

PARISH OF ST MARY MAGDALENE, LATIMER

Sunday, 4 May 2025 at 10.45 am

St Mary Magdalene Church, Latimer

**Meeting to appoint Churchwardens followed by the
Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2025**

Revd Brian Ludlow noted that the date of both meetings had been changed from 11 May to allow for a special service to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day.

MINUTES

MEETING OF PARISHIONERS TO APPOINT CHURCHWARDENS

1. *Prayers* were led by Revd Brian Ludlow.
2. *Attendance*: Revd Brian Ludlow (in the chair), Revd Peggy Ludlow, Joe and Joanna Barclay, Annabel and David Briggs, Christopher Gregory, Ann Imberg, Elizabeth Jimenez, Helen and Tim Leary, Barbara Perrott, Alison Platt, Chris and Phoebe Swart, Michael Todd.
Apologies: Jane Brumwell, John Drewery, Edward Perrott, Deborah Todd, Josephine Whelan.
3. *Minutes of the Meeting to Elect Churchwardens of 12 May 2024* were approved.
4. *Election of Churchwardens 2025*. Helen Leary's nomination, proposed by Annabel Briggs and seconded by Alison Platt, was the only one received and she was elected unanimously. The meeting in addition approved the continuation of Joanna Barclay as Deputy Churchwarden.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. *Attendance and apologies*. As above.
2. *Minutes of the previous APCM of 12 May 2024* had been published in the porch and on the Benefice website and circulated to the Latimer Church email list. They were approved on the proposal of Annabel Briggs, seconded by Michael Todd.
3. *Matters Arising*. None.
4. *Electoral Roll*. Helen Leary, Electoral Roll Officer, reported that an entirely new roll had had to be compiled since it was six years since the previous new roll. The Roll still stood at 24, but it contained six new people, who had replaced six who had not continued. There were seven people resident outside the parish.
5. *Presentation and approval of the Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for 2024*. The Report and Accounts for 2024 had been published in the porch and circulated by email. David Briggs objected that the meeting could not give its approval because the accounts had not yet been independently examined. Revd Brian Ludlow apologised to the meeting but noted the difficulty of finding someone to undertake the examination and that the deadline for the submission of the accounts to the Diocese was 28 June. After some discussion, it was agreed, at the suggestion of Michael Todd, that the meeting continue with the remaining items on the agenda, and then be adjourned until an examiner had been found and the accounts satisfactorily examined. Chris Gregory offered to suggest the names of two potential examiners. The attendees would be notified of the examiner's name and the date of the reconvened meeting.
6. *Safeguarding*. The Safeguarding Lead, Tim Leary, said that there were no safeguarding issues to report. All PCC members had received the weblink to the Diocesan training. Revd Brian Ludlow thanked him for carrying out the role.
7. *Election of Lay Deanery Synod Representatives*. There were no volunteers for the role despite the Chairman's strong encouragement. Representatives did not have to be members of the PCC.

8. *Election of Lay PCC Members.* Four members of the PCC needed to be re-elected and all had completed new nomination forms: Joanna Barclay, Annabel Briggs, Christopher Gregory and Michael Todd were elected *nem. con.* The Chairman thanked PCC members for their work.
9. *Finance report.* The Treasurer regretted he was unable to be present. The Churchwarden was thanked for her success in securing funding for renovations and seeing various projects to completion. The attractiveness of the church's interior encouraged prospective wedding couples to choose to get married in Latimer Church.
10. *Appointment of Independent Examiner.* Postponed to the reconvened meeting.
11. *Fabric Report.* The Churchwarden reported on progress since the beginning of 2025.

In February three stained-glass panels given by Joan Hadley were installed in a lightbox on the north wall of the nave. The congregation was delighted with the dramatic effect that the lightbox had on the appearance of the church. Mrs Hadley had made a further donation which would allow the Wooldridge window in the north transept to be conserved in October. The PCC was hugely grateful for her generosity.

The sanctuary carpet would return from the conservation studio in the summer and had recently featured in a press release from the Church of England on their 2024 conservation grants.

It was hoped that minor repairs to the apse gutter would be completed soon and also that metal mesh would be inserted in the vent over the west window to keep out nesting jackdaws.

The ashes area beside the Hall had recently been improved and replanted with groundcover plants. A new electronic piano had been given to the church by an anonymous donor to replace the one given by Revd Julian Harford, which had shown increasing signs of age.

12. *Deanery Synod Report.* Nothing to report.
13. *Chairman's Comments.* A joint report on Latimer and Flaunden by Revds Brian and Peggy Ludlow was included at the end of the Annual Report. The two churches had seen an increase in the number of people attending special services during the year, notably the joint service on the site of Flaunden Old Church in June 2024.

The Ludlows were approaching the end of their five-year term in Latimer and Flaunden. The revision of the Benefice Profile would be co-ordinated by the people who would subsequently be on the appointing committee, in Latimer's case Chris Gregory and Helen Leary. The post would be advertised as soon as the Ludlows announced their leaving date. Both they and the Archdeacon would try to find a successor through behind-the-scenes discussions.

14. *Any Other Matters of Parochial or Church Interest.* None.
15. *Date and venue of next APCM.* St Mary Magdalene Church, Sunday 10 May 2026, after Morning Worship.

The meeting was formally adjourned. It was reconvened on Sunday 25 May at 10.35 am after Morning Service. On the PCC's recommendation, the meeting approved the appointment of Stuart Batkins as Independent Examiner retrospectively for the 2024 Accounts and also for the 2025 Accounts. Revd Brian Ludlow warmly thanked Chris Gregory for finding an Independent Examiner and Stuart Batkins for undertaking the task.

Since the Independent Examiner had found the 2024 Accounts to be satisfactory, the meeting approved them together with the Trustees' Annual Report for 2024.