

St Michael the Archangel, West Hill
Bringing Jesus Christ to our Community
Minutes of the PCC meeting

held on Wednesday 19 March 2025 at 7:30 pm at Meon Croft, Toadpit Lane

Attendees:

The Revd Mark Ward (Chair), The Revd Mac Dick (Vice Chair)
Pam Johns (Church Warden),
Joanna Bromley (Treasurer),
Matt Gardner (Standing C'ttee)
Sue Lock (Deanery Synod Rep),
John Davies (Electoral Roll Officer),
Sue Ritchie (Safeguarding Officer),
Rosemary Hudson (Eco-Church),
Ann Pangbourne (Minutes Secretary, Diocesan Synod Rep)

1 Mark opened the meeting and invited Ann Pangbourne to lead in prayer
Ann gave thanks for the life and witness of Dave King and prayed for Coral in her bereavement.

She spoke about King David's preparations to enable the building of the Temple and his legacy to the generation after him and likened it to what we are about on the PCC. She then read selected verses from 1 Chronicles 28 & 29

1 Chronicles 28:1-2 (NKJV) 1 Now David assembled at Jerusalem all the leaders of Israel: the officers of the tribes and the captains of the divisions who served the king, the captains over thousands and captains over hundreds, and the stewards over all the substance and possessions of the king and of his sons, with the officials, the valiant men, and all the mighty men of valor. 2 Then King David rose to his feet and said, "Hear me, my brethren and my people: I [had] it in my heart to build a house of rest for the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and for the footstool of our God, and had made preparations to build it. But God said to me, 'You shall not build a house for My name, because you [have been] a man of war and have shed blood.'

1 Chronicles 28:11-12 (NKJV) 11 Then David gave his son Solomon the plans for the vestibule, its houses, its treasuries, its upper chambers, its inner chambers, and the place of the mercy seat; 12 and the plans for all that he had by the Spirit, of the courts of the house of the LORD, of all the chambers all around, of the treasuries of the house of God, and of the treasuries for the dedicated things;

1 Chronicles 28:20 (NKJV) And David said to his son Solomon, "Be strong and of good courage, and do [it;] do not fear nor be dismayed, for the LORD God--my God--[will be] with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you, until you have finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD.

And then he asked: 1 Chronicles 29:5,6 (NKJV) Who [then] is willing to consecrate himself this day to the LORD?" ...Then the leaders of the fathers' [houses,] leaders of the tribes of Israel, the captains of thousands and of hundreds, with the officers over the king's work, offered willingly.

1 Chronicles 29:9 (NKJV) Then the people rejoiced, for they had offered willingly, because with a loyal heart they had offered willingly to the LORD; and King David also rejoiced greatly.

She invited the PCC to look to the business before them, in the knowledge that God by his Spirit is using what we have to offer in the building of His kingdom in this place and beyond.

She led the meeting in prayer using the words of David from 1 Chronicles 29:10-14

ACTION

2 Apologies were received from Fiona Rimmer (Church Warden), The Revd Ann Turner, Pam Baker, Coral King.

3 Minutes of the PCC meeting on 22 January 2025.

A draft copy had been previously circulated. No amendments were suggested.

The minutes were agreed and a fair copy signed.

A copy will be posted on the OVCM website

AP to
Trica L

4 Matters Arising

Mark asked for someone to lead the prayer in July. Mac volunteered

MD

5 Annual Meetings

The Annual Report and Financial Statements

The Financial Statements are still being amended by the Independent Examiner

The Give2Go Green money will be listed as a restricted fund

The written report was accepted as received with an acknowledgement that some wording may need to be changed once the Financial Statements have been agreed.

The full report will be sent out before the APCM and can be agreed by email.

Mark thanked Jo for all her hard work on this.

A letter had been received from the Diocese thanking us for paying the Parish Share in full.

JB

Churchwardens Fiona is putting this down and it is important that we have someone to work with Pam. Please be praying and speak to Mark or Pam if someone comes to mind

ALL

Nominations for PCC

There are three vacancies for 2025-2028. Matt Gardner will stand again and two other people have expressed an interest. Nomination forms were handed out.

Personal circumstance may lead to other vacancies arising

Ann Pangbourne does not need to be elected as she now has a place as Diocesan Synod Rep until June 2027.

Agenda Items in addition to standard

Mark will deal with this nearer the time

MW/AP

6 Mission

Following up on discussions from January 22

i) **Social Events:** Jane Follett is organising another Barn Dance on Sept 19

Rob and Rosemary will organise another Quiz night : date tba

Cag would like to have another cream tea for the Church Family : date tba

RH
MW

ii) **Styles of service:** Discussion ranged around the Third Sunday Service with varying opinions. Mark asked for PCC members' views on whether the teaching part of the service should aim to be all-age or for adults with an activity for children.. The latter was said to be the original vision, especially for adults under 40, who don't come to Communion where they would otherwise receive teaching. It was generally agreed that it is helpful to have the children's activities in the Sanctuary. From a family point of view, Jo felt a short slot for children (as we have had) is good with a later teaching session for adults. Children's activities, which have traditionally been the responsibility of the Service Leaders, should not fall on Rosemary. Rosemary will send out invitations to encourage Messy Church families but needs information from the Service Leaders regarding the service theme and children's activities. There was also discussion about music, recognising the dilemma of new songs being difficult for those who do not know them, but getting stuck in a rut if we use only well known hymns. It was suggested that more recorded music could be used for lively, new worship songs. We need to add 'AV operator' to the service rota.

