**CHURCH OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL, ABINGTON**

**MINUTES OF PCC MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16th JULY 2025 AT 7.45PM PARISH ROOMS**

**PRESENT:** Rev Byung Jun Kim (Chair), Cathy Tinsley, Chris Waters, Stephen Lewis, Douglas Rutherford, Alan Munns, Lizzie Loe, Donald Loe, Dianne Ward, Susie McKay, Esme Cushing, Sue Harrison, Sandra Francis, Liz Kelly, Helen Halson, Melissa Tallack (minutes)

**21/25 OPENING PRAYER**

The meeting opened in prayer.

**22/25 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Alison Barnes, Damian Pickard, Prester Coleman, Rev Tracy Pegram, and Bob Purser

**23/25 WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**

Helen was warmly welcomed to the PCC. Opening remarks will be replaced by Juns letter see item 37/25.
 **24/25 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 21st MAY 2025**Were confirmed as correct and approved by all present.

**25/25 MATTERS ARISING**
95/24 – South path repair – work has started and is expected to conclude within a couple of weeks.

13/25 – Redecoration of the ladies toilet (Parish Rooms) – was discussed at the Standing Committee including the fact that there is a donor to pay for this work. A recommendation was made from SC to PCC to commission the work. This was approved by all present.

04/25 – Discipleship Steering Group Chair – we are delighted to announce that Bishop Andrew is happy to act as Chair for this committee. The group will be renamed in due course.

**26/25 CORRESPONDENCE**

There were no matters to discuss under correspondence.

**27/25 SAFEGUARDING**Esme has put together an easy read to explain what training people need to do and is currently assessing who has been trained to what level and will eventually share both together.

On the Safeguarding audit, surveys have been carried out and some focus groups have been held. A report is due for publication in the autumn. Recommendations will follow this.

We have had two safeguarding issues raised since our last PCC which are both in hand.

Stephen offered to assist Esme with the safeguarding work. Stephen is experienced in this matter due to the nature of his work and his passion for the topic. The offer was gratefully received.

Helen will email her safeguarding certificates to Esme for the record.

**28/25 ACTION / DECISION LOG UPDATE**Jun and Melissa will review the action log and circulate an updated version with the minutes.

**29/25 TREASURERS REPORT – FINANCE UPDATE, PARISH BUYING SCHEME, EXPENDITURE APPROVAL PROCESS**

Reports were circulated by Susie ahead of the meeting. We are generally tracking in line with the budget.

Susie is waiting for information from the parish buying scheme for energy contracts before making a recommendation to the PCC for a new fixed deal. The investment has now been moved as per the approval from the last meeting.

The finance committee agreed it would be wise to put in place an expenditure approval process, which will also include an expenses reimbursement processes, legacies and one-off donations. This is in progress.

**30/25 REVIEW OF THE LAST TWO MONTHS**
The fete went very well and was very well attended. The attendees were very diverse, showing its appeal to the broader community. The Ascension Day service was well attended including some younger people and was very good. 100+ people attended the Family Fun Day.

**31/25 CHURCH ROOMS SCOPING GROUP**The group has had an initial meeting and the suggestion from this group and the Standing Committee is for the scope to expand to explore all the avenues regarding the future of the church rooms, not just restrict it to an analysis of the Methodist church option. This proposal was supported by the meeting. It will be important to keep all relevant stakeholders such as the Nursery and Park Grove Methodist leadership team informed to avoid misunderstandings arising.

Dianne reminded the PCC to refer any rooms or carparking queries to her to deal with.

**32/25 BUILDING WORK REPORT**

The vestry floor – Donald has negotiated for some remedial work to be done. The smoothness of the surface was not ideal and so a coating will be applied. This work will be completed in one day. The quinquennial work will follow on the south path.
Small hall floor condition – quite a bit of woodwork around the perimeter of the room has been affected by woodworm and needs to be spray treated over a weekend. Resin repairs to damaged boards will also need to be undertaken. There is also woodworm in the Guides storeroom which also needs treating.

**33/25 REPORT ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH MISSION**

A report will be circulated with the minutes.
Little Fishes continues to be popular. Cathy proposes that Little Fishes will be held in the church on the first Monday of each month. 6th October will be the first one in church. The choir and Rachel Menzies (regarding cleaning) will be informed.

