



"where the river flows everything will live"

PARISH OF TIDENHAM with BEACHLEY and LANCAUT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 11th May 2025 at 12 noon in Tutshill Church

AGENDA

Welcome, Bible Reading and opening prayer

Apologies for absence

Annual Meeting of Parishioners (formerly known as Easter Vestry)

1. Minutes of the annual meeting held on 14 April 2024
2. Election of two churchwardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

1. Minutes of the annual parochial church meeting held on 14 April 2024
2. Parish Annual Written Reports
 - on the new Electoral Roll
 - on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and the activities of the parish generally
 - the Financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2024 [see page 3]
 - the annual fabric report under section 50 of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and Care of Churches Measure 2018,
 - on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod *and*
 - reports from individual church groups
3. Election of PCC members
4. Appointment of an Independent Examiner - Andy Royle has indicated he is willing to undertake this role again in 2026
5. Any other matters of parochial or general church interest

The following pages contain summaries; more detailed information is contained in the Trustees' Report and Annual Accounts for 2024, available from the PCC Secretary

Report on the new Church Electoral Roll 2025

Process to create a completely new Church Electoral Roll

Every 6 years C of E Parishes create a new Roll, which acts as a 'membership list' for churchgoers and gives entitlement to vote at the APCM or stand for office as Churchwarden or PCC / Deanery Synod member. The old roll was started in 2019, so we need a new roll this year.

The formal notice was displayed on church Notice Boards, and information was provided on our website and in the church's weekly briefs. Application forms were made available at each church and for the first time 53 people completed their forms electronically and emailed them to me.

Everyone on the old roll who had supplied an email address received an email from me explaining the process for reapplying, together with a fillable pdf application form and a Q&A sheet.

Summary of the new church electoral roll, which was completed by 22 April

It contains 161 names, of which 24 were new and 42 live outside the parish. This total is 22 short of the 183 names on the old roll at 31 March 2025. The new roll was exhibited in churches for three weeks before the APCM on Sunday 11 May 2025, and no errors were reported to me.

Iain Gardiner, Church Electoral Roll Officer, 8 May 2025

Proceedings of the PCC in 2024

PCC Meetings and sub-committees

The Incumbent is the chair, but after twelve years in post Revd David Treharne resigned on 7 July 2024 to take up a position in Gloucester Diocese. Thereafter the wardens chaired the meetings. The full PCC met ten times during 2024 with an average attendance of 69%. Safeguarding, health and safety, and data protection are mandatory topics for the agenda.

As part of the process to appoint a new incumbent, it met on two occasions to review the Parish Profile created by a subcommittee along with representatives of the parishes of St Briavels and Hewelsfield. The Parish Profile was approved by the Archdeacon of Gloucester.

Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has a number of sub-committees, each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. These sub-committees, which include buildings, finance and charity giving, are responsible to the PCC and report back to it regularly.

PCC Minutes

Once signed the Minutes are public documents and are available from the PCC Secretary. Highlights of the PCC meetings are published in the Link church magazine.

Specific Areas of Church Activity

The PCC has also authorised certain church members to be responsible for specific areas of church activity, such as safeguarding, finance, pastoral visiting, liaison with local schools, especially Tutshill Church of England primary school, and visiting families to prepare for baptism. These responsibilities are reviewed each year at the first PCC meeting after the APCM.

Iain Gardiner, PCC Secretary, 9 May 2025

Tidenham PCC Financial Review 2024

Total receipts (i.e. income) were £108,854 (2023: £123,671), a 12% decrease year on year. Total voluntary receipts were £85,719 (2023: £103,165) a decrease of 16.9%. Income from the recovery of Gift Aid: £16,170 was down nearly 5% compared with 2023: £17,015.

The amount spent from the General Fund to provide Christian Ministry throughout the Parish was £102,375 (2023: £107,515), a decrease of 4.8% on the previous year. The largest element is the Parish Share we paid in full to Gloucester Diocese, which at £73,072 was a 7% increase on 2023. At £24,638 Church running costs were down 20.7% compared with 2023, including utility costs of £7,361 (2023: £8,990). The impact of the significantly increased costs of a new 2-year contract with SSE that started on 01 January 2024 was reduced as we had built up a significant credit balance over 18 months. We eventually received a refund of £8,642 in August. Insurance costs during the year were £4,853 (2023: £4,614). Minor building repairs and improvements of £557 were paid from the General Fund in 2024.

Reserves Policy

After a comprehensive revision in 2021, the reserves policy was reviewed in November, when the PCC decided to maintain the value of reserves in its General Fund at £22,000, plus £5,000 between the main Restricted Funds, being YC&F and Wellbeing Project and Wellbeing Chaplain.

