St Mary the Virgin
Ross-on-Wye
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inspiring faith, hope & love in each generation

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

held on **Tuesday 19th May 2026**
at 7.00pm in Walford Church

Present: Kelvin Price (Chairman), Bryan Jones, Paul Cummings, Mike Donovan, Hugh James, Catherine Lewis, Rachel Lewis, Roy Milnes, Mark Sanderson and Alun Thomas

1 Opening prayers and introduction
Kelvin opened the meeting with a prayer.

2 Apologies
to receive and accept apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Jean Brown, Freda Davies, Julian Hallett, Anne Morris, Peter Reynolds and Jane Rothery.

3 Closed Churchyard

i. to receive a report of any issues from Cllr Utting
Cllr Utting sent his apologies
Mark confirmed that the floodlights have now been fixed

ii. to note progress with the handover of the newly closed churchyard to Herefordshire Council

- Malcolm Jones has agreed to liaise between Herefordshire Council and the church regarding the churchyard.
- There have been complaints that the bin for general rubbish has not been replaced and the compost bin is overflowing. Herefordshire Council are aware of these issues but to date have not resolved them. It was suggested that we place signs at the compost bin requesting that all compostable and general rubbish is taken home.
- A patch of Three Cornered Leek has been found. Again, Herefordshire Council have seen this and need to remove and dispose of it.

4 Safeguarding

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

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

ii. to confirm the regular use of the church by the Air Cadets

Proposed: Paul Cummings Seconded: Bryan Jones unanimous
It was resolved to confirm use of the church by the Air Cadets.

iii. to confirm the adoption of and sign the Promoting a Safer Church Policy Statement

Proposed: Alun Thomas Seconded: Catherine Lewis unanimous
It was resolved to confirm the adoption of and sign the Promoting a Safer Church Policy Statement

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iv. to note that a Safer Recruitment administrator is currently going through the recruitment process - this was noted

At 7.07pm Judith Wiggins left the meeting

5 Minutes of the last meetings

to approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meetings held on 17th March and 24th March 2026 and to check for validity the minutes of the APCM held on 24th March 2026 for signing at the next APCM.

Proposed: Mike Donovan Seconded: Paul Cummings unanimous
It was resolved to approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 17th March 2026

Proposed: Bryan Jones Seconded: Alun Thomas unanimous
It was resolved to approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 24th March 2026

Members had noted the draft APCM minutes and were happy they were a correct record to be approved at the next APCM.

6 Rector's Report

to receive information on the following and take any necessary actions

- Benefice Strategy Day update
  Kelvin highlighted two points which came out of the Benefice Strategy Day
  i) Joint benefice services would take place in Walford for St David's Day, Harvest, Rogation and Ascension and at St Mary's on each 5th Sunday.
  ii) An update of the information boards would be looked at with the intention of presenting the spiritual aspect of church as well as the history. Mark added that we would need to revise the leaflets first.
- Alpha
  Current course is going well with 15 attendees plus 3 leaders
  More consideration needs to be given to the providing of the meals next time – it's too much for one person to undertake
  Advertising banner needs to be more prominent, i.e. on a street, not in the churchyard
- Churches Together Pentecost BBQ/lunch
  This Sunday 12noon - 2pm, a short service, stands and food is provided
- BBQ/lunch and Evensong – 26th July
  This is in hand – the hog has been booked and evensong will take place at 3pm.
- JKHS and Emily
  Kelvin has met with JKHS leaders who have noted that Emily is at the school to advocate Christianity and not just a "Social worker".
- Brampton Abbotts
  A plan to merge the two parishes of Ross and Brampton Abbotts is to be considered. A consultation will take place and this PCC will look at it at its next meeting

7 Finance Report

i. to note a report from the Treasurer and take any necessary actions
   The report was noted.
ii. to accept a recommendation from the Treasurer to increase the 2027 Parish Share by £250 per month to £6,900, i.e. £82,800 per annum

Proposed: Roy Milnes Seconded: Paul Cummings unanimous
It was resolved to increase the 2027 Parish Share by £250 per month to £6,900

KP

iii. to consider a suggestion that the remaining balance of money of £1,250, set aside for charitable giving from last year be sent to the Bishop of Cyprus and the Gulf for use in humanitarian aid within his diocese

Proposed: Mark Sanderson Seconded: Rachel Lewis unanimous
It was resolved to donate the remaining balance of money of £1,250, set aside for charitable giving from last year to the Bishop of Cyprus and the Gulf for use in humanitarian aid within his diocese.

iv. to note that all cash must be counted by two people, labelled with what it is for and dated before going into the safe, to ensure compliance with Charity Commission cash handling requirements
Noted – slips to be prepared for deposits to the safe

v. to consider the search for a new treasurer
A short advert to be placed with the Ross CDT newsletter for September (to be in by the end of July), editorial in the Ross Gazette (early September) and in our own newsletter.

