



Present	
1. Diane Backhouse (PSO)	6. Anne Rolfe
2. Martin Howard (PCC Sec & SC)	7. Pamela Rushton
3. Geoff Jowett (SC)	8. Karen Snowdon (Warden & SC)
4. Matt Levinsohn (Chair & SC)	9. Paul Wheeldon
5. Karen Killick (Vice Chair, Deanery & Diocesan Synod)	10. Guy Wingate (Treasurer & SC)

#	Agenda Items
1.	<p><b>Opening Reflection</b> – Karen Killick</p> <p>Karen shared three things really have prompted her thoughts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One is that I wanted to look at something spoken about in Colossians.</li> <li>• Second is a line of a thought/homily I heard on Premier Radio as I was driving. I only heard the last few words, and it made me really think.</li> <li>• Third is something that happened to me AGAIN this year. When I thought we had got to March and I was safe .....</li> </ul> <p>What is one of the first words we teach babies?            We give them a tiny toy that makes a noise and put it into their hand, or hold out a rich tea finger and say “ thank you “ or “Ta “ as they do in Staffordshire where I was born. We think it important that our children learn to say thank you.            And then there are the thank you letters after Christmas, in my case painfully written to grandparents and aunts a continent away, whom I only knew as black and white photographs. And we teach our children to say thank you. I did, or thought I had.            I said it happened AGAIN this year, in March ....I met up with an old family friend JT who has known both my children since they were tiny, and she said “ Did you remember to take that parcel down to Sam and Caleb before Christmas”? I mentally shouted at my son, not again Robin, not this year as well and after two reminders, one by email... and I was embarrassed by his lack of acknowledgement of presents given, AND CROSS I WOULD HAVE TO HAVE THAT CONVERSATION WITH HIM AGAIN THIS YEAR.            Colossians 2.6&amp;7 So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught and overflowing with thankfulness.            Colossians 3.15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.            It is not just my son who forgets to say thank you. I was on the bus the other day and was surprised at the number of passengers who got off at their stop without bothering to thank the bus driver.            What about us/me , in our prayers?</p>

#	Agenda Items
	<p>Thankfulness, gratitude, is such an important part of prayer. Thankfulness is so central to our worship, and to our way of life as Christians. But people don't talk about it much. It is just assumed. We don't pay it much attention.</p> <p>There is a surprising dimension of gratitude. Thankfulness is subversive. Thankfulness is counter-cultural. It is a real defence to guard our minds, our hearts and our souls against envy especially.</p> <p>Our world encourages you to desire stuff, to want to acquire more stuff, to never be satisfied with the stuff you've got already, but to aspire to the next version, the newest design, the brighter bauble. Market forces tell you that this stuff will save you, will make your life better. But really, none of this stuff helps you grow closer to God, none of it will make you a better person or – in the end – even a happier person.</p> <p>When we are thankful, truly thankful, we have less need of all the stuff we are being tempted with. Gratitude means that we are happy with what we have, and we are thankful to our God who provides all that we need and delights us with beauty and joy and kindness. Being grateful for what we have, whatever it is, is the start of challenging materialist forces, and letting God's kingdom prevail instead. Gratitude is the recognition that we are not in control, that all life is a gift. In God's Kingdom, we are not in charge, but God is. The things we have available to us are not there because we have earned them, but because God has given them to us.</p> <p>Paul asks us in the first letter to the Corinthians:            What do you have that you did not receive? And if you received it, why do you boast as if it were not a gift?</p> <p>And the answer is that we have nothing that is not a gift from God. God gives generously to us all. Giving thanks to God acknowledges our relationship with the Giver.</p> <p>There is real wisdom in counting our blessings one by one and thanking God with hearts and hands and voices.</p> <p>The reflection ended with us singing "Give thanks with a grateful heart" and a time of prayers of thanks.</p>
2.	<p><b>Apologies for absence</b>            Apologies had been received from: Chris Vass, Jacob Howard, Lucy Falcus, Simon Honeywell, Ben Scott &amp; Margaret Vaughan.</p> <p>Matt declared an interest as his wife is an employee            Martin declared an interest as an employee of the diocese</p>
3.	<p><b>Approval of minutes of 17<sup>th</sup> February PCC Meeting</b>            The minutes were approved.</p> <p>Proposed by Karen Snowden and seconded by Anne Rolfe, all in favour</p>

**Matters arising and Chairs update – Matt**

We continue to have Sarah Hope and Andrew Killick as readers having just gone through their review and Nicola Dursley, Chris Vass as Pastoral Assistants, and Peter Gray as a funeral minister.

