



WOODBRIIDGE COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting Wednesday 15th April 2026 held at Lea Church Room at 10.00 am.

Present: Rev Christian Saguyan, Chair; Rev Steve Wilkinson; Rev Mike Graham; Roger Sherhod, Brinkworth; Gill Smith and Bridget Beardshall, Lea; Anna Kent and Richard Wood, Great Somerford; Robert Beverley, Little Somerford; Liz Walker and David Briggs, Garndon.

1. **Prayers** – Christian opened the meeting with prayers.
2. **Apologies** - Michael Bromley Gardner.
3. **Minutes of last meetings** – held on 11th February 2026 were approved.
4. **Matters arising** – None
5. **Rector's Items** –
 - a. **Departures and Re-arrival** – Steve congratulated Christian on his preferment as Associate Vicar at St Mary Abott, Kensington and thanked him for all that he had achieved during his curacy in the group and wished him every success in his future ministry. A round warm of applause followed.
Christian's last service with us will be the Group Holy Communion at Lea on 31st May at 10.30am with Mike presiding and Christian preaching.
We have been invited to visit Christian's new parish on Sunday 28th June for Evensong at 5.30 and refreshments. **Would Churchwardens please let Maggie or Christina know how many people from their church would be interested in going by 31st May so that the appropriate mode of transport can be organised. ACTION – CHURCHWARDENS.**
Steve also reminded everyone that Ann-Marie Tuck will be ordained on Sunday 5th July at the Cathedral at 10.30 am. **Would Churchwardens please let Maggie or Christina know how many people from their church would be interested in going by 31st May.**

**ACTION –
CHURCHWARDENS.**

- b. **Woodbridge Group of Churches – Governance** – The responses from PCCs voting on the Partial Scheme so far are:

Brinkworth – 9 present, 9 in favour, none against and no abstentions. Meeting held on 18th March 2026.

Dauntsey – meeting yet to be held. *Post meeting note –9 present; 9 for, none against and no abstentions. Meeting held on 5th May*

Garsdon – 9; 8; none against and 1 abstention. Meeting held on 12th April 2026.

Great Somerford – meeting yet to be held. *Post meeting note –6 present; 5 for, none against and 1 abstention. Meeting held on 20th April.*

Lea – 5 present; 5 for; none against and no abstentions, Meeting held on ???

Little Somerford – 6 present; 5 for, none against and 1 abstention. Meeting held 13th April.

- c. **Carbon Net Zero** - Liz reported that the Infrared Heaters were now in operation at Garsdon and had been well received.

6. Pastoral

- a. **Summer Rota** – Christian highlighted a few minor amendments which needed to be made and which can be viewed on the website.
- b. **Safeguarding** – No issues. Steve still hoping to find someone to take on this role for the group.
- c. Reports from parishes on items of interest –

Garsdon – Liz said that it was pleasing to see such good attendances at the Good Friday Liturgy and Easter Day services. The porch access ramp had been installed but required modification. There will be a French Horn Recital on Saturday 27th June at 3.30pm with the Quintet very kindly offering their services free of charge. Proceeds towards the cost of the new heaters. It was hoped that work to the car parking area will soon commence.

Great Somerford – Anna was pleased to report that a recent event had raised some £600. There was also a good attendance of 15 on Easter Day. A Newcomers Party will also take place soon and will be supported by many of the village organisations. Church Fete will be held on 14th June 4.00 – 8.00 pm.

Little Somerford –Robert was pleased to report that windows will soon be fitted to the rebuilt vestry to make it watertight; decoration to follow. The VAT reclaim had been successful with some £4,000 expected. He said that the joint Easter Day service with Great Somerford had been much appreciated. There will also be a Local History Exhibition held in church over the May Bank Holiday weekend.

- d. Men’s Well Being Event** – Christian was pleased to report another successful gathering in March, and that Tom and Robert have kindly offered to run these events after he leaves. Christian mentioned that the diocese wished to know more about this initiative. Please see attached report from Tom Russell on the March event.
- e. Away Day- Saturday 6th June-** as Christian was soon to leave it was decided instead to hold a celebration event once the new Woodbridge Group Council scheme had been approved by Bishop’s Council, It was hoped the event could be held in early September.

7. Administration –

- a. Appointment of Group Safeguarding Officer** – no progress, so carried forward to next meeting.
- b. Administrators Salary Review** – the circulated paper was approved unanimously so that increased salaries will come into effect w.e.f, 1st April 2026.
- c. Consider appointing an Organ Tuner for the group** – after a brief discussion it was decided to obtain an additional quotation before the next meeting. It was appreciated that some parishes might have long standing relationships and that not all organs might need tuning at the same time.

8. Treasurers Report –

- a.** Accounts for the quarter to 31st March 2026 have been circulated. Michael requests PCCs to please make prompt payments of their amounts due.
- b.** Reserves Policy – it was noted that some PCCs had introduced policies while others were considering one. Steve also mentioned that he thought registration with the Charity Commission would be required by 2030 for all charities with a turnover of more than £5,000.

9. Any other business:

- i. Christian was pleased to report that Roger Hunton was about to enter LLM training and that his sponsoring church would be Lea. This news was welcomed.
- ii. Christian said that Gill and Dave Smith would be leaving Lea Church after their APCM in May. Christian expressed his grateful thanks for all that they had done, and a warm round of applause followed. Gill said that as yet no-one had been found to take over the Parish Newsletter.
- iii. Roger reported that Brinkworth had offered refreshments to pilgrims from Bristol who were also due to pass through Lea today.
- iv. Roger also asked Steve if slides/report would be circulated to PCCs following a presentation at the recent Deanery Synod about the state of diocesan finances. Steve said that he would do this so congregations could understand the position and consider how to respond to the situation.
- v. Christian mentioned that Miranda Ng, an LLM, would be visiting parishes as part of her training over the next couple of months.

10. The meeting closed at 11.25 am with The Grace.

11. Dates of future meetings - Wednesday mornings at 10.00am. - 10th June at Garsdon (was Great Somerford); 12th August at Garsdon; 14th October at Great Somerford; 9th December at Lea Church Room.