



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

held on Tuesday 21st January 2026
at 7.00pm in St Mary's Church

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

1 Opening prayers and introduction

Kelvin opened the meeting with readings and a prayer for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

2 Apologies

to receive and accept apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Freda Davies and Caroline Pascoe.

3 Closed Churchyard

to receive a report of any issues from the Town Council representative

Councillor Utting explained that the Town Council was happy for the placing of three benches along paths in the northern section of the churchyard and explained that a fourth request (near the St Mary Street steps) was refused as it would inhibit cars turning after visiting the hall. He also offered advice on the takeover of maintenance in the newly closed churchyard and explained that the main reason the Town Council had refused to take it on was the cost of repairing the stone walls as they are already responsible for a large section of the churchyard perimeter walls. The secretary informed the meeting that she is in correspondence with Herefordshire Council on the matter of their takeover. It is also hoped that the Community Payback Team will continue to be involved in work in the churchyard.

With the main path now diverted to the path along Church Street, Mark asked the Council to look at repairing the potholes along this path, particularly difficult and potentially dangerous for wheelchair users.

At 7.10pm Councillor Utting left the meeting

4 Safeguarding

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

Judith reported that all PCC Training was up to date, several DBSs needed renewing and while some had been waiting for over a year, the system was changing which should make things quicker and more efficient from now on.

Ross Academy Choir is no longer meeting and Tots in Tune has restarted. Judith will update the safeguarding records.

A small safeguarding issue had been reported but was now sorted.

Kelvin thanked Judith for all she does.

RP

Proposed: Peter Reynolds Seconded: Paul Cummings unanimous
It was resolved to approve the Safeguarding Action Plan as presented to the meeting

At 7.15pm Judith Wiggins left the meeting

5 Minutes of the last meeting

to approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 18th November 2025

Proposed: Roy Milnes Seconded: Jean Brown unanimous

It was resolved to approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 18th November 2025

6 Church Mission and Community Outreach

to receive a verbal report from the Rector

- Advent and Christmas and Epiphany services had been well received and attended. Both schools and uniformed organisations had also come to their own carol services before Christmas. The Sunday afternoon Advent lectures also had an average attendance of 30-35 with input from both the clergy and Emily.
- An Alpha Course will begin on Tuesday 21st April in church, beginning with a hot meal and followed by talks and discussions.
- Emily will be running a weekly after school youth club on Wednesday from 4th February for children from years 4 to 8. This will include the children in the youth choir who will move their rehearsal from a Friday to 4.30pm on Wednesday.
- There will be a Lent Course on Sunday afternoons with the theme of Prayer, looking at the different ways we pray in our Sunday worship.
- Kelvin informed the PCC that BA PCC is leasing several of the parking spaces at Brampton Abbots Church. The income will cover the cost of maintaining the churchyard.

7 Standing Committee

- i. to ratify a decision to use a company to undertake payroll administration at a cost of £16 per month instead of using a programme to do it ourselves at a cost of £23 per month.
- ii. to ratify a decision of the Standing Committee to spend £275 +VAT on a scaffolding survey for the pinnacles.
- iii. to ratify the decision to spend £5k on a ramp around the east end of the church. (Note that this was the cheapest quote and that we have bought the scaffolding which was cheaper than hiring for any period of more than 10 weeks).
- iv. to ratify a decision to use £1,000 grant money (from HCT) to pay for a professional fundraiser for the work required for the pinnacles and spire.
- v. to ratify a decision to apply for a National Churches Trust grant of max £10k (deadline was 16 December) to go towards "de-risking" works to the pinnacles.

All members were in agreement with these decisions.

8 Churchwardens' Report

to receive a written report from the churchwardens and take any necessary actions

- Pinnacles and spire
- Progress report on sanctuary floor and churchyard wall
- Churchyard Closure (including gravestone safety checking)
- Roof and Gullies

Mark presented the report which was noted and discussion followed regarding employing a builder for the roof gullies and roof tiles.

Proposed: Bryan Jones Seconded: Peter Reynolds unanimous
It was resolved to employ a local builder on a contract basis, to check and repair/replace roof tiles where necessary, clear debris from gullies and ensure soakaways are clear in the spring and autumn of each year

Kelvin thanked Bryan and Mark for the enormous amount of work they do, particularly with all the building issues going on.

9 Finance Report

- i. to note a report from the Treasurer and take any necessary actions
 it was noted that Roy will be retiring at the end of this financial year. Everyone expressed their appreciation for his work as treasurer.
- ii. to agree that the treasurer submits the 2025 accounts for audit once he is happy all information is complete

Proposed: Mark Sanderson Seconded: Peter Reynolds unanimous
It was resolved that the treasurer submits the 2025 accounts for audit once he is happy all information is complete without further recourse to the PCC

- iii. to consider charitable giving for ~~2025~~
 Members were happy to show the church's support for the community by donating to local charities. It was also agreed that the charities should be asked to provide a report showing how the money had been used.

Proposed: Paul Cummings Seconded: Roy Milnes unanimous
It was resolved to donate £750 to the Horizon Centre

Proposed: Jane Rothery Seconded: Paul Cummings unanimous
It was resolved to donate £2,000 to the Hub

Proposed: Julian Hallett Seconded: Rosie Winyard unanimous
It was resolved to donate £1,500 to Enviroability

It was agreed that the remaining £1,250 would be held for use in any emergency global appeal.

10 Eco Church Working Group

to receive a report from the group

Rosie gave a verbal report.

She showed members a copy of the monthly Church of England's Environment Bulletin. A link for members to subscribe will be circulated.

She had been in further contact with an electrician regarding a quote for solar panels. A reminder was given that three quotes for any work over £10,000 must be sought.

The group will be meeting again next week.

11 Funds, Food and Fun Committee

- i. to note success of Christmas Tree Festival which made approx £6,000.
 This was a good success and enjoyed by many visitors. The new layout worked well, both aesthetically and practically.
- ii. to note upcoming events to include:
 - a organ recital on Saturday 7th February at 2.30pm
 - b candlelit concert Friday 13th March
 - c Lent Lunches
 There was discussion on the frequency as they had been poorly supported last year.

Proposed: Hugh James Seconded: Julian Hallett unanimous

It was resolved to have two lunches, one on 4th March (MU day) and one on 1st April (Lunchtime concert day)

- d Lent Challenge – Talents for the spire
- e and further ahead, Flower Festival (August bank holiday weekend)

12 St Mary's Hall

to receive a verbal report from the Hall Committee

The committee reported that the financial situation is good with the hall being almost fully booked. It was considering putting in additional insulation. Unfortunately another leak in the roof has appeared. Bryan will put up scaffolding to investigate.

13 Health & Safety

to receive a verbal report and take any necessary actions

There was nothing to report.

14 Deanery Report

to note that Deanery elections take place this year and that St Mary's is entitled to elect four members to sit on the Deanery Synod.

This was noted. Mark and Rachel are currently members but will be standing down this year (Paul Eward and Gerald Atree were also members). We will need someone to replace them. Deanery Synod members are elected for three years and automatically become members of the PCC.

15 Date of next Meeting

to confirm a date for the next meeting currently scheduled for Tuesday 17th March 2026 at 7pm in the church and the APCM scheduled for Tuesday 24th March 2026 at 7pm in church.

The next meeting of the PCC will be on Tuesday 17th March 2026 at 7pm in the church and the APCM will take place on Tuesday 24th March 2026 at 7pm in church.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer and the Grace at 8.17pm.



17/03/26