8 Standing Committee
to ratify decisions made by the Standing Committee
i. to allow the RBL to host a picnic in the churchyard on Wed 15th or Thu 16th July
ii. to increase church hire fees for commercial organisations by £10 per hour. All other hire fees to remain the same
iii. to pay the £142 bus fare from the Hannah Purchas Hardship fund for a student to attend college in Hereford

Proposed: Roy Milnes Seconded: Mark Sanderson unanimous
It was resolved to ratify the three decisions above made by the Standing Committee

9 Ross Spire in Peril Fundraising Committee
i. to note minutes of previous meetings and accept a report on all actions to date
The report was noted.

ii. to note the acceptance of the letter of engagement by Hannah Vernon
This was noted.

iii. a) to agree to register with the Fundraising Regulator at a cost of £60 p.a.

Proposed: Mark Sanderson Seconded: Alun Thomas unanimous
It was resolved to register with the Fundraising Regulator at a cost of £60 p.a.

b) to authorise the purchase of the Church Heritage Fund Raising Resource at a cost of £49

Proposed: Mark Sanderson Seconded: Roy Milnes unanimous
It was resolved to authorise the purchase of the Church Heritage Fund Raising Resource at a cost of £49.

c) to authorise the Standing Committee to agree the submission of grant applications which are complex and in excess of £100,000, during the duration of the project

Proposed: Paul Cummings Seconded: Mike Donovan unanimous
It was resolved to authorise the Standing Committee to agree the submission of grant applications which are complex and in excess of £100,000, during the duration of the project.

iv. to agree that the group work with the architect and fundraiser for both work to the spire and pinnacles and in making the church future proof including the bringing the heating up to a net carbon zero standard

KP

Proposed: Roy Milnes Seconded: Mike Donovan unanimous

It was resolved that the Ross Spire in Peril group work with the architect and fundraiser for both work to the spire and pinnacles, and in making the church future proof, including bringing the heating up to a net carbon zero standard.

10 Administering the Chalice

to confirm twelve lay chalice administrants at St Mary's in addition to Canon Freda Davies and Dr Derek Glover (Licensed Lay Ministers)

Proposed: Kelvin Price Seconded: Mark Sanderson unanimous

It was resolved that Anne Morris, Paul Cummings, Paul Connell, Janet Cooper, Sue Jones, Ann Stirrup, Peter Reynolds, William Hazelton, Bryan Jones, Helen Setchfield, Melanie Mellor and Jane Rothery be allowed to administer the chalice at St Mary's.

11 Deanery Synod

to note that elections take place this summer for the Diocesan Synod. Lay members are elected by your Deanery Synod reps (Saul Robertson, Freda Davies, Anne Morris and Rachel Lewis).

This was noted.

12 St Mary's Hall

i. to receive a verbal report from the Hall Committee

Bryan spoke briefly to say that the committee are considering taking away one of the electric meters and installing secondary double glazing in the upstairs rooms.

ii. to note the work done to improve the kitchen and toilets and thank Bryan and his team for this.

13 Health & Safety

to receive a verbal report and take any necessary actions

Concern regarding the evacuation of St Mary's in an emergency during a big event (e.g. a concert) had been raised. When there are large numbers in church, the south porch door should be unlocked to allow escape as well as the chancel door and main door. A clear way to these exits should also be left. It was agreed that a laminated "instruction" would be produced to be read out at the beginning of all such events and an additional clause in the hire conditions would be added to ensure this happens.

14 Date of next Meeting

to note the next PCC meeting will be on Tuesday 21st July 2026 at 7pm in church

This was noted

The meeting closed with a prayer and the Grace at 7.56pm.

Reverend Kelvin Price

21/07/26.