Abington Youth church is going bowling on Sunday.

A family lunch is being organised in the summer holiday and invitations are being issued.

Junior church will finish this Sunday. Thank you to all the volunteers who help with Junior Church. Cathy informed the meeting that she will be taking a break until Sept (although will still do Family Lunch and Family Fun Day). Cathy asked for a volunteer to keep the intercessions list up to date during the summer and Liz offered to do this.

**34/25 REPORT ON ANNA CHAPLAIN MISSION**

Anna Chaplaincy continues to be successful with APV visits every two weeks. Bishop Andrew has celebrated communion there and the residents loved it.
Sandra is the second Anna Chaplain and the work is divided between Liz and Sandra.

Liz is majoring on the care homes and Diocesan coordination. Sandra is focussing more on individuals at home and families and has had an invitation to take the Host to a lady at home. Sandra is also visiting in individuals when they are in hospital.

The meeting heard that George, the hospital chaplain is retiring and so a card will be sent to say thank you on our behalf by Jun.

**35/25 COMMITTEE REPORTS**

No further reports were discussed.

**36/25 TRACY’S FAREWELL SERVICE**

Tracy will soon have an interview and we hope that the process will be successful for her. Tracy is keen to have a longer break between finishing at St Peter and St Paul and when she starts in her new post. She has therefore requested to finish with us sooner rather than later. A mid Sept farewell service is likely. Refreshments and cake after the service in church was Tracy’s preference. There will be a collection and a specific gift was recommended and approved.

**37/25 LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH – RECTORS SECOND LETTER**

Jun’s second letter, pastoral guidance and the LLF prayers were circulated in advance of the meeting and views and reflections were sought.

The decision is to be made at a local level and this was considered appropriate.

The pastoral guidance was not easy to read and comprehend and would benefit from a simplified explanation.

Technically the incumbent makes the decisions about which prayers to use but Jun is keen to ensure this is done in consultation with the congregation.

It will be important to remember the compassion and mercy of God in all that we do and recognise that we are still on a journey. As there is a lot of confusion and uncertainty, sometimes people can fear causing offence but at the same time there is a history of real pain of those who are marginalised and it can be expressed in lots of different ways.

The afternoon sessions in October will help to discuss and clarify many aspects, allowing for the opportunity of learning together and care for each other through the process.

The General Synod has met last week and will meet again in September and they will discuss PLF and one possible outcome will be that they agree on a standalone format of a PLF service. If authorised, each parish will be given the choice to opt in or out.

We need to ask and answer a few questions throughout the process – do we agree to use PLF in public worship? If yes, other questions are which prayers? During which services? What do the policy details look like?

Do we agree to allow standalone PLF services (if they are passed) and do we support the proposed course to consult the wider congregation (which will run through October)?

What is more important than the questions and answers is how we handle this with care.

Jun explained the global picture, explaining that the URC, the Methodists, the Scottish Episcopal and American Episcopal church all allow same-sex marriages. Same-sex blessings are permitted in the German and Belgium Roman Catholic churches and in the Anglian church in Canada, South Africa and Wales. We are part of a greater, larger journey in the global church in discerning what is the faithful way to respond.

Jun will send a letter to all parishioners (like we do with the stewardship campaign) and will also include it in the newsletter in September. Members of the congregation will be invited to sign up to the course in October. Ultimately, we would like to aim to publish where we stand on the matter in Spring 26.

Helen will discuss with Cathy and Jun how to reach out and include our teenage members of the congregation in the discussion.

**38/25 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Stephen is a qualified mental health first aid instructor and has offered to run a course and will discuss this further with Jun.

There is now an iphone in the church (07717339755) to replace the landline. It can be found near the SumUp machine and is available to everyone to use.

**39/25 FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND SERVICES**

Youth Church Social: 20 July

Parish BBQ: 16 Aug

Family fun day: 25 Aug

Antiques Fair: 6Sep

Ride and Stride: 13 Sep

Joint Service at Park Grove Methodist: 21 Sep, 10.30 am (8.15 am at Abington, NO 10 am)

**40/25 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS IN 2025**

SC:  10 Sep, 19 Nov

PCC: 17 Sep, 3 Dec

APCM: date TBC

**THE MEETING FINISHED WITH THE GRACE**