



Parochial Church Council Meeting – MINUTES
Monday 26th January 2026
7.30pm – 9.30pm in the Conservatory

2025/26 PCC Members: Stuart Hull (Chair/Warden), Steve Cornick (Treasurer), Nigel Day (Warden), Nick Elbourne, John Fleming, Alan Fryer, Jenny Harris, Paula Jones, Matt Lee (Associate Minister), Keith Loveless, Gillian Mannouch, Kevin Metcalfe, David Morgan, Lisa Perry (Minutes), Ann Powell, Kirsty Pringle, James Sharman, Janine Thomas, Paul Wareham.

- 1) Welcome & opening prayers
- 2) Apologies – Steve Cornick
- 3) Approval of Minutes of Meetings on 26th November. Approved subject to amendment:
PJ to amend reference to Andrew Palau (not Lewis Capaldi. Proposed by DM, seconded by PW.
- 4) Matters Arising (not elsewhere on agenda)
 - a) SH apologised for any confusion arising at the last meeting regarding the date of the prayer meeting.
 - b) 12.i Light Up Dorset: ML attended a meeting last week about this, several churches from Bournemouth and Poole are engaging with the idea from St. Mary's Longfleet, for a mission in July 2027. Lots of different events leading up to a 2-day weekend festival type activity. Potential for SJW to develop our evangelism and to get involved in supporting. Current stage: They are still trying to get churches to buy in to the idea
 - a. LLF / Alliance – update (Matt): Bishops have announced that the LLF initiative will come to an end next month. Moving forward, will not have wedding style services for same-sex Couples. Our Bishops want to support the blessings of these and indeed to go further, so that SJW and others (12 clergy in our diocese) will retain / ask again (originally asked 2 yrs ago) for alternative bishop oversight and for us to continue using the Ephesian Fund. Our position will be reviewed upon the appointment of a new vicar.
KP asked what the SJW position is if anyone requests a blessing - ML confirms that this is not a legally enforced ruling and not hugely different from people in the past requesting a christening without attending church or preparation sessions.
NE asked whether there is a risk that this whole process will re-start? It was agreed this is possible, albeit in a slower, more measured way. More will be known after the February General Synod meeting.
Where does this leave our relationship with Bishop Rob? It is separate, along the complementarian reasoning, rather than an LLF rationale
- 5) PCC and Sub-committee roles and responsibilities for 2026:
Deanery Synod posts are to be renewed this year (DM, NE, JH, GM). DS members can vote for General synod candidates.
PCC members whose period ends this year are JS, JF, PW.
It was suggested that all consider re-standing during the interregnum to maintain continuity. Elections will take place at the APCM on 6th May.
It was acknowledged that members are not required to stay on for a further three years if they re-stand and can step down after the interregnum if they wish. Deanery Synod would have a casual election in response.
All above to confirm their decision to PJ.
All sub-committees Chairs to advise SH and PJ of any changes to their role/membership.
- 6) Finance
 - a) Management Accounts to 31st December 2025:
GM reports that income is up, mainly due to regular giving increasing by £26k on budget.
The gift aid tax refund figure is an estimated – final figure expected next week once RP catches up on claims.

Total expenditure is up on budget by 19k. Some of this is due to church activities where income is also up so it is not concerning.

Net surplus of £13.5k, rising to £50.5 after legacy and grants.

DM queried overspend on GA budget, which should be level – **GM to check.**

- b) Treasurer's Report (including expenditure over £1,000 & Bank Account Balances as at 31st December)
£1k items: shed for 34 Churchill Road; women's craft items expense claim.
- c) Proposal to 'wind up' the F Newman Endowment: This is an historical trust to support children's work. Currently vested in the DBF. The diocese has suggested we could wind it up so long as the remaining funds are used for the original intent. Current balance is £3,237.

Resolution: The PCC agrees to close the F Newman Trust and will use the remaining balance on young disciples' activities. Proposed by PJ, seconded by GM, carried with one abstention from KM as he is the Children's Worker and wanted to avoid a conflict of interest.

