



Parochial Church Council Meeting
MINUTES
Monday 24th March 2025
7.30pm in the Conservatory

2024/25 PCC Members: David Bennett, Peter Breckwoldt (Chair), Steve Cornick (Treasurer), Nigel Day (Warden), Nick Elbourne, John Fleming, Alan Fryer, Jenny Harris, Stuart Hull (Warden), Mike Jones, Paula Jones, Matt Lee (Associate Minister), Keith Loveless, Gillian Mannouch, David Morgan, Lisa Perry (Minutes), James Sharman, Janine Thomas, Paul Wareham.

- 1) Welcome & opening prayers and thanks to Mike and David, who are both stepping down this year.
- 2) Apologies: David Bennett, John Fleming.
- 3) Approval of Minutes of Meetings on 27th January 2025: Accepted by all (Proposed by Paul, seconded by David).
- 4) Matters Arising (not elsewhere on agenda)
 - a) Diocesan / Ephesian Fund update (see Briefing Paper): Peter referred to the briefing paper and reminded the committee that we have paid £78k to the diocese to cover ministry costs for 2024. The remaining £36k is being held in the Ephesian Fund whilst the diocese consider how they might accept its use in line with our request. The ongoing delay in a decision about the next steps have been exacerbated by the appointment of the new Archbishop. Matt explained that other dioceses have engaged with the Ephesian Fund, but Salisbury is less keen and not yet willing to accept restricted giving. We are currently paying our full share for 2025, as last year, via the EF. It was suggested that we update the congregation with this latest news. **ACTION: WEEKLY NEWS.**
- 5) Finance
 - a) Management accounts to January '25: Steve introduced the management accounts and clarified the reason for expenses over £1,000 and the receipt of a legacy of £18,000. Stuart reminded us that the expenditure for global action is not showing so far in January. David confirmed that payments were made in February.
 - b) Major expenditure (>£1,000)
 - c) Fund Balances: as provided in the Treasurer's supplementary report.
 - d) Preschool recharge: Paula explained that the preschool had agreed to pay the full recharge after discussions regarding an expense item.
- 6) Giving Review update:

Paula reported that we had received one-off gifts of £13,750 since the review, and a further pledge of an increase in annual giving totalling £3,888 so far. Peter asked that PCC members provide their giving responses via Richard Phinn or Paula. Stuart cautioned about providing actual figures at this stage as experience tells us that not everyone is able to commit fully. It was suggested that we do not give a detailed update until May, so that we can be more confident of the figure to provide the congregation. In the meantime, we can say that we are very grateful to have had a response from a few people so far and encourage those who haven't responded to consider doing so. It was noted that the receipt of the legacy is likely to mean we will make a surplus this year but need to remain alert to the deficit predicted for 2026. **ACTION: WEEKLY NEWS**
- 7) APCM
 - a) PCC Membership (2 vacancies)

Peter advised that two people had agreed to join the PCC. If any more step forward a vote will be required. He asked for suggestions of matters to be included at the meeting:

Lisa asked if we could provide a pictorial overview of the PCC and sub-committees for display at the back of church. **ACTION: PAULA WILL CREATE** (to be placed beside the PCC photo). David asked for the PCC

picture to include members' names. Jennie asked that we include how 'sit' within the diocese / C of E structure.

James suggested we highlight the blessings we have received across the church family this year.

David suggested we have a focus on the young people, noting that the giving review had a focus in this area. Stuart asked if we could produce a video highlighting the work. **ACTION: MATT TO CONSIDER**

Mike suggested we add a second subject of focus.

Keith asked if what we report should be more visionary – to encourage people to engage fully with church life. Peter explained the purpose and difference of the APCM and the APM.

