

To / Present	
1. Diane Backhouse (PSO & SC)	9. Alexandra Lamond
2. Mark Boyes	10. Matt Levinsohn (Chair & SC)
3. Lucy Falcus (Deanery Synod)	11. Anne Rolfe (Warden & SC)
4. Simon Honeywell (SC)	12. Pamela Rushton
5. Sarah Hope	13. Margaret Vaughan (Diocesan & Deanery Synod)
6. Martin Howard	14. Elaine Webster
7. Geoff Jowett	15. Paul Wheeldon
8. Karen Killick (V. Chair, Diocesan & Deanery Synod)	16. Guy Wingate

#	Agenda Items
1.	<p><b>Opening Prayers and Reflections – Martin</b></p> <p>“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” Matthew 11:28-30</p> <p>Martin challenged us to think about how busy our lives are. Life is busy for many of us and it may be time to step back and not cram everything into every minute of the day. Often we are in a hurry – what was Jesus’ approach: rarely in a hurry. His life was busy but was he in a hurry – hurrying from one thing to another? No, his focus was different – much of what we are studying in church at minute reflects this – Sabbath, solitude. If we are trying to follow Jesus why aren’t we following his example? Think about what do we actually need to do and fit into time we have? Try to be less hurried. Martin quoted Martin Luther to finish: “I have so much to do that if I didn’t spend at least three hours a day in prayer I would never get it all done.”</p> <p>How much of a priority is it in our everyday lives?</p>
2.	<p><b>Apologies for absence, and declarations of interest</b></p> <p>a) Apologies had been received from: Rob Govier and Chris Vass.</p> <p>b) Declarations of, Conflicts of Interest were recorded for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Matt Levinsohn as incumbent, his wife as an employee (Receptionist).</li> <li>II. Margaret – when discussing LLF/Parish Share as she is the Vice-Chair of Durham Diocese Board of Finance (DBF).</li> <li>III. Martin – when discussing LLF/Parish Share as he is an employee of DBF.</li> </ul>
3.	<p><b>Approval of minutes of the meeting</b></p> <p>a) The PCC were asked if there were any comments, issues or concerns relating to the minutes taken at the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023. Minor tweaks had been made to finance update, no others were given.</p> <p>b) The PCC was asked to approve the minutes for February as a true record of proceedings, by Matt. 12 in favour / 3 abstentions / none against. Motion carried. <b>(ACTION – Diane - to forward minutes to Shiromi).</b></p>
4.	<p><b>Actions/Update and matters arising, not covered elsewhere on the agenda</b></p> <p>a) Question was asked concerning Defibrillator sited outside Church Centre entrance. Matt confirmed it is now functional and was funded by the Rotary Club.</p> <p>b) Terrier will be sent out to PCC <b>(ACTION Wardens).</b></p> <p>c) Environmental Group Report had been sent out, Communication group no longer exists, Social Group were asked to send their report to Diane. <b>(ACTION Social Group)</b></p> <p>d) The Legacies policy is being written – <b>(ACTION Guy)</b></p>

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5.	<p><b>UPDATE: Chair</b> Matt updated the PCC regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) New Wine leaders: uplifting time. Best ever attended leadership conference.</li> <li>b) Brilliant Easter Messy Church (12<sup>th</sup> March) with significant numbers of new families and families who have not been for some time. Some people expressed an interest in coming back to Sunday Church.</li> <li>c) Jan is currently exploring an Easter event for local schools to see if they would like to bring their students to us.</li> <li>d) Youth service of 19<sup>th</sup> March went extremely well. Our thanks to the young people and those who helped them prepare. Lots of evidence of young people growing in their gifting.</li> <li>e) First 20's evening is being advertised for the 2<sup>nd</sup> April – our own twenties are very excited about it and looking at their roles in leading it and partnering with TVC.</li> <li>f) Matt met with Thomas Widdowson from UCCF about university ministry. He is 0.5 days per week at Teesside Uni in Middlesbrough. Currently we do not think anyone from UCCF or Fusion is on the Stockton Campus but Matt is meeting with Gavin from Jubilee later in week as they have already done some student work there. Discussion ensued – it was noted that majority of students at Stockton uni campus is overseas 18-19yr olds, mainly from South East Asia on pre-uni courses.</li> <li>g) Cleaning has considerably improved and we are seeking to encourage Peter in the work he is doing.</li> <li>h) Bishops evening on 13<sup>th</sup> March was primarily an opportunity for the Bishops to hear what our views are. There were lots of questions asked about adherence to scripture, the pragmatic difficulties of ministers with divided churches and ministers feeling vulnerable to public attack. Questions were raised about whether gay marriage is the direction of travel in the C of E as that is what both Archbishops have said. Bishop Paul did not think that this is the direction of travel. There were also questions around visible differentiation and the needs of churches to be able to say to their congregation that their wing of the C of E is orthodox and worth getting behind. The Bishops wanted us to be aware that nothing has been voted on. Bishop Paul wants the proposals to pass as he wants to bless same sex friendships. He feels there will be adequate protection for evangelical churches and ministers should the motion pass in July or November to allow same sex blessings. There were 55 people at the evening with around half from All Saints. A short discussion ensued.</li> <li>i) The PCC was asked for any comments relating to the APCM Report. Thanks to Diane for compiling and all those who contributed reports. Matt then proposed its approval. All in favour Disseminate report to church (<b>ACTION Diane</b>)</li> </ul>
6.	<p><b>UPDATE: Financial</b> Guy Wingate provided an update on current church finances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Church finances remain healthy. Early annual payments of utility and insurance bills which were originally anticipated to be monthly payments have meant that outgoings are slightly higher than planned. Some of the available hardship funds have also been used to support a funeral. Other than this, income and expenditure is consistent with 2023 budget assumptions. Overseas and domestic mission giving from church funds remains at 10% of income.</li> <li>b) The Independent Examiner has assessed the Church Accounts for 2022 and issued a supporting Financial Statement. Martin proposed acceptance of the Independent Examiner's Report of Church Accounts for 2022, Margaret seconded - all in favour. These will be presented at APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting) in April. Financial returns will be submitted to the Diocese and Charity Commission in due course (<b>ACTION Guy</b>).</li> <li>c) A new Donations &amp; Legacies Policy has been drafted with the intention of it being presented to the next PCC meeting for review and approval (<b>ACTION Guy</b>).</li> </ul>
7.	<p><b>UPDATE: Parish Share Proposal</b> This agenda item was a follow-up to the last PCC meeting discussion on the recent Synod vote to support the use of LLF blessings. PCC acknowledge there is a spread of views on this topic with All Saints' Church taking a clear position consistent with scripture and established biblical teaching.  Over the past month members of the congregation have asked what further tangible steps can be</p>