Restricted Funds

1. **YC&F.** On 31st December 2024 the fund stood at £13,232 (2023: £19,075).
2. **Wellbeing Project.** On 31st December 2024 the fund stood at £37,565 (2023: £42,189).
3. **Wellbeing Chaplain.** On 31st December 2024 the fund stood at £3,659 (2023: £3,638)
4. **Tutshill Re-ordering** £11,258 remains in the Fund as of 31st December 2024 (2023: £12,915)
5. **Tidenham Tower Repairs.** £82,540 is being held in the fund on 31st December 2024; (2023: £112,419) The reduction is due to the work starting in October, with anticipated completion by March 2025, at which time most if not all of these funds will have been used.
6. **Buildings Fabric.** On 31st December 2024 the Fund stood at £2,119 (2023: £1,703) while the Designated Fabric Fund stood at £30,923 (2023: £1,724). The significant increase reflects the PCC's recognition that work identified in the Quinquennial Reports requires to be undertaken.

Total Receipts and Payments Summary (i.e. including all Restricted, Designated & General Funds)

Total Receipts for 2024 were £170,514 (2023: £161,626) *and*

Total Payments for 2024 were £198,937 (2023: £165,051)

Total cash funds at year-end on 31 December 2024 were £231,514 (2023: £259,936), held with Lloyds Bank and CBF Church of England deposit accounts.

Paul Coombs, PCC Treasurer

Fabric Report (A more detailed report is available on request)**CHURCH BUILDINGS****General**

Our church architect undertook the Quinquennial Inspections of our buildings in late 2022. As part of this process a drone survey was conducted for the first time. All work arising from the 5-yearly fixed wiring inspections carried out in 2022 by an NICEIC - approved contractor was completed during 2023.

Tutshill church

The recently re-ordered main church building has required no significant work this year.

Tidenham church

The PCC is supported by an independent charity, *The Friends of Tidenham Church*, set up in 2014.

After many years of planning, significant improvements to the north aisle were completed in December, funded by grants and donations facilitated by *The Friends*. The pews were removed from the north aisle, the floor refurbished, and a kitchen and much-needed toilet installed. PCC continues to develop plans for additional heating and lighting, after the original plans were turned down by the DAC.

Chancel ceiling. Some plaster came down in December, while the church was unoccupied. A specialist plasterer has identified areas that need attention, which PCC will address in 2025.

Tidenham Church Tower

The tower clock is maintained by Cumbria Clock Company, who on 31 May fabricated and fitted a new auto regulator. This resolved the previous long-standing time-keeping problem. Planned maintenance was carried out on 15 August, since when the clock kept good time, but it had to be stopped in late October when we began a 5-month project to repair the tower roof and associated repointing. This was largely funded by a generous donation from the estate of a former churchwarden, Tony James.

Tidenham Chase church is moving into a maintenance planning phase, to complete urgent electrical and roof work to ensure it continues to be a cherished place of worship. Our church architect Philip Belchere has created a list of repairs that need to be carried out, and the PCC will seek funds in 2025 to undertake them. The remedial work on the lightning conductor was carried out in February, when a satisfactory reading was obtained.

The Goods and ornaments in all three churches are generally in a satisfactory condition.

Forest Deanery Synod(DS) - Report

The Forest Deanery Strategic Plan was described in the Annual Report for 2023. The four areas that the Forest Deanery Synod are focussing on are (local champions indicated): -

- Youth Ministry (Rev Stephen Harrison)
- Focal Ministry (Rev Sarah Bick)
- Church Buildings (Rev Bea Erskine and Chris Witham)
- Training (Rev Bea Erskine)

There were several DS meetings (April, July and October) when the above were discussed. In November, there was a Youth Consultation half day at St James, Bream, with input from Jo Wetherall.

Parish Share and a likely new model for calculating this was the subject of two meetings. In April, Ben Preece-Smith of Church House Gloucester, presented the financial situation and reported that details would be circulated during the summer. Information was circulated, but by the time of the July DS meeting feedback from CH was that a new model for Parish Share wouldn't be in place until 2026 as the suggested programme was considered to have been rushed with insufficient time for consultation.

The Parish Share request for 2025 was sent out in early September. The calculations by CH were based on their request to the Deanery for 2022 and uplifted for inflation, but failed to consider the Deanery's distribution of the Diocesan Stipend Fund. This meant that some PCCs were being asked for huge increases, and some more well off PCCs were being asked for a smaller share. As Deanery Synod Treasurer, I presented the Deanery figures at a meeting of Deanery Treasurers in October.

In late 2024 Church House Gloucester sent out a Parish Share questionnaire for completion by each PCC by end of February 2025. Tidenham PCC representatives met Archdeacon Hilary and members of the Diocesan Board of Finance in April 2025 to hear their proposals for Parish share in 2026.

A Deanery Synod meeting in February 2025 looked further at Focal Ministry, the outcome of this will be reported next year.

James Parsons, Tidenham PCC Deanery Synod Representative

Additional Reports of General Church Interest

Safeguarding is about keeping people safe from harm and abuse, and is part of our culture of doing relationship well and looking after each other's welfare and wellbeing. As Parish Safeguarding Officer, I am the main point of contact for safeguarding matters in this parish; via the parish safeguarding email: tidenhamsafeguarding@gmail.com and the safeguarding mobile: 07410 237310.

