

Sunday 12 March 2026

Minutes of the Annual Village

Meeting

St Swithun's Church, Martyr

Worthy

followed by the Annual District Church

Meeting

ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING

Sara Mason and Malcolm Hogg welcomed everyone to the meetings.

Churchwardens: Malcolm Hogg and John Barber

Sidespersons: Angela Wheeler, John Lang, Malcolm Hogg, Mary Hogg, Liz Platt, Andrew Impey, Katherine Impey, Robin Greenwood, Gilly Greenwood, John Prince, Joanna Sutcliffe, Robert Sutcliffe, Verity Coleman, Emily Windsor-Aubrey, Simon Ffennell, Sara Mason and Guy Green.

ANNUAL DISTRICT CHURCH MEETING

Present: Sara Mason (Chairman), Malcolm Hogg (Churchwarden), Verity Coleman, Rolls Coleman, Fiona Coulter, Simon Ffennell, Robin and Gilly Greenwood, Liz Platt, John and Jane Prince, Emily Windsor-Aubrey, Katherine Impey, Richard and Amanda Seymour, John Lang, Gerry Stacey.

Apologies were received from John and Nicky Barber, Guy Green, Peter Collings, Mary Hogg and Andrew Impey.

The minutes of last year's meeting on 8 March 2025 were approved. There were no matters arising.

Chairman's report: Sara Mason (DCC chair) welcomed everyone with thanks for their support today. The DCC met twice this year; the main subject was the new window installation and Robin will update us shortly. Our church is very well supported by many volunteers - clearing the path, tending the churchyard, cleaning, coffee rota, brass cleaning, linen, flower arranging and keeping the door open. We are blessed that our church remains a place of worship, rest and reflection; so many pass through and leave wonderful comments, please read them. Thank you to everyone

who provides their time and energy for the love our church and community, particularly during the interregnum. We are looking forward to welcoming the new Rector on Monday 20 July at 7.00pm in St Mary's Easton.

Churchwardens' report (Malcolm Hogg): 2025 was a successful and happy year for the community of St. Swithun's. The normal range of services took place, and all were well attended. Evensong has developed into a more choral service with the choir singing a short anthem and a reflective piece at the end. Valley Worship and the Ark is regularly held at St Swithun's, led by John and Nicky Barber with James Grieg, music provided by Tim Clapp and others. The Ark provides a warm environment for children to look at aspects of the Bible and the world, and to tell us all about it at the end of the service.

The Lessons and Carols service before Christmas was very well attended indeed - every corner of the church was filled, and the choir led some spirited singing. The Way of the Cross on Good Friday, directed by Jenny Crowther, proved a fitting and moving experience. We enjoyed a splendid patronal in July with Canon Andrew Micklefield as preacher. After the service Verity Coleman and the team laid on an excellent meal in the Village Hall, with wine provided by the Friends. Thanks to all who made it such an enjoyable community event.

When I encounter visitors or pilgrims at St. Swithun's they often remark on their perception that the church is clearly loved. Everything is in good order, a beautifully clean church, with lovely flowers on show and a cared-for churchyard to match. Our warmest thanks to Cathy Dickinson for organising the cleaning, to Lizzie Reid who manages the flower rota, to all the sidespeople and to Simon Ffennell who spends so much of his time on every aspect of church life, including leading the Evensong services.

The Churchwardens have been in touch with the Friends of St Swithuns whilst monitoring the boiler. FoSS kindly supported the renovation of the organ, now the only pipe organ in the Parish.

The DCC are also looking at the installation of handrails on either side of the steps from the south door. The new icon to be installed in the niche by the font will require a full faculty.

Sara Mason retired as churchwarden in March after seven years of sterling service. The congregation expressed their heartfelt thanks to her with a number of gifts. Fortunately, Sara has continued as chair of the DCC and organiser of the coffee rota. Thanks again to her for her years of service. Thanks to John Barber for taking on the role of churchwarden at a particularly busy and demanding time.

Many thanks to Robin Greenwood who has steered the west window project, leading to its imminent installation. Robin reported on progress; there is further work to be completed, hopefully in time for the Patronal.

Friends of St Swithun's Report: in Chairman Guy Green's absence John Prince reported the FoSS is now 16 years old and has given £30,000 to the church in

that time. Many thanks to the current 85 members. Current assets £60,000. Trustees are Guy Green, John Prince, Jo Sutcliffe and Scot Johnston.

Verger's report: Simon Ffennell reported that the crack in the chancel wall is being monitored. There is no sign of the death watch beetle in the tower. The church door is usually open but will be shut for a few weeks when the swallows are seeking to nest. The boiler caused no problems this winter. In the churchyard volunteers will keep the grass mown. The swifts investigated the nesting box last year, maybe it will be used this season.

Elections and appointments

Nominations for membership of the PCC: no nominees.

DCC membership re-election: Fiona Coulter, Sara Mason (standing chair), John Barber, Peter Collings, Simon Ffennell, Robin Greenwood, Andrew Impey, Liz Platt, Malcom Hogg and Verity Coleman (DCC secretary). Agreed by all present.

Deputy Churchwardens: Re-election of Liz Platt and Simon Ffennell. Proposed Robin Greenwood, seconded Malcolm Hogg and agreed by all present.

Verger: Re-election of Simon Ffennell. Proposed Gilly Greenwood, seconded Robin Greenwood and agreed by all present.

Sacristan: Re-election of Liz Platt. Proposed Robin Greenwood, seconded Malcolm Hogg and agreed by all present.

Any other business: The Patronal service will be held on 12 July 2026 with supper in the Village Hall afterwards. It is hoped that the new window will be fully installed by then.

JVCC/23.4.26