



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

held on **Tuesday 20th May 2025**
at 7.00pm in St Mary's Church

Present: Kelvin Price (Chairman), Peter Reynolds, Bryan Jones, Mark Sanderson, Jean Brown, Paul Cummings, Anne Morris, Julian Hallett, Rachel Lewis, Roy Milnes, Jane Rothery, Alun Thomas, Rosie Winyard and Caroline Pascoe.

The meeting began with the Rector expressing gratitude for the welcome given to him and his family in the community.

1 Introduction from the Rector and welcome to a new PCC member

Kelvin reminded us of the values which are stated at the beginning of the agenda and emphasised the church's mission and our purpose is to grow disciples and glorify God.

2 Opening prayers

Kelvin read the collect for the day.

3 Apologies

to receive and accept apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Gerald Altree, Freda Davies, Hugh James and Mike Donovan.

4 Safeguarding

to receive an update and take any necessary action on any safeguarding matter

Judith presented her report.

- The risk assessment which shows as being due has now been done. We are still waiting for the Diocese for completion of one DBS check.
- Members are asked to read a Policy on support for victims and survivors of abuse which will be circulated prior to the next meeting and time allocated for discussion at the next meeting and to consider the two questions in the document.
- A potential problem during the VE Day celebrations was highlighted by Paul where 80 volunteers had been recruited. Judith and the Diocese Safeguarding Team have been made aware and reassurance has been given that the right action was taken. Extra care will be taken at future events to ensure volunteers carrying out roles with the vulnerable are risk assessed.

Proposed: Bryan Jones

Seconded: Peter Reynolds

unanimous

It was resolved to approve the Safeguarding Action Plan as presented by the Safeguarding Officer.

The Rector expressed his gratitude to Judith for her work.

Judith left the meeting at 7.11pm

KP

5 Minutes of the last meetings

- i to approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meetings held on 11th March and 18th March 2025 and to check for validity the minutes of the APCM held on 18th March 2025 for signing at the next APCM.

Proposed: Roy Milnes

Seconded: Mark Sanderson

unanimous

It was resolved to approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meetings held on 11th March and 18th March 2025

- ii to note the death of Susan Jenkins (appointed as a sidesman in the APCM minutes) and thank her for her service to St Mary's

This was noted and gratitude expressed for Susan's service to St Mary's.

6 Closed Churchyard

to consider any issues for the attention of the Town Council

Prior to the VE Day celebrations some voluntary work was undertaken to clean up some of the graves in the closed churchyard by Veterans on a visit to Ross-on-Wye. Concern that chemicals had been used had been expressed but this was found not to be the case and only hand tools had been used. The veterans were guests of Malcolm Jones who runs an organisation to help veterans back into work and set up businesses. The secretary will write to thank Malcolm and request that he lets the Town Council know if and when they wish to do more in the closed churchyard. Any veterans will also be welcome to join the Churchyard Angels on the first Saturday morning of the month in the open churchyard.

7 Faith, Hope and Love - Marks of Mission

to receive a verbal report from the Rector

Kelvin began by saying that he needed time to discover all that is going on and how he would like to continue. Plans so far include:

- Q & A sessions on a Sunday (possibly twice a year) for people to see where we are at
- Weekly drop in sessions in church over tea for anyone to come and have a chat with him
- A discipleship course to begin in September

Caroline added that meetings will shortly be set up with Portfolio Leaders and Paul suggested the continuation of monthly sessions for Lay Worship Leaders with the Rector.

8 Finance Report

- i to receive a report from the Treasurer and take any necessary action
- ii to note a letter from the Diocesan Board of Finance and accept a recommendation from the Treasurer to increase in the Diocesan Common Share Offer by 3.4% (rate of inflation) £79.800, from £6,400 per month to £6,650 per month.

Proposed: Roy Milnes

Seconded: Peter Reynolds

unanimous

It was resolved to increase in the Diocesan Common Share Offer by 3.4% to £79.800, from £6,400 per month to £6,650 per month.