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	<p>taken to emphasise the seriousness of the matter to the Diocese. The opportunity had subsequently arisen to attend a Diocese 'listening' meeting on 13th March regarding LLF developments with Bishop Paul. A number of church members went to express their concerns and ask for LLF decisions to be reconsidered.</p> <p>PCC discussed a number of options to reduce Parish Share paid to the Diocese and decided to continue paying that portion of Parish Share associated with clergy costs and associated good work that the Diocese does, and 'pause' payment of additional Parish Share until the final outcome on LLF blessings is known. The 'paused' payments will equate to 25% of the current Parish Share contribution.</p> <p>The next meeting of Synod is in July. PCC will review any decisions and the direction of travel of Synod at that time. If an acceptable position on LLF blessings is reached then the retained monies from the 'paused' element of Parish Share will be forwarded to the Diocese.</p> <p>Matt will write to Bishop Paul to explain the position being taken by PCC which has been prompted by significant concerns raised by the congregation. A further communication will be made to our church congregation. All Saints' Church remains steadfast in its mission to welcome all to know Jesus <b>(ACTION Matt)</b>.</p> <p>Geoff proposed we pause our parish share by 25% and we communicate this to the Diocese and the congregation, Alex seconded: 11 in favour, 1 abstention, 3 against.</p>
8.	<p><b>UPDATE: Safeguarding</b> Diane updated the PCC regarding the report previously circulated. No comments given.</p>
9.	<p><b>UPDATE: Warden(s)</b> Anne updated the PCC regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) PGL Electrical Installation Condition Report was shared and explained. Cost £1620 – paid. PGL to be asked to provide risk assessment relating to only competent/qualified people carrying out work in affected areas. Anne proposed that the cost of this remedial work be approved in order to guard against any future fire risk - cost of £858 inc. VAT, Alex seconded. All in favour. <b>(ACTION Wardens)</b></li> <li>b) Sound system housing quote (Fitting Property Solutions) was shared £916.50. Alex proposed acceptance of quote, Diane seconded. All in favour.</li> <li>c) Discussion was held regarding further works, e.g. church ceiling. Further discussions will be held. Wardens to prioritise future works <b>(ACTION Wardens)</b>.</li> </ul>
10.	<p><b>UPDATE: Group B Working Parties</b> Buildings, Discipleship and Community Engagement working parties gave updates on their progress. Reports to be circulated to PCC <b>(ACTION Diane)</b>.</p>
11.	<p><b>Policy/Procedures:</b> Disclosure Policy/Procedure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Comments regarding the Disclosure Policy/Procedure previously circulated to PCC were asked for. None were given. Matt proposed that the PCC accept the Disclosure Policy/Procedure. All in favour. <b>(ACTION Diane)</b></li> </ul>
12.	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Eco church report from Environmental group had been previously shared. Thank you to Karen for providing report.</li> <li>b) Matt asked for reports from Social Group and Group B Working Parties to be sent to PCC secretary for filing <b>(ACTION Working Parties)</b>.</li> </ul>
-	<p><b>Close</b> - The meeting finished with the Grace</p>
-	<p><b>Date of next PCC meeting</b> – 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2023 (post APCM)</p>