington, Fenton and Westborough. The local priest is Rev Jon Speirs-Davies.

**Loveden Central** comprising Hub churches at Welbourn and Caythorpe; Community churches at Marston, Hougham, Hough on the Hill, Fulbeck and Brant Broughton; Festival churches at Carlton Scroop with Normanton, Brandon, Leadenham, Beckingham and Stragglethorpe. The local priest is Rev Sara Davies

**Loveden East** with a Hub church at Ancaster; Community churches at Belton, Syston, Barkston and Wilford; Festival churches at Honington, Kelby, Rauceby, Welby and Heydour  
The local priest is Rev Georgie Machell.

Rev Georgie Machell and Rev Sara Davies need licensing to cover the extra churches that have been added to their original parishes. They have been ministering to these churches but it needs formalising. If agreed there would be one PCC for each groups and a DCC for each church for general organising and maintenance.

Each parish would operate as now but Rev Georgie and Rev Sara would be fully licensed. This was voted on and the motion carried, so licensing will now happen.

The Bishop has requested that all priests should have 36hrs rest per week. Individual priest to work out and implement this.

A training course To love and serve the Lord will start in September in Grantham. Everyone is invited to join if they feel a calling.

The APCM's dates are set.

Churchwardens can request help from churchwardens in other parishes if needed at any time. No date has been set yet for the Churchwarden Visitation Service.

The Church Electoral Roll has to be accurate, so notes on the form must be followed. Safe storage of the forms is required.

PCC members have to be confirmed and take Holy Communion at least three times a year This led to interesting discussion about losing PCC members if the rule is enforced.

There is a lay vacancy at the Diocesan Synod if anyone is interested. This should be raised at the APCMs. They must be on the electoral roll and a communicant.



As the Deanery Rep should only be in post for three years and I've now been a rep for Claypole and Fenton for 11 years, I am not prepared to carry on and so would be grateful if someone else took on the role.

**Report by Libby Mason (Claypole and Fenton)**

## **Safeguarding Report**

No safeguarding issues were raised across the church group during the year.

Each Parish has a nominated local Safeguarding contact and Mike Libby is the Safeguarding Officer for all of the Parishes.

All those nominated safeguarding contacts have either undertaken – or are in the process of undertaking – the designated training. Efforts are made locally to track both the PCC members and the Safeguarding team through the training.

DBS applications have been processed across the West Loveden LMP churches for all those identified as requiring them – all PCC members, Messy Church helpers, Safeguarding team.

There have not been any significant problems identified during the processing of DBS clearances and the process of utilising the thirtyone:eight online system is working well.

Mike Libby (Stubton)

## **Vicars Report**

It's a joy to write this first report for West Loveden Church, having arrived in the parish in August and been formally licensed in September. Since then, it has been a season of settling in, building relationships, and beginning to discern what God is already doing among us—and how we might join in.

### **A Season of Beginning and Welcome**

My first few weeks were full of welcomes. I'm so grateful for the kindness, patience, and hospitality extended by so many across our villages. The early part of my time here was marked by our Harvest celebrations. In many ways, a perfect opportunity to meet lots of people around our parishes, not just at the core of our worshipping community but also those who support and cheer on our endeavours in a broader sense. From school services to traditional harvest suppers, I was struck by how much goodwill and care flows through these villages. I particularly enjoyed how relaxed and joyful each celebration was—and my youngest clearly agreed, dragging me to the front for a boogie.

Next was the season of remembrance and, again, this occasion was marked with evident care and attention. Of the many examples of this, the way the various scouting and guiding groups were enabled to participate at the service in Foston beautifully captured the sense of togetherness that was clear across all the West Loveden services. It was a wonderful picture of the community coming together and

filling the church to honour those who took seriously the call of Christ that there is no greater love than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends (John 15:13).

As we moved into Advent and Christmas, I was again encouraged to see so many come and participate in the carols and celebrations marking the birth of Christ—some perhaps for the first time in a while, some regularly, and others for the first time ever. I have to congratulate all those who planned and presented such unique and special carol and Christingle services. It felt like such an encouraging picture of our path forward with everyone enabled, encouraged and emboldened to get stuck in and share together. Instead of nine identical carol services (which is likely what I would have been able to manage on my own), each service, whether quiet and reflective or joyful and bustling, helped tell the story of Christ's coming, and I want to thank everyone who played a part in making that season beautiful and meaningful.

Other particular highlights were some of the very popular events that saw our buildings packed. The Cranwell Military Wives Choir concert at St Swithun's Long Bennington was packed with people enjoying the choir's wonderful talent. Also, the gospel music concert at St Peter's Claypole so joyfully led by the Sing It Bold Community Gospel Choir was a massive success. Thank you to all who put in the time and effort to plan and organise those and other events throughout the year.

## Looking Ahead Together

A key theme emerging in our conversations and shared work has been that of *becoming more God's church across West Loveden* as the legacy groups of Saxonwell and Claypole continue to grow closer together in mutual support and communion. Each parish community brings something different to the table—different traditions, gifts, and styles of worship—and part of our calling now is to explore how we can cherish that diversity while growing together into something more united. Not “one-size-fits-all,” but one family of faith made up of many parts. As is repeatedly stated in the scriptures, “We, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another” (Romans 12.5). To be the Church, the Body of Christ, is to confidently assert that we are each valued and important while also humbly elevating others and encouraging them that they are just as important and valued.

This isn't about efficiency for its own sake or streamlining for administrative tidiness - it's about deepening our shared identity as the Church in this place and becoming more able to support one another in worship, mission, and care. I've already seen signs of this taking root, and I'm hopeful about where God is leading us next. As the Apostle Paul wrote in his disarming digression instructing the early church, “The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I don't need you!’ And the head cannot say to the feet, ‘I don't need you!’” (1 Corinthians 12:21). If I may add, the wonderful thing about being human - rather than just a body part - is that we can be and do many different things. As we stand shoulder-to-shoulder at the foot of the cross, nothing is beneath or above anyone and everything is an opportunity and a blessing.

## Gratitude

I want to say a heartfelt thank you to the bellringers, churchwardens, cleaning crews, flower arrangers, ministry leaders, musicians, pastoral visitors, PCC members, priests, readers, refreshment servers, school contacts, and so many others who faithfully serve—often behind the scenes. Your work is deeply appreciated. Thank you also to those who have simply taken the time to talk, to pray, or to offer advice and context—it's made a huge difference.

A special thanks to all who give, tithe, and financially invest in the life of our worshipping community.

As well as being generous with time and skill, it's a joy to witness such a widespread response to God's invitation to worship in generosity. It's so clear how, by pooling our carefully stewarded resources, we are enabled to reach out with the gospel together better than any of us could on our own. I want to particularly acknowledge the sizeable and generous legacy left in a parishioner's will for the church in Allington. This money has been prayerfully invested in accessibility for the building with a ramp, kitchen and toilet facilities as well as more space for gathering and fellowship. A final special thanks to those who source and secure grant funding that is so vital in helping to maintain the building heritage that we steward. It's such a blessing to be part of such a generous community. Thank you.

## 2025 and Beyond

As we step into 2025, I'm looking forward to deepening relationships across the parishes and continuing to explore what it means to be one Church in many places. I hope we can build rhythms of worship and life that sustain our congregation and help us engage meaningfully with those beyond our church walls.

God is already at work in our villages. Our task is not to invent something new but to pay attention to the Holy Spirit and unleash the creativity God has placed within each of us. As we grow in confidence and faith, let's keep inviting others into the life of Christ. Please keep praying—for our church, for our villages and for one another.

**Rev'd Jon Speirs-Davies**