



Christchurch Huntingdon Annual Church Meeting Minutes

15th March 2026, 11.45am-1pm, Stukeley Meadows Primary School

1. Charlie Newcombe **welcomed everyone and opened in prayer.**
2. **Apologies** (11) & **attendance** (64)– appendix 1 (not on public site – available on request)
3. **Minutes from 2025 meeting** were accepted.

Proposed – Alastair Grey Seconded – Johnny Pawlett

4. **Youth/Families & Safeguarding Update**

Beth Lindon sent apologies, she has been covering for a few months whilst Susan stepped down for short time. CCH Policies and practice meets guidance. It is important that volunteers maintain up to date DBS and training. There are no significant issues to raise. It is important to maintain a positive observant culture but not be neurotic. Even small issues can be raised. There is a small focus group leading on Safeguarding including Susan (returning as lead next week) , Beth, Jo, and Alain Tchianou (joining the group). Thanks were given for all the children and young people's work over the last year.

5 **Appointment of Officers**

- 5.1 Alistair Fraser explained the background and rational to some minor changes and also the process for the election of people to the Church Council.

The Council members act as Trustees (4 are elected by the Church meeting / other Trustees are appointed by the Trustees). All Trustees can now stand for 3 years but then stand for reappointment. Whilst previously they could only stand for 3 terms it has been changed to enable some, particularly Elders to remain on Council for longer.

- 5.2 Voting forms had been on the website and paper copies available on the day. Elections were made, and votes counted. Appointments were made as follows :

- a. **Lesley Gray** and **Igor Silin** for Council member (to replace Jean Clark and Jo Watson both standing down).
- b. **Sarah Hardy** to continue for another term as council member.
- c. **Nicola Harrison** as additional AMiE synod rep (as our electoral roll is over 75 people)
- d. **Jon Gilbert** renewed term as elder.

	Yes	No	Abstain	Did not vote
Council				
Igor	45	0	1	3
Lesley	47	0	0	2
Sarah	44	1	3	1

AMiE				
Nicola	47	0	1	1
Elders				
Jon	45	1	2	1

6. Vision Presentation

6.1 Charlie Newcombe provided a written annual report (appendix 2) and briefly went through the main points. It was noted that over the last 7 years CCH has doubled in size and in its diversity. He then went on to look at where we will be in 7 yrs and how God might take us there.

6.2 7 priorities for the next 7 years (Appendix 3).

The overall “Big Prayer Goal” – May the Lord gather many hundreds from Huntingdonshire into a deeply loved and deeply loving church family reaching out with Jesus’ good news for his Glory. Amen.
the areas.

A copy of a Prayer Diary was distributed focussing in the 7 key areas – Rely on the Lord / Recruit for Multiplication / Restructure for Delegation / Reboot for Evangelism / Reconsider Buildings / Retin focus on individuals / Remember Jesus Christ.

Key elements will include:

- appointment of an Assistant pastor (to be interviewed in a few weeks).
- creation of a second service.
- reorganising to enable better delegation with different elders overseeing areas (Exalt / Equip / Encourage / Edify / Evangelism / Engage).
- further development of a team to own and organise areas.
- The importance of everyone being involved in drawing others in/evangelism.
- look into opportunities for buildings that might be useful for church use. A small group to be established.
- Ensuring that the needs of / care for individuals are maintained.

6.3 Answers to Questions from the floor included:

- The weekly news will be used to update the church. A more detailed strategy document is also being developed.
- These changes will assist both the current size / areas of the church as well as to enable the church growth.
- Additional administration hours will assist the church currently and as it grows.
- Planning will need to include consider how growth will impact on need for equipment and volunteers / personnel.
- Whilst it’s not clear yet what church growth will cover it may possibly be multiple congregations or a church plant.
- Charlie reassure attendees that whilst he could not guarantee how long he will remain there are no plans for him to move at present.

It was noted that Charlie will be taking a 3 month sabbatical over the summer (16th June – 22nd Sept).

7. Financial Update

Alistair (Treasurer) provided an overview (website and hard copies available) as follows:

- a. Report on 2025 financial year.
 - Expenditure was £163,000 (slightly over budget) areas shown in pie chart.
 - Income - £180,000 (more than expected).
 - Surplus £17,000 (one off donations were significant this year. It's unlikely that this level will be maintained). Regular giving is easier to enable budgeting.
 - Reserves - £166,000 overall (most in general funds and some from a gift from St Andrews the Great) it is anticipated that much of this will be used for growth including extra staffing over the next few years.
 - Mission Support (15% of income) used for various missions.
 - Hardship fund, a ringfenced fund used for individuals in need at the discretion of elders.
 - 2026 Budget shows a deficit of £27,000. Beyond 2026 a full year costs would mean a higher deficit but it is hoped church giving will increase over time.
- b. Reminder of giving at CCH – regular giving is encouraged and helps with planning and budgeting. Gift aid can be reclaimed. (Forms are available)
- c. Appointment of Chater Allen as independent examiner.
Proposed - Alastair Fraser Seconded - Jean Clark Passed by show of hands

Questions covered: –

- STAG gift does not need to be repaid
- £40,000 deficit could be expected if income didn't increase
- Thanks to Alastair and Nicola for their hard work.

8. Interview about Welcome Team and Lifegroups

Kate Sykes & Sam Hardy answered questions that focussed on:

- Time in Life groups include social opportunities / bible teaching / prayer and fellowship. It can be open to people with differing bible knowledge (little or better). It helps to commit to attendance to develop friendships
- Kate acts as Team Leader for the Welcome Team – which is key to ensuring people are welcomed and cared for and offered information and guidance.
- Being part of team does not require people doing it every week but it does include covering for one another etc. Being committed to be involved,
- Teams are open to everyone.
- Thanks were provided to all those Leading teams and those assisting in them.

The meeting ended **at 1.00pm** This was followed by a Quiz, a song and a prayer.