It was proposed by Matt and all were in favour of Peter Gray continuing as a Funeral Minister.

Some sadness and illness. Sheila Falcus passing. Tim WW in hospital as we speak with sickness.

Under our three priorities:

1) Discipleship:

- (i) I issued material on discipleship which some groups are using for Lent. It was issued to those not in groups for their personal use.
- (ii) We continue to emphasize discipleship and growing in faith eg Deeper.
- (iii) With the Connect Team we are exploring launching Connect Discussion and Coffee which will run on the other fortnight to Connect Lunch club.
- (iv) We are looking to host an evangelism conference in September. More details to follow.

2) Helping people find their place/invitation:

- (i) We have seen some more people inviting others to explore faith. One lady on a Monday is exploring faith with me and another gentleman has just started meeting me. Both were introduced by congregation members. We need to keep working on this.
- (ii) The electoral roll has shrunk. We are able to see who is finding their place and who has not. We still have a fringe and it is about working out how to help them engage and feel part of things.
- (iii) We continue to have social events to help people find their place here. Men's events to be announced.
- (iv) CAP will be in after Easter to speak to us. Maybe start a course after that?
- (v) Elaine Eley has been exploring Social Prescribing. We are working out our capacity before rolling that out.
- (vi) Kintsugi course starting today with 10 people.

3) Reaching 20's and 30's

- (i) The twenties group is continuing as before. No obvious things to flag up.
- (ii) The mums and toddlers group started today which Emily Scott is part of. I am yet to hear how it went.

Priorities for APCM (for 2025):

- (i) ***The pillars of Praise and Prayer (blessing our community)***: Developing both and seeking God for his leading in blessing our communities and pushing in during worship.
- (ii) ***Getting out there***. Our default can end up being 'come to us'. We want people to not have to come to us to encounter us.

4.

	<p>(iii) <b><i>Making it clearer the steps to join the church</i></b> and our follow up stronger for those who are not here. It should be a choice to leave rather than a drift.</p> <p>The review of the Electoral Roll is ongoing and currently stands at 128 compared with the previous number of 170. Approximately 20 people from our regular congregation have not yet signed up.</p> <p>Keeping in touch with people who had not attended for a period of time is essential although quite difficult as many people now would call themselves a regular member if they attended every two or three weeks. Life groups and other regular groups that allow us to connect regularly and develop friendships are essential for this.</p> <p>Other opportunities for supporting the needs of our community were discussed and Karen Killick suggested running a “Death Club” as it is something that many people really struggle with both the practical aspects of death as well as the emotions. It was suggested that this could run regularly with input from solicitors, doctors, accountants, etc. at various points.</p> <p>It was raised that the Satellites youth camp in the summer will probably run at a deficit or approximately £1500 unless another group is able to join them to share transport costs. It was proposed my Matt and all were in favour that the camp be subsidised from the savings being made due to not paying a Youth Pastor salary at present.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p><b>Youth Pastor Update - Matt</b></p> <p>The post had not been readvertised as yet and Matt suggested that we should advertised with no closing date and interview as we go. It was agreed that a screening interview should take place to establish general suitability for the role before inviting them to a formal interview day. Mike Taylor from UK/USA Ministries to see if any previous interns may be suitable and interested in working in the UK. This would be subject to relevant visas and we would expect at least a 3 year commitment.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p><b>Financial Update – Guy</b></p> <p>Our income is currently up by £2k overall but much of that has been one-off donations to the building related projects.</p> <p>Standing Orders are down £1k on budget but Parish Giving Scheme is up £1k.</p> <p>Savings from not paying the Youth Pastor salary are currently approximately £3k.</p> <p>Other income and expenditure is generally as expected.</p> <p>It was noted that Connect make a small profit each month, however this is used to subsidise the annual coach trip each summer.</p> <p>A request has been made for the Durham Evangelical Network (DEN) or which Matt is a member, for us to hold their funds in our account. Due to the nature of the group not being a registered charity they have had issues with their current bank rules and their account is being closed. It would be setup as a restricted fund in our accounts and not form part of our church</p>

