



Parochial Church Council Meeting - MINUTES Monday 19th May 2025 - 7.30pm in the Conservatory

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

PART ONE

- 1) Welcome & opening prayers PB read from Matt. 20 vv26-28 giving thanks for service especially in advance of and through the interregnum period to come. Commending Servant leadership that serves the church family with humility. Sometimes as with Jesus, leadership is sacrificial. Prayer.
 - a) Welcome new members (booklets: Being a PCC Member, CofE Trustee Booklet, The Church's One Foundation
 - b) Trustee Eligibility (printed statement – all to sign)
 - c) Photo of new committee
 - d) Safeguarding courses – reminder to all
- 2) Apologies - ML, SC, KL.
- 3) Approval of Minutes of Meetings on 24th March 2025 and 7th May 2025 (after APCM)
Proposed: 24/3 DM Seconded: ND (approved, on basis that apologies from D Bennett noted) 07/05/25 - proposed: AF seconded SH, accepted.
- 4) Matters Arising (not elsewhere on agenda)
 - a) Diocesan / Ephesian Fund update (and communication)- PB has received the certificate from Diocese congratulating us on paying 100% of parish share via EF and will continue to do so in future. Surplus beyond ministry costs is going to support Portland and Canford Heath churches. In response to a query, PB confirmed that we are still expected pay full share during the interregnum. It was suggested that we enquire whether the diocese would consider contributing to the costs of our associate minister who will be stepping up during interregnum. **>>S&F to consider**
Another suggestion was to check with the diocese that any future surplus would again go to churches with whom we are doctrinally aligned.
 - b) Giving Review update (and communication) PJ reported annual ongoing giving has increased by circa £13.5k. One-off giving for this year is just under £32k, so net increase is approx. £40k for the full year (proportioned, as giving for many didn't start until April or later). We have therefore covered the budgeted deficit of £10k for this year and can attribute £30k towards next year's deficit, which is predicted at £51k. We will need to address the difference in the review next year.
 - c) Thanks to all in the church family who have responded to the Giving Review.
 - d) APCM review / feedback - good format, clear explanations and follow up available on app
- 5) Finance – GM reporting for SC, docs circulated
 - a) Management accounts to April '25 - income above budget by just over £41k as PJ explained earlier. Gift aid tax refund - GM did estimate, but claim has been done Jan-April, which is less, but this is due to waiting on Gift aid forms coming in and should rise by end of year.
We had a legacy of c25k. please refer to circulated docs.
 - b) The ministries line is higher than budgeted due to the inclusion of lunch club now.
 - c) Major expenditure (>£1,000) - Big items include photocopier quarterly charge, lunch club expenses (several months) and quarterly gas bill from March.
 - d) Fund Balances - Young disciples bank account is the result of combining the youth and children's accounts

PJ responded to a question about Global Action giving of funds. All will eventually be disbursed from the general fund, except designated giving, which will continue to come out of the GA account for now.

GM explained that Stewardship is currently examining the 2024 accounts. Expecting these to be signed off by end of June.

Thanks to SC, PJ, FGM, RP and all who help.

- 6) Youth Worker Accommodation - Recommendation: To provide 34 Churchill Road, shared with Streetlight's Centre Manager. Discussed at S & F and brought to PCC for approval. PJ summarised for PCC. SH added that we hope to bring in a third renter to increase income and contribute towards the bills. No one in mind currently, but ideally someone linked to SJW, Streetlight or other local ministries/churches. Proposed PJ, seconded JT, PCC accepted.
- 7) Sub-committees
 - a) Terms of Reference (circulated) – all to review when committees meet, adapt or change if required and to return to S & F committee.
 - b) S&F – PJ (minutes circulated) - no questions.
 - c) BMG – PW (minutes circulated) PW mentioned a volunteer has offered to help with sourcing grants and applications. He will work with her to apply for buildings related grants. Regarding the solar panels on the roof, PW clarified that BMG are in the early stages of exploring options.
 - d) GAT – DM (minutes circulated) We have been told to have wardens as ex-officio members, should this be on all committees? PB agrees that this may have slipped off minutes, >>committees please note. DM flagged the special meeting re Zaelyn and supporting Lynne as life progresses. Lynne has chosen not to be a partner. The aim is to bring Zaelyn closer towards UK charitable status.
 - e) Y&C – ML (minutes circulated) - held over until next meeting as ML not present.
 - f) Pre-School (no meeting)
 - g) Deanery Synod Report (no meeting)
- 8) Standing Items:
 - a) Health & Safety – Fire Drill in June (Info only)
 - b) External activities to approve – none to approve
 - c) Safeguarding Matters
 - i) Any concerns to report – none to report
(For information, we received an email from the diocese re a male harassing female clergy in the Salisbury diocese area. Just to alert us, unlikely to affect us but please be aware. If anyone is asked to, please do not meet alone with the man in question.
 - ii) Safeguarding courses: <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/login/index.php>
- 9) Staff Matters
 - a) Staff Review – in process (no update available) Possibly more to report at the July Meeting. PCC will be kept fully informed.
- 10) Any Other Business
 - a) DM, on behalf of PCC (DM and KL have served through PB's entire time at SLW) thanked PB for his clear vision, leadership and listening even with those who disagreed! All acknowledged appreciation and gave thanks.

