

CHURCH OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL, ABINGTON

MINUTES OF PCC MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21st May 2025 AT 7.45PM PARISH ROOMS

PRESENT: Bob Purser (Chair), Rev Tracy Pegram, Prester Coleman, Andrew Munns, Donald Loe, Elizabeth Loe, Liz Kelly, Sandra Francis, Douglas Rutherford, Cathy Tinsley, Dianne Ward, Alison Barnes, Esme Cushing, Chris Waters, Stephen Lewis, Damian Pickard, Melissa Tallack (minutes)

01/25 OPENING PRAYER

The meeting opened in prayer.

02/25 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Rev Byung Jun Kim, Sue Harrison, Matthew George and Susie McKay.

03/25 WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Bob welcomed everyone to the first PCC of the year following the annual meeting with a special welcome to new PCC members.

04/25 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR, PCC SECRETARY, DEPUTY WARDENS, TREASURER, SAFEGUARDING OFFICER, SUB-COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND WELCOMERS

Vice chair – Bob Purser, proposed by Damian Pickard and seconded by Liz Kelly

PCC Secretary – Melissa Tallack

Deputy Churchwardens – Andrew Munns, Dianne Ward, Damian Pickard

Treasurer – Susie McKay

Safeguarding Officer – Esme Cushing

Tower Captain – Clare Dean

Electoral Roll Officer – Douglas Rutherford

Sub-Committee Chairs:

Buildings – Andrew Munns

Discipleship and Learning – Jun will act as interim chair for the next meeting until a new chairperson can be found

Community and Outreach – Melissa Tallack

Children and Young People – Cathy Tinsley

Finance and Stewardship – Damian Pickard

Welcomers and sidespersons - the current rota will continue although further volunteers would be welcome. The current list of welcomers and sidespersons is:

Alan Sutton

Pat Going

John Langley

Sandra Francis

Chris Waters

Sue Harrison

Jenny Mercer

Stephen Lewis

Dianne Ward

Owen Warr

A need for a parish administrator was raised and this will be discussed at the Finance Committee. The need for a communications committee was also raised and this will be discussed at the next Standing Committee.

05/25 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 12TH FEBRUARY 2025

Were confirmed as correct and approved by all present.

06/25 MATTERS ARISING

95/24 – South path repair – with thanks to Bob and Donald, we have been awarded a grant for 90% of the costs of the south path repair work. Paperwork from the Landfill Tax Community fund is awaited.

98/24 – Redecoration of the parish office – reorganisation of the parish office has been undertaken. Excess furniture and old documentation has been cleared out. There is, however, more paperwork to go through. The Standing Committee will discuss further modifications. Thank you to Cathy and Dianne for their work in clearing out the office.

99/24 – Lent Charities – Damian confirmed that £900 has been donated to Christian Aid and £1,000 to Eve charity.

07/25 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no matters to discuss under correspondence.

08/25 SAFEGUARDING

Esme informed the meeting that there was a new requirement for bell ringers to be DBS checked (at least two people should be DBS checked and everyone needs to undertake basic training).

A list of everyone missing the appropriate checks and training will be circulated. Instructions will also be sent out.

A Church of England review is currently underway.

09/25 TREASURERS REPORT AND REVISED BUDGET FOR APPROVAL

The summary report was circulated for the end of April, showing a position of £54,800 income and £58,400 in expenses which results in a deficit of £3,600. This is tracking in line with expectations.

Damian presented the revised budget, which had been revised to reflect a realistic budget for the year ahead. The revised budget forecasts £170,000 in income and £188,000 in expenses, leaving a deficit of £18,000 at the end of the year. This was formally adopted by all present.

Damian also informed the meeting that the CBF UK Equity Fund is being closed down at the end of June and therefore a decision is required as to what to do with the money that is currently held within this fund. Susie and Damian have reviewed the available options and recommend that the money is invested in the CBF Investment Fund, which we also invest in. This was formally proposed by Damian Pickard, seconded by Chris Waters and approved by all present.

The meeting thanks Susie for her work.

