

**6 ST PAUL'S SCOTFORTH
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
26 April 2026
St Paul's Church at 09:45**

Present: about 70 plus Rev Catherine.

The meeting was held during the morning service.

The accounts and reports were published on the parish website, with paper copies available in church for several weeks before the meeting.

1. Apologies were received from Katherine Froggatt, Gwen Gedge, Val Gedge, Rev Richard Impey, Rev Patricia Impey and Hugh Kidd.
2. Minutes from the meetings held on 27 April 2025 were approved as a correct record.

THE MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

3. Election of Churchwardens

Keith Weatherill did not stand for re-election due to his role as Chair of the Governors of Scotforth School. The meeting thanked Keith for his work as Warden over the last two years and for what he continues to do for our school. Jayne Weatherill was reappointed unanimously. The Vicar noted that Jayne has declared her intention of standing down as Churchwarden at the end of this year and asked those present to consider whether they could serve as a Churchwarden in the future.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETING

4. Electoral Roll

John Gedge reported that the electoral roll has risen to 95.

5. Presentation of the Accounts

Brian Threlfall reminded the congregation that we do not receive money from the government or the Diocese but instead send money to the Diocese which pays clergy salaries, housing costs and training. Our assessment is based on our average attendance and for 2026 was £812 per attendee. Fortunately, the Diocese agreed to a £40000 reduction for 2025 due to the interregnum and our growing congregation, but our unrestricted funds still fell so we all need to consider whether we can afford to give more, and we should use Gift Aid if we pay tax. Brian advised the meeting that he has been Treasurer since 2004 and will be stepping down from this role at the end of the current year. The Vicar thanked Brian for his work as Treasurer.

6. Report on the Fabric of the Church

Jayne Weatherill updated the report in the APM papers by telling the APM about the Teams meeting with the Heritage Lottery Fund on 24 April. The Expression of Interest has been accepted so we have 12 months to submit the Stage One application. We must show a sustainable future for the building and support from the local community. We probably need to set up a heritage team to follow on from the 150th anniversary. 12 supporting documents are required, and the amount of work makes a submission in November 2026 or February 2027 more likely. Jayne answered questions about the HLF application and the current work on the tower.

7. Report on the dealings of the Deanery Synod

Phillip Simpson's report was received by the meeting.

8. Election to the Deanery Synod

One nomination was received. Alison Alderson was elected unanimously. The Vicar noted that our parish can elect two and asked anyone interested in the role to speak to her.

9. Safeguarding

Jayne Weatherill's report was received by the meeting.

10. Election of the Church Council

Three nominations were received. The meeting unanimously elected Sue Croft, Jon Humfrey and Keith Weatherill.

11. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Mervyn Bonnett was reappointed as independent examiner. Mervyn advised the meeting that he would stand down from this role after finalizing the accounts for 2026.

12. 150th Anniversary Events

The Vicar noted the good engagement with the events so far, mentioned that tickets are available for next month's play, and encouraged those present to take anniversary booklets for their friends and neighbours. Rev Catherine reminded us that one of a Vicar's duties is "with all of God's People, to tell the story of God's love". The Vicar reminded us that while the anniversary celebrates the past, it also prompts us to ask: "why are we here?" and "what are we doing?" as we prepare for the next 150 years.

The new PCC will meet on 18 May 2026.