

MINUTES of the PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
held in the Church at 7:30pm on Tuesday 19th May 2026

Present: Philippa Bevan, Sarah Coote, Janet Fry, Catherine Harrison, David Preston, James Rattue, Natalie Roberts, Chris Sollars, Karen Whiting, Richard Worth

1. **Prayers.**
2. **Apologies for absence.** None
3. **Agreement of Agenda.** There were no additions to the Agenda.
4. **Minutes of last meeting (17/03/2026).** The minutes for the meeting of 17/03/2026 were approved.
5. **Matters Arising.**
 - a) **PCC.** JR welcomed Catherine and Karen as new members of the PCC.
 - b) **Matters Arising.** JR will check that the "Safeguarding for All" document has been distributed to the congregation.
6. **Correspondence.** There was no relevant correspondence.
7. **Safeguarding.**
 - a) **Safeguarding incidents.** JR reported that there had been no Safeguarding incidents since the last PCC meeting.

JR and Julia Foster have been working through the actions on the Safeguarding Dashboard. These are almost all complete.
 - a) **Policies.** The PCC reviewed the Recruitment of Ex-Offenders policy and the Parish Statement of Safeguarding Policy. DP commented that the Employment of Ex-Offenders Policy looked complicated; JR explained that the Diocese would guide us in the event we ever needed to use it. Both of these documents were approved.
 - a) **DBS Checks.** The PCC considered whether to require all members of the PCC to undergo DBS Standard checks (at a cost of £8.50 per person). JR explained that this is recommended as best practice by the Charity Commission but is not mandatory. The Churchwardens have already undertaken DBS Standard checks; CH and KW already have Enhanced DBS checks through their work. The PCC decided to keep the current policy that members are not required to undergo DBS checks automatically, only if they have a specific role that requires it, such as working with children or vulnerable adults.
8. **Personnel.**
 - a) **Treasurer.** Ashleigh is starting the handover to Rob Brown.
 - b) **Secretary.** JR commented that the PCC Secretary role was still vacant and it would be useful to find someone to do this.
 - c) **Co-option.** JR explained that SC and PB were eligible for re-election at the APCM however this was inadvertently overlooked at the meeting. CH proposed, and JF seconded, that SC and PB be co-opted to the PCC to serve for the coming year. This was agreed unanimously.

- d) **Deanery Synod.** DP asked whether it was possible to appoint a third Deanery Synod representative, as a couple of people had expressed interest following the vote at the APCM. JR will follow this up.

9. **Committee Reports.** The Staff Team had met via Zoom since the last PCC meeting. Other committees had not met.

10. Community.

- a) **Schools.** JR reported that there were currently 5 children at Church Club – this is about the minimum needed to make the Club viable. Numbers had dropped (from around 12) since the pandemic. The Church Club team were keeping the situation under review.
- b) **Cadets.** JR reported that the Farncombe Cadet branch held their enrolment event at St John's.
- c) **Spring Fair.** Jane Jopson had submitted a report on the Spring Fair, the main points were as follows:
- The weather was kind – the date had been changed to avoid the Compton Village Fair.
 - The new tables, purchased following a fundraising drive, were very useful. Enough money was raised to purchase a couple of gazebos, which were appreciated by the stalls in the churchyard.
 - There were fewer Church stalls this year but more external stalls.
 - All stalls, both Church and external, reported good business.
 - The children's area in the Narthex, run by the Messy Church team, had worked well.
 - The entertainments, including the Farncombe Jazz Choir, Godalming Dance School, Godalming Junior Band and Charterhouse Singers were good and well received. The Spring Fair team may look to change the line-up for next year to give other groups a platform to perform.
 - A professional First Aider was in attendance at the event but there were no incidents that required first aid. JR suggested approaching the St John's Ambulance, who may be able to cover First Aid on a voluntary basis.
 - Around £4,800 was taken on the day, with the net proceeds expected to be around £4,000. This money will benefit St John's primarily, with a donation given to local Diabetes UK group, a long-standing supporter of the Spring Fair.

Jane requested that the PCC agree to hold another Spring Fair on Saturday 15th May 2027 (to provide cover for insurance purposes). This was agreed unanimously.

- d) **Farncombe Villager.** David Holt will stand-down as Editor and designer of the Farncombe Villager at the end of the year. JR is looking for someone to take-on this role. The Villager is a popular publication locally and a good contact for us with the wider community. CS suggested advertising the post via our current channels, including the website and weekly sheet.

11. Mission & Outreach.

- a) **Board Games afternoon.** JR reported that the new Board Games afternoon is bedding-in well. Attendance is currently around 7 or 8 people.
- b) **Prayer for Groups.** JR reported that Sue Petty and Pam Powell are meeting regularly to pray for the people who attend the groups and Sue co-ordinates, including Kettle's On and Cotton On.

12. Ecumenical (and wider) Relationships.

- a) **Deanery.** JR reported that Rev'd Chris Bessant has stepped-down as Area Dean for the Godalming Deanery. Rev'd Sally Buddle has been appointed as the new Area Dean.
- b) **Racial Justice Covenant.** JR reported that the Racial Justice Covenant was raised during the recent Diocesan Clergy Conference. Parishes are expected to review their activities in the light of this

policy. JR will circulate the updated Racial Justice Covenant. He asked for volunteers to look at this and report back to a future PCC meeting.

13. Money & Buildings

- a) **Treasurer's report.** There was no Treasurer's Report for the meeting as the handover from Ashleigh to Rob is under way.
- b) **IT.** DP reported that he had not completed the set-up of the first new PC for the office. He had arranged to meet with CS on 26th May to do this.
- c) **St Edmund's rental.** The Roman Catholic parish of St Edmund's uses St John's for a morning service on Sundays, for which they pay us a rental fee for use of the building. The rate has remained the same for the past two years and Claire Booth recommended an increase of 5% to cover increased costs. This was agreed unanimously.
- d) **Quinquennial report.** CS advised the PCC that the 5-yearly Quinquennial inspection of the building will take place on 3rd June. There have been some major changes since the last inspection, including work to the Gents toilets and the new Fire Alarm and Emergency Lighting systems. Some items from the last report in 2021 remain outstanding but overall we are in a good position for the forthcoming inspection. The PCC thanked CS for his work on this.

14. Development Plan. JR advised the PCC that, now the Church Development Plan has been formally adopted, we need to start working through the tasks. He recommended beginning with forming groups to consider the following items:

- Discipleship Pathways – how people can “move” through the activities we offer to deepen their faith and develop as a disciple; identify possible gaps and possible offerings that could fill them
- AV System – investigate options for improving the AV used for Sunday Space and Messy Church; identify current needs and research suitable options
- Music Director – investigate how this works in other Parishes and possible sources of funding

Some work has already been done on these items but this needs updating.

DP will form a group to look at Discipleship Pathways and CH will form another to look at the AV System.

15. Any Other Business. There was no AOB to consider.

16. Date of next meeting: The next PCC meeting will be on Tuesday 21st July.

The meeting finished at 8:26pm with the Grace.