	<p>accounts. The PCC agreed in principle and Guy will provide further clarification at a future meeting on how it will be administered.</p>
7.	<p><b>Safeguarding Update</b> – Diane</p> <p>Diane had attended a PSO get together recently at Cuthbert House.</p> <p>The diocesan safeguarding advisory panel have appointed two PSO’s to the group.</p> <p>The Inequ Surveys as part of the Safeguarding Audit had over 900 responses which is more than most dioceses have received and the vast majority of them have been very positive.</p> <p>Changes to the requirements of Domestic Abuse Training are currently being made with changes to the groups of volunteers who need to complete this to foundation level. This will be reviewed and we will initially start with those who have a pastoral role.</p> <p>The Parish Dashboard continues to be update and we are currently at 76% which has moved us up to Level 3.</p> <p>The review of the risk assessments is ongoing.</p> <p>The “Safe Spaces” posters are still to be printed and stuck to toilet doors, This will be actioned shortly.</p> <p>Training in trauma response will be available shortly and sessions are to be confirmed.</p> <p>The safeguarding matrix needs to be updated amd will be discussed at the May PCC meeting.</p>
8.	<p><b>Social Update</b>– Martin</p> <p><b>Pancake party</b> – This was well attended with 130 attending, the majority of which were not church families.</p> <p><b>Murder Mystery (SH)</b> – This is planned for Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 7pm.</p> <p><b>Sunday Afternoon Walk (MV)</b> – This ia planned for 6<sup>th</sup> April after APCM starting at 12.30pm. Two walks will be planned; a short walk around park and a longer walk to Bowsfield Nature Reserve which will also include a litter pick.</p> <p><b>Mens Prayer Breakfast &amp; Walk (ML)</b> – This is planned for 26<sup>th</sup> April and will consist of bacon butties followed by a prayer walk around the parish.</p> <p><b>Treasure Hunt (MH)</b> – This will be a walking treasure hunt around the parish and will take place on a Sunday afternoon following a shared lunch.</p> <p><b>Lake District Day Out / Walk (BS)</b> -It was suggested that this is planned for August</p>
9.	<p><b>Eco Church Update</b>– Martin</p>



	<p>The next step for Eco Church is achieving the Silver award. This will require wider church participation than the Bronze Award. Eco Group membership to be confirmed at May PCC. Action plan for Silver Award to be discussed in June.</p> <p>NZC Action Plan – Phase 2 Draft produced and to be confirmed with Eco Group before the end of the month.</p> <p>Key priorities agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secondary Glazing to Church Windows</li> <li>• Install additional PV Panels and battery storage</li> <li>• Improve heating system to 558B Flat</li> <li>• Investigate hall heating options</li> </ul>
10.	<p><b>Warden Update</b> – Karen</p> <p>The church hall floor has been completed and looks really good. New feet for the chairs had been fitted to ensure they do not cause damage.</p> <p>The Hall Hire agreement has been updated making reference to looking after the floor. A few amendments to the wording were discussed and to be shared with Shiromi.</p> <p>Car park lines and flat numbers to be updated over the coming months.</p>
11.	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>Guy reminded the PCC that it was agreed earlier in the year that an Induction session will take place in May to ensure all PCC members understand their responsibilities as trustees.</p>
-	<p><b>Close</b> - The meeting finished with prayer at 9.08 pm</p>
-	<p><b>Date of next PCC meeting</b> – 6<sup>th</sup> April following APCM &amp; Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May</p> <p>Opening reflection to be led by Matt Levinsohn</p>