

**Parish of St. Mary The Virgin, Bletchingley  
Deanery of Tandridge**

At the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial  
Church Meeting of the above parish held on (date) **26 April 2026**  
The following were elected as **Churchwardens**:

Name **Victoria Gillespie**

Name **Trevor Dawson**

The following were elected as **Lay Members of the Deanery  
Synod**:

Name **Richard Fowler**

Name **Jennifer Hyde**

The following were elected as **Lay Members of the Parochial  
Church Council**:

Name **Imogen Montgomery**

**Sunday 26 April 2026**

It was great to have so many at the Vestry Meeting and the APCM this morning (26<sup>th</sup> April 2026).

At these meetings, an administrative irregularity occurred.

What happened was that at the Vestry Meeting, the minutes from the previous 2025 Vestry Meeting were accepted as a true and accurate account of that meeting. I then moved to the election of Churchwardens. When I asked the PCC secretary for the nomination forms, she handed me the completed Fit and Proper Persons form for each nominee. This is a form that all PCC members must complete as part of their administration as Charity Trustees.

When I enquired of the nominees if they had completed their forms, they informed me that they had not. I then told the meeting that I could not proceed to elect two nominees because I had not received the forms before the meeting began. The meeting was comprised wholly of parishioners who are on the Electoral Roll.

A similar matter arose at the APCM when I set out to elect two Deanery Synod Representatives and one PCC Member. It was the PCC secretary's first APCM, and there are forms galore in preparation. It was likely that I was not clear in my verbal instructions to the PCC Secretary and nominees about which forms needed to be completed.

While the accounts were presented to the meeting, I tried to see if there was any guidance in the Church Representation Rules and the Churchwardens Measure. I could not glean anything from them without close reading.

I explained to the APCM attendees who were also at the Vestry Meeting that an administrative irregularity had occurred. I placed a motion before the meeting to proceed with the election of the Churchwardens, Deanery Synod Representatives and 1 PCC Member. And then immediately report the matter to the Archdeacon for guidance. The election papers were completed and signed.

In each instance, the nominee was proposed and seconded and received a unanimous vote.

There was no dissent in the meeting.

I sought the Archdeacon's advice this afternoon, and he responded this evening. His response was:

- Regarding the Churchwardens, the rules do state that the nominations should be received in writing in advance. However, this was an uncontested election, with two wardens staying in role. You flagged up the issue, and no-one raised an objection. Unless someone wishes to make a formal appeal, the results can stand.
- Regarding the PCC and Deanery Synod members, my reading of the rules is that it is legitimate to nominate them at the APCM itself, so there is no issue with these.

**Therefore, the following people are duly elected:**

Vicki Gillespie Churchwarden

Trevor Dawson Churchwarden

Anyone who wishes to appeal this election can find details [here](#). Any questions, please email or phone me. **The rules state in 5a (8)** On an appeal under this section, a person who

was declared elected, but whose election is or may be affected by the appeal is to be regarded for all purposes as elected pending the determination of the appeal.

**The following people are duly elected:**

Richard Fowler Deanery Synod Representative for 3 years

Jennifer Hyde Deanery Synod Representative for 3 years

Imogen Montgomery PCC Member for 3 years

I will post this update, including the election results, on the church notice board and on the APCM webpage.

Every blessing

Father Paul Fitzpatrick