8) Sub-committees – reports

a) S&F – PJ

Paula introduced the minutes and asked for questions. Stuart queried who would be conducting the baptism. PB had received a letter today from Bishop Stephen in response to ours, in which we asked if Bishop Julian do the confirmation service in July at his visit? The answer to this was no, so perhaps we will have a baptism in July and look at a confirmation in autumn. Peter is following up.

i) Homeless Policy for PCC approval – Jennie questioned the wisdom of including point 2 – **needs to be clarified**. Subject to that amendment the committee accepted the policy.

b) BMG – PW (minutes circulated): Paul introduced the minutes and asked the committee to approve the following proposal. The committee discussed whether we should consider a wireless connection instead – it was accepted that a wired connection would be helpful. It also considered the option of removing the Chancel step entirely – an idea that has been considered but is unlikely to happen in the near future.

i) **Resolution:** The PCC approves the proposal to repair the chancel step and incorporate wiring for a microphone socket during the repair. (Required for a Faculty Application)

Paul proposed the resolution; Keith seconded the motion. All in favour except one objection. The motion was carried.

Stuart asked for clarity about the plans to upgrade the solar panels. Keith explained that we are under pressure from the Church of England to reduce to zero carbon. It was acknowledged that this may not happen in the near future due to lack of funding.

c) GAT – DM (minutes circulated)

David reminded the committee that the GAT are working on a budget that includes monthly giving to most of the partners (some still have an annual gift). Malcom and Kerstin will feature in the global action review at the end of November.

Janine asked for an update on Justin and Georgie. They have advised that they have enough money for now but may require additional funding in the future. Georgie will be in England during June and July. They will both be speaking on 6th July, with a further session before the evening service.

Jennie asked for clarity on how each partner's budget is agreed. David explained that each one provides their predicted income and expenditure which is factored into the complex decision making.

Stuart observed that the global action budget is £54k. It was noted that Streetlight are currently allocated the largest proportion.

Peter explained how our support to Carlile College is used and advised that Danson is now College Principal. The college would like to do some refurbishment of their failing buildings. The students we support generally come from South Sudan and stay at the college for their two years' studies. This means they are away from their families. Jennie suggested we could appeal for specific partners' needs, such as the refurbishment needs at Carlile College. Peter responded by explaining that the preference is to provide a 'global' view to ensure that the PCC / GAT are able to respond appropriately to all partners. We are expecting to receive visits from at least four or five of our partners over the summer.

Nigel asked for clarity on the new approach to setting the budget. David confirmed that it is now the PCC's responsibility to approve the proposed budget amounts.

d) Y&C – ML (no meeting)

e) Pre-School (minutes circulated). It was noted that the recharge was not now correctly recorded since the agreement to account for the payment for the carpet from reserves. **ACTION: ADDENDUM TO BE RECORDED.**

f) Deanery Synod Report (minutes circulated). It was noted that communication needs to be improved.

9) Standing Items:

a) Health & Safety – matters to report

BMG have asked to review the evacuation procedure. Discussions ongoing.

'Hedgehogs' have been placed in the gutters to mitigate the risk of falling tiles. Stuart asked if BMG could ensure that known risks are recorded in the appropriate risk assessments – for example following the lectern incident.

b) Activities / RA's to approve

i) Walk of Witness – the committee gave this approval for this activity.

c) Safeguarding Matters

i) Any concerns to report

Peter reported that the system is working well in the diocese, demonstrated by a recent risk that was identified early and responded to quickly and effectively.

ii) Safeguarding courses: <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/login/index.php>

10) Staff Matters

a) Staff Review – update: James advised the committee that the review was proceeding well. A report will come to the council in due course. Peter thanked James and Noel for undertaking the review.

11) Any Other Business

a) Jennie highlighted a minute in the diocesan synod minutes referring people to the diocesan safeguarding officers. Matt clarified that we have a flow-chart in the foyer that clarifies the process.

b) Paul advised the committee that we are expecting a visit from a safety expert supported by a retiring policeman (church member) in response to the impending Martyn's Law.

Future Meetings: 19 May, 21 Jul, 29 Sep, 24 Nov