/Continued discussion

Continued discussion needs to be based around the questions
Who are we aiming at? and What are we offering?
It was suggested that a first step is to be willing to break with liturgical norms
Jo will get feedback from her children and other families

JB

iii) **Home Groups:** A new Home group is planned to start upon April 23, restoring the number to 4 regular groups.

A written report on **MABS** was received from Ann Turner: the new seven-week course, "Life Explored" (looking for answers to life's big questions) will begin on May 12th.

iv) Prayer: Prayer ministry has not yet started. Mark needs to approve people to do this and maybe do some training.
More people have been attending the monthly Church Prayer meeting. (1st Wed 7:30pm)

MW

7 Written Reports

7.1 Safeguarding

a) **The OVCM policy on Safeguarding Children and Adults - adopted**

b) **Safeguarding Report** Sue has 11 people coming to a training session on Mar 26 which she will lead. She will need help with setting up her computer in the Narthex so that she can use the large screen.

SR

The new Safeguarding poster is in place with details of St Michael's people.
A suggestion by Ann Turner that we should have a Silverline Poster was agreed.
Ann Pangbourne will source this

AP

- *But the notice boards are too full and new ones are needed. These need to be in keeping with the church.*

who?

c) **Action Plan March 2025** was discussed and approved

d-g) OVCM Safeguarding Documents

All documents on OVCM policy: Domestic Abuse, Recruitment of ex-Offenders, Safeguarding and Operational Guidance and Safeguarding Procedures, had been circulated well before the meeting. These were noted.

h) Review of Risk Assessments. All 11 documents were reviewed and agreed.
It was also agreed that the Welcome Cafe should be added as a Church Activity onto the Dashboard.

7.2 Churchwarden's Report

a) A report from Mac re the new sound system was noted. Mac will organise a training session

MD

It was suggested that Cafe Church Leaders should take on the responsibility changing the batteries in the microphones each month.

A tick-box chart will be provided and instructions re where to find the microphones and batteries.

MD

b) Water leak. The repair of 6 months ago has leaked in the same place.

Fiona is attempting to sort this although she is away and unwell.

An emergency repair has been said to be impossible before Apr 3rd and the full replacement of pipes is due on 7th. Meanwhile the water is off. Bottles are in place for drinking water.

A portaloo will be hired and checks made to determine if we run use the heating

PJ.

c) Priest in Charge Board. Not yet progressed

d) NACRE Project Update.

Windows for the Narthex have all been ordered, for a full replacement.

A team to move furniture in the Narthex will be needed before they are fitted.

PJ

FIJ Estimate With the proviso that sufficient funds are available, it was agreed

to accept the estimate, for all except section 3.0 The Nave.
This section of the works needs further advice and discussion.
Flooring in the Narthex will not be able to be done until the Nave project is agreed,
as it was due to be all of a piece.

Give2GoGreen work - windows, lighting and Narthex insulation -needs to be completed
by the end of the year.

7.3 Deanery Synod Sue Lock gave a report of the recent meeting of Deanery Synod.
The May meeting of the Standing Committee will be considering lay training, for which
deanery funding is available. One thought is to provide such training on an eco-church theme.
Parish representatives have been asked to check and inform Becky Williamson, what
awards parishes have achieved, those being worked towards and what training or support
would be appreciated. They are asked to report back as soon as possible

SL

7. Finance Report. This had been circulated prior to the meeting.
Points to note were the current deficit.
The Santander Mandate has been lost by the bank. a new mandate was signed so that
Jo has access to this account

7.4 General Synod Regarding PLF

Ann Pangbourne gave a short update on the progress through General Synod since
July 2023. Most significant was that Bishop Martyn Snow, the lead bishop for the LLF
process this year, admitted that the proposed trial of stand alone services would in fact be
a permanent change, since there was no mechanism to withdraw them.
And the Bishop of Stockport, has said it would be unsustainable for clergy to bless a
same-sex relationship that they themselves could not enter.

Bp Martyn has said that he hopes that the process will be completed by the end of the
triennium in November 2026.

Currently just under half the members of all three Houses in General Synod are concerned
that Canon law has been circumvented in passing motions with a simple majority.
And that these motions fly in the face of the stated doctrine of marriage and the requirement
for changes in liturgy to be passed by a two-thirds majority.

Ann expressed concern at the lack of planned discussion re PLF at Deanery Synod in
October, and that none appears on the agenda for Synod on March 22.

She reminded the PCC that they, Deanery Synod and Diocesan Synod are part of the
Governance of the Church and that PCCs can ask for motions to be considered by Deanery
Synod.

8 Governance: Health and Safety

Pam Baker had sent written notice as follows:

No health and safety incidents.

PAT check carried out, all electrical equipment checked and passed.

Rosemary reported that Food Safety Training was done online by a group of 5 today.
The cost of this was £54

9 Calendar events

Mark thanked Sue for keeping the Calendar up to date.
The Barn Dance on 19 Sept at the RBL will be added.

The meeting ended with prayer at 9:30 pm

Dates of PCC meetings

Standing Committee meetings will be arranged on an ad-hoc basis when required.

PCC meeting dates:

2025

Sunday 18 May for APCM

Wednesday 18 June

Wednesday 23 July

Wednesday 17 September

Wednesday 19 November

2026

Wednesday 21 January 2026

Wednesday 18 March 2026

Sunday 17 May 2026 for Annual meetings