10/25 REVIEW OF THE LAST THREE MONTHS

At the last all-age service, one PCC member observed that the children did not seem engaged with the service and asked if there was an option to get them more involved in future all-age services. Cathy explained that the activity was a trial because it had been considered successful at a joint Park Avenue Methodists service and had been requested by one of the families. Others observed that there were some positives in that the children were placed centrally in the church and they looked very comfortable. The talk that Liz did was considered very good and involved the children.

The sound system service is due, which will hopefully check the loop system. Everyone was invited to let Donald or Rev Tracy know if there are any known sound dead spots in the church.

Lent – Chris Waters shared that it was the first time he had attended a Lent Group and found that he thoroughly enjoyed the experience. It has been good to see an increase in numbers and all groups were positively received.

Easter services – there were significant numbers in attendance this year on Easter Sunday and all services were remarkable. It was remarked that it was disappointing how few PCC members were in attendance through Holy Week, however, Tracy reported that the numbers were generally up from last year.

Little Fishes Plus was well supported by 18 children along with their parents.

Bandstand 125 year anniversary event – Cathy reported that two new families joined Little Fishes on the following Monday after the event so the outreach outcome was positive. It was felt that we were not well prepared in terms of setting out a stall and a suggestion of pull-up banners might be useful for future outreach events. The Community and Outreach committee will consider this.

Lunch on 21st May – approximately 30 people attended the lunch. Thank you to Hilary and team.

A number of PCC members commented on how well the assistant organist is doing. Contracting arrangements are progressing.

11/25 LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH : RECTORS LETTER

The meeting considered the Rev Jun didn't feel last year was the right time to get into a Living in Love and Faith (LLF) discussion, but feels that now is the right time, with a view to agreeing some prayers this year. A substantial discussion is proposed in July around the possible prayers. LLF has been so divisive, and Jun is keen that we don't end up being split ourselves and instead maintain our unity as we consider these issues. The available house group material may also be used, as well as an all-church meeting. It is recognised that some people may have strong views, and we need to be very sensitive to people's feelings and experiences.

It was agreed in principle to consider this matter in July. At the November meeting we will agree which sets of prayers we would want to use. We need to agree where, on the spectrum of possible prayers, we want to be. The meeting received Jun's letter and agreed to the timetable as set out.

The meeting thanked Jun for the careful thought he has applied to the matter and being so open to collective discussion and discernment on the way forward.

12/25 CHURCH ROOMS - PROPOSAL FOR A SCOPING MEETING WITH THE METHODISTS

At the annual meeting with the Methodists, we heard about where they were at in respect on plans to develop their site on Park Avenue. We are still struggling to work out the future of our own rooms and it was felt it would be useful to have a small group to work with the Methodist team on what our options might be. The proposal to form a small scoping group comprising the two Churchwardens, Damian, Simon McKay and Jun (or Bob) was supported by those present.

13/25 BUILDING WORK

Repair of South Path – see item 06/25 Matters Arising

Vestry floor – the plan is, after the service on June 8th, the clergy vestry will be cleared out to undertake the flooring repair work the following week, ready for the next weekend.

Quinquennial works update – the work is lined up to start along with the south path work.

Redecoration of the ladies toilet in the parish rooms – Donald explained that the work would cost £1,100 and would include repairs. The PCC supported this in principle but it was noted that it would need to be taken to the next Standing Committee as part of our governance process. The support of the PCC will be considered.

Thank you to the Buildings Committee for all their hard work.

14/25 REPORT ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH MISSION

Cathy reported that she did not have anything further to add beyond the contents of her circulated report.

15/25 REPORT ON ANNA CHAPLAIN MISSION

Liz reported that the Anna Chaplaincy in our church is growing as well as a further eight Anna Chaplains within the Diocese.

16/25 COMMITTEE REPORTS

No further reports were discussed.

17/25 AOB

There were no AOB.

18/25 FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND SERVICES

29th May – Ascension Day Service 10am

31st May – Family Fun Afternoon 2-4pm

7th June – St Christophers fete

8th June – Pentecost with 1pm picnic and 2pm short Ecumenical Service

21st June – churchyard blitz – volunteers welcome

6th July – Ordination service (morning, time TBC)

19/25 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS IN 2025

SC: 2 July, 10 Sep, 19 Nov

PCC: 16 July, 17 Sep, 3 Dec

APCM: date TBC

THE MEETING FINISHED WITH THE GRACE