7) Sub-committees

- a) S&F – PJ: See circulated minutes. Giving Review postponed due to interregnum, so we will give a finance update on February 22nd.
Items 7d & e - KP asked about surplus funds generated by small group activities and why some are donated to other charities - how has this come about? PJ advised that some entrepreneurial small groups generate income (mostly through donations) with little expenditure leading to a surplus over time. This has been discussed in detail at S & F, and a policy has been developed in conjunction with key members of the groups to ensure we encourage entrepreneurship whilst being good stewards of our funds and transparent in our operations. The policy will come before PCC for final approval in due course.
Item 3a - KL asked whether this matter had been resolved. Following discussion around the procedure taken and the report presented it was noted that there was no fault of any individual or supplier. The minor issue resulting from a faulty item was managed professionally and swiftly at the time. No further action required.
- b) BMG – PW: see circulated minutes. Deanery visiting re roof in February to advise on status of all roofs, some of which need replacement or significant repair. Recent rainfall has exacerbated some issues, and some areas are sodden and/or failing and need urgent attention. The cost is likely to be significant. Bat and swift boxes and a bee hotel are to be installed on church grounds following discussions with the Creation Care team.
GM asked about the solar panels whilst work takes place. They must come off to enable the repairs. Panels are working but the inverters are not. We prefer to replace the inverters only in order to retain the current Feed-in-Tariff, which provides a very good rate of return and would be lost if we replaced the panels.
JH asked about No. 34 and issues such as oil leaks arising from the temporary storage of motorbikes in the conservatory whilst the purpose-built shed is being prepared. PW confirmed that plywood sheeting will be in place to prevent this. ND asked if there is insurance to cover this. PJ confirmed that church insurance covers the building only, not contents.
PJ to check with insurers if bikes can be kept in conservatory.
Faculties for minor works applied for, as per minutes.
- c) GAT – DM: see circulated minutes. The committee have elected to keep the current prayer pattern and are encouraging homegroups to support at least one partner. Some items remain under discussion, so DM hopes to update with decisions after next Friday's meeting.
KP asked about third-party (non) partners - is this historical? DM confirms and adds that the GA team have decided not to give any more funds to these individuals/organisations. SH advised this also ensure we are compliant with financial regulations around conduit giving.
- d) Y&C – ML: No meeting. KP asked about the use of 'Joyned Up' for communication with young people. ML advised that it is one of the safest (social) media to use for safeguarding and confidentiality. KM advised that it was initially aimed at SOUL with regard to best practice and appropriate communications between leaders and group members. It does not allow for individual messaging and chats are controlled by an administrator / multiple leaders for accountability. Our safeguarding officers are aware and able to access if needed. FUSE use a young people-only WhatsApp group with no adults involved, again for safeguarding purposes.
- e) Pre-School – KM: No meeting since last time, due to meet Feb 5th. Updates: Staff member (also a church member) 'retiring', though will remain on roll as bank staff. Another staff member left over Christmas. This left a short-term but unexpected staffing shortage which the team managed well. A new appointment has

been made, starting next month, and some internal adjustments have ensured a full, effective team going forward.

- f) Deanery Synod Report – no meeting.
- 8) Standing Items:
- a) Safeguarding Matters
- i) Annual report (circulated): Mostly straightforward, with some actions from the Action Plan outstanding, but work in progress. The diocese is changing DBS provider to 31:8 and implementing a new 'Hub' for recording training and certification but this is taking longer than anticipated. We are putting pressure on the diocese but are subject to their timing. Meanwhile, the Safeguarding Officers have put applications through the original provider.
- Our own records are now managed via the website using Hubb. All updates are recorded by the Safeguarding Officers in any case, and PJ updates Hubb when she is informed of any changes. Staff who oversee ministry areas are responsible for ensuring Safeguarding checks are carried out in their ministry teams. The process is not perfect, and it was acknowledged that improvements are required to ensure we are clear on what roles are subject to Safeguarding checks and that records are well maintained. We are working on improving this and will be grateful to engage with the diocese hub once it is in place as this will enable us to be more accurate.
- The Committee noted their general concern about the delays with the diocese implementing 31:8 – this has impeded progress by our own Safeguarding Officers who have been working hard to ensure we are fully compliant.
- Note [following clarification post-meeting] that the Domestic Abuse training course is currently NOT required for PCC members, although churchwardens must complete it when in interregnum [compliant], and all volunteers who work with vulnerable adults and children.**
- Action on all to ensure our own training / DBS certification is up to date. Inform PJ of updates.**
- Action on S & F to monitor and report back to PCC on progress at the next meeting.**
- ii) Safeguarding Policy and Statement for review/signatures – Previously approved by S&F.
PJ to add churchwarden's signatures and update on website.
- iii) Any concerns to report: None reported.
- iv) Safeguarding courses: <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/login/index.php>
- b) Health & Safety: nothing to note.
- c) External activities to approve; none.
- d) Policies to review this month: Whistleblowing – approved by all.
- 9) Any Other Business:
- a) DM presented our Mission Statistics graphs and recommended other committee members view for themselves. They make interesting reading. We report on matters such as attendance and the make-up of our congregation, energy statistics and finances. They are available to view online but you require a login – PJ can supply this upon request from a PCC member.
- b. JH asked whether Christianity Explored will continue. ML advised that during the interregnum we don't have the capacity to run a course. However, we are witnessing the attendance of new people and some coming to faith through attendance. We could look at exploring other ways of inviting people in. We are currently promoting the online 321 course.
- 10) ML gave thanks in prayer. The PCC noted their thanks to ML for all he is doing during the interregnum.
- 11) Interregnum matters (Matt left the meeting)
- ND provided an update. Shortlisting is complete. Church patrons received all applications - 5 applicants in total. Our reps met with Church Patron, Dick Farr, to give feedback on applicants, as did Bishops and Diocese. This led to the shortlist of 3 people.
- Parish visits are being arranged for them - this is for the benefit of the candidates. We are not allowed to use this as a pre-interview opportunity.
- SH advised that the candidates would meet a small number of key people, rather than the whole PCC. Reps will visit candidates' church (candidate would be aware).

Next Meeting: 23 March 2026