Peter left the meeting, handing over chairmanship to Stuart H

Minutes of Part Two continue over the page

PART TWO *(A booklet from the Church Society was made available)*

11) Interregnum (Chaired by Stuart Hull)

Stuart advised that this is a time for discussion, questions, concerns, no actions will be taken tonight. SH expressed confidence moving forward and safeguarding our unity in the church family as we move through the interregnum.

ND advised that his presentation on the appointment process at the APCM was CofE practice based, and that the parish may do things slightly differently.

DM comments that the timing of this interregnum is good and briefly explained the patronage system, reminding us of the various roles and expectations.

JS reminded us that the PCC held away days as part of process during the last interregnum.

It is important to consider how to involve the church family through the process.

KP commented that communication is key. From experience with a different church, comms was restricted and caused some division.

PW reminded PCC members that if we are too slow, the bishop can push an appointment, although we do have 18 months.

ND added that there is a clause whereby we can remove the patron from decisions by the parish if we wish to alter anything about the vicarage or sell it for example.

DM added that they only own the right to patronage, not the church, and reiterated that we are able to select a candidate, whether the patron approves or not.

KP asked about the church society from a theological perspective. This will become clearer in the planned meeting with Dick Farr.

PW reminded all that the church Society has a website for further research if wanted.

a) Appointment Process (APCM PowerPoint circulated)

Section 11 - only PCC attending.

Decision on who will represent the PCC at that meeting – traditionally wardens but doesn't have to be. Candidates may come via the patron or external advertising.

We will hear more from the diocese at the pre-vacancy meeting.

The most important point is to hold the whole process up to God in prayer.

SH confirmed that ML intends to apply and is happy for us to know this but will be praying that the right person gets the job, and if he does not get the position, he would like to stay on as associate minister.

b) Parish Profile (circulated: our current and a good example from another church circulated)

SH- can we look at the way forward regarding process on this tonight please. It guides those involved in the selection process.

3 options: just update current version, improve current version by simplifying and refreshing, creating a new version.

After discussion, it was generally agreed that the middle option might be best. SH hopes that we could get a draft to the PCC by the next meeting. This would provide time over August to share with the church family, with the aim of having a draft ready for a section 11 meeting.

DM reminded all that although we need to be prepared, we do not have to rush! We have time to say farewell properly to PB and manage change as effectively as we can with the church family.

>> LP, NE and KP to support PJ in the writing process.

c) **Meeting arrangements with Dick Farr** (Church Society – Patron)

Action PJ to reach out to DF for potential dates, DF waiting for dates can we suggest a Monday evening? All agreed.

Do we pay his expenses to get here? - >>**PJ to investigate**

d) **Pre-Vacancy Meeting arrangements**

Communication has started with the diocese. They will liaise with the patron, Archdeacon of Sherbourne and her assistant to agree a date to meet with us for the pre-vacancy meeting. It is believed that the bishop is keen to be involved, but it is unclear whether he will attend any meetings.

The Vicarage was discussed - will it be part of the employment package or will it be sold? This will become clearer during the process. Nigel explained that there may be occasion to suspend the process if 1) the vicarage is being sold, and 2) if they are re-arranging parishes (e.g. putting us into a larger benefice).

Action – all to come prepared with questions for the pre-vacancy meeting.

The interregnum doesn't officially start until after Peter has left, which the diocese says is 1st August. This means the notice of vacancy won't be issued until then, at the earliest.

JT suggested a time to gather to pray. SH advised that the Wardens would be meeting on available Mondays in the church office from 6.45 – 7.45pm. PCC members are welcome at the start to join in prayers. It was agreed that further prayer gatherings should be arranged for the wider church family. DM reminded us of the need to ensure that Peter has scope to finish well during his last few weeks with us, even though the impetus to focus on this process can be dominating.

Farewell plans for Peter were discussed: PB's last sermon is on Sunday 6th July. There will be a fun 'farewell to Peter' evening on Saturday 12th July for those on the weekend away, and a presentation with the whole church on Sunday 13th July. Appeal for donations for gift coming in near future.

The meeting closed in prayerful reflection.

Future Meetings: 21 Jul, 29 Sep, 24 Nov