- iii to note a letter from the Bishop concerning Diocesan Finance (for information) - Noted
- iv to receive information on the Project Cornerstone

Roy explained that he and Jean Brown had attended a workshop aimed at finding ways to encourage generosity and giving. They had conducted a survey of members of the congregation which showed that while our attitude to giving was above the diocesan average, it was well short of the ideal. A detailed report will be available at the next meeting and anyone who would like to join Roy and Jean in this project will be very welcome.

KP

- v to explore tithing (how the church donates to other charities)

A discussion on the church's giving to other charities took place. Each year, we currently give 5% of our income to other charities, nominated by members of the congregation and agreed by the PCC. Two important points came out of the discussion:

- People who give to the church are giving to the work of St Mary's – should they wish to give to other charities they will do so
- The church supports both international and local charities and community groups in a number of ways, by organising special collections, providing a venue at free or reduced cost and through its own community engagement.

Proposed: Paul Cummings Seconded: Jane Rothery unanimous

It was resolved to maintain our charitable giving at 5% of general giving each year.

9 Churchwardens' Report

- i. to receive an update on the new sink in church
Bryan would be raising the current sink, removing the cover and repairing the tap

- ii. to receive an update on the curate's house

Mark explained that the Diocese had offered the house, of which we own one third, to a curate in the neighbouring Benefice without any consultation. This followed an ongoing discussion with Diocese on a Heads of Terms agreement over maintenance, rent etc for the house. It was felt that a lack of communication was to blame, particularly as there are new officers in the diocese who may not be aware of the history of the house. It was agreed that the Rector and Churchwardens would arrange to meet the Diocesan Secretary (Sam Pratley) and the Diocesan Surveyor (Mike Williams) to discuss our position.

- iii. to consider an application to plant a memorial tree (cherry) in the open churchyard

Mark had been approached by someone wishing to plant a cherry tree with a plaque in the open churchyard. There is a suitable space.

There was concern that it was a memorial with no fee and it was agreed a donation should be requested.

Proposed: Paul Cummings Seconded: Rosie Winyard unanimous

It was resolved to allow the planting of a cherry tree with a plaque in the open churchyard.

- iv. to receive an update on the closure of the open churchyard

- a to agree to accept a quote for £3,000 to rebuild the collapsed wall

Proposed: Mark Sanderson Seconded: Bryan Jones unanimous

It was resolved to accept a quote for £3,000 to rebuild the collapsed wall

- b to authorise the churchwardens to arrange a tree inspection

Proposed: Mark Sanderson Seconded: Bryan Jones unanimous

It was resolved to authorise the churchwardens get a quote for a tree inspection of the Open Churchyard and allow an email decision to approve the cost from the PCC members

- c to consider how best to produce a memorial inspection report

Mark and Bryan will look at doing this in the summer with possible help from other volunteers

10 St Mary's Hall

- to receive a verbal report

Peter reported that the committee intends painting the lower part of the internal walls which are looking tatty where chairs have been stacked.

(Handwritten initials 'KP' circled)

The committee is still looking at the possibility of secondary double glazing.
It was agreed that the committee would draw up a list for improvements for the Diocesan Advisory Committee as the hall is under the jurisdiction of the Diocese.
It was also suggested that advice be sought from the County Conservation Officer.

11 Fun, Funds and Food Committee

- i to note recent events
- ii to note upcoming events

The report was noted and Rachel highlighted the event on 18th June with Kate Bliss which we need to push in order to make a good profit

12 Eco Church Working Group

to receive a verbal report

Rosie gave her report

- The Terms of Reference for the Eco Group had now been finalised and circulated to members
- We continue to strive for the Arocha Gold Award and have reached the targets in three out of five areas
- Work is needed on the church building and lifestyle of people
- There are useful resources from the CofE including a newsletter from the Bishop of Norwich (lead Bishop for the environment)
- It was agreed that the working party would set targets for the year and draw up an Action Plan

13 Health & Safety

to receive a verbal report from the Health & Safety Officer and take any necessary actions

There was nothing to report

14 Deanery Report


to note that the Deanery Plan has been approved

- The Rector would be attending his first Chapter Meeting of the Deanery clergy this week.
- The approval by Deanery Synod of the Deanery Plan was noted
- Minutes of the last meeting had been circulated for information

15 Date of next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 15th July, 2025 at 7pm in the church.

The meeting closed with a prayer and the grace at 8.12pm.



15th July 2025.