Within the Church of England (CofE) safeguarding is defined broadly as encompassing concerns about possible abuse or neglect, but also matters related to wellbeing and safety.

It will not have escaped anyone's notice that safeguarding has been a topic of great concern in the CofE recently, and has caused much soul-searching and sadness as we reflect on institutional failings and what needs to change nationally. Having said that, the CofE has made many positive policy changes over the last decade or so designed to ensure that safeguarding is fully embedded in church life at a local level, and progress is being made, including in our own parish, in implementing these.

A safeguarding working group meets to discuss any safeguarding matters (be they internal, or issues we come across in the course of our mission and ministry in the community), and to ensure we continue to meet our safeguarding obligations with regard to DBS checks, training, recruitment of volunteers, responding to safeguarding concerns, and implementing policies and procedures in partnership with the Diocese. Revd Nicki, churchwardens Robin and Brian and I are part of this group. With these measures in place we hope to ensure we stay up to date and continue to fulfil our safeguarding responsibilities. We use the Safeguarding Parish Dashboard to notify our progress to the Diocese.

In 2024 we produced a new Parish Safeguarding Policy to take account of the current legislative framework and the CofE policy changes, and to bring the adults and children's policies together into one document. It is available on the Parish Website and in our church porches. Vicar David and Rosalind ran several face to face training sessions in the summer of 2024, to raise awareness of safeguarding amongst volunteers and to help us comply with guidance on training from the Diocese. We hope to run further sessions each year, alongside the online training option, and would encourage everyone to take part when invited. This year we have been implementing the national changes to safer recruitment guidance, which relates to the way we recruit volunteers to roles involving contact with children and vulnerable adults, ensuring that they are properly checked and trained for the roles.

Thank you to everyone for playing your part in helping us to follow all the safeguarding guidance and in keeping each other safe.

Rosalind Seward, Parish Safeguarding Officer, 07410 237310.

Mission and Evangelism

It was a joy to see the continued development of our Wellbeing Ministry with Revd Nicki as Wellbeing Chaplain, along with Emma Durbin our Children, Youth and Families Missioner and Eve Mcleod, our Youth Co-ordinator intern who joined in November. Their work together with other members of the church was a vital part of mission and community engagement within and beyond the Parish. Nicki, Emma, Eve and the Parish benefited from an amazing team of volunteers.

Children's work consisted of weekly Tutshill Toddlers and Sedbury Stay and Play groups; ongoing work in our local schools, monthly family worship services in Tutshill church, and the ever popular Scarecrow Trail at Easter. Another very busy year which would not have been possible without the tremendous help of a large band of volunteers. Special mention must be made of Non van den Braak who has worked for many years behind the scenes. This is being recognised by Gloucester Diocese as she will be admitted into the Company of St Kyneburga in Gloucester Cathedral by Bishop Robert on 17 June.

Wellbeing Chaplain, Revd Nicki Bullivant

As Wellbeing Chaplain I spend the equivalent of one day a week at Sedbury Space, and visit many people both in their homes and places of work, and liaise with the health providers, Two Rivers Housing, community police and social services.

Over the last 12 months you have enabled me to continue the work of: -

- Meeting a growing need arising from cost of living crisis
- Spreading the Wellbeing message beyond Tidenham Parish
- Addressing loneliness
- Raising the profile in GP Practices
- Building relationships with other agencies to improve community quality of life

I thank you for your prayers and support and look forward to seeing what God has in store for us over the next 12 months, despite all the challenges that both our church community and the wider community faces.

Revd Nicki Bullivant, Associate Priest and Wellbeing Chaplain, Tidenham Parish

The Vacancy

After twelve happy years in post we said goodbye to our parish priest Revd Davd Treharne, his wife Kathy and daughter Roseanna in July. The process of finding David's replacement has not been easy. A small team from our church community and our sister parishes of St Briavels and Hewelsfield quickly met to create a new parish profile that Archdeacon Hilary signed off in December. Unfortunately, no applications were received and the position has been readvertised just this week with a potential date of 23 June for interviews.

Our Self-supporting Associate Priest Revd Nicki Bullivant has been ably supported over the last 10 months by our PTOs, Readers, service leaders and many other volunteers. This has meant that all the usual Sunday and weekday services have continued to take place, as have special services at Advent, Christmas and Easter, along with baptisms, weddings and funerals. We must thank all these people for their commitment to what is at times a difficult task.

Our Vacancy Prayer

Heavenly Father, during this vacancy, guard and grow the Parishes of Tidenham, St Briavels and Hewelsfield, as we serve you together in this period without a Priest in Charge.

Lord Jesus, we know you have plans for us and that these plans are good. We ask you now that You will help us to share responsibility, grow in faith, love one another, care for those in need, reach out to others, and welcome newcomers.

Holy Spirit, please guide those who are seeking the right person for us, and those who are seeking the right place for their ministry, that together we may discover Your way for the future and see Your Kingdom grow. All this we ask in the strength of the Holy Trinity. Amen.