



Present	
1. Diane Backhouse (PSO)	6. Karen Snowden (Warden & SC)
2. Lucy Falcus (Deanery Synod)	7. Ben Scott (apologies)
3. Martin Howard (PCC Sec & SC)	8. Margaret Vaughan (Deanery & Diocesan Synod)
4. Matt Levinsohn (Chair & SC)	9. Richard Wakefield (SC)
5. Pamela Rushton	10. Paul Wheeldon
	11. Guy Wingate (Treasurer & SC)

#	Agenda Items
1.	<p>Opening Reflection – Matt Levinsohn</p> <p>Isaiah 61: The Year Of The Lord’s Favour Good evening. It is good to be together tonight. Welcome to those of you who are new to the group. Great to have you on board. In one of Jesus most powerful speeches when he says what he is about, he quotes Isaiah 61. The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor to proclaim freedom to the captives, release from darkness from prisoners, and proclaim the year of the lord’s favour’. It is an amazing promise. A promise from the sovereign lord. The lord of everywhere.</p> <p>My question is, when is the year of the lord’s favour? The new testament seems to suggest rather than being on year, that it is every year. That every year we proclaim good news to the poor and so on. Just this afternoon I was talking to someone who has just come to faith who is astounded the difference it is making in their home. There is joy in my home they told me. Who would have been excited about the year of the lord’s favour, the year of jubilee? Those in debt. Those in trouble. Those in prison. Those in darkness. Those who felt victims of injustice. Those mourning. Perhaps for those for whom last year was great, the jubilee year did not mean so much. But for loads of people it was a game changer.</p> <p>Tonight I wanted to remind us, and encourage us to pray for those for whom this year is going to be jubilee for them. Where they might have entered the year with no faith or going through tough times. But that we would pray their mourning and lack of joy, and ashes would become a garment of praise. That God would use us to bring such light and joy and hope to our communities. We saw some of that at holiday club. We saw some at the BBQ and people feeling at home. We sense it in our worship in church. I am praying and fasting for it on Wednesdays and I know many people are joining with me in that.</p> <p>There is a quiet revival beginning to take place with the number of young adults attending churches increasing as they realise that there is something missing in their lives. The church has been described as a community that they didn’t know they needed.</p> <p>You might remember at the APCM three things.</p> <p>Step In- The encouragement to really join in our church. It would be good to pray into that and encourage people to step in. To find their place in the family of God. I spoke of seeking more – Wanting more of God. And finished with the idea of Wild Gardening – Seeing the harvest is there but we need to seek them out. Ask those questions to those who are searching- Have you</p>

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	<p>been thinking about God? About purpose? And as we serve our community: Toddlers, Schools, Kintsugi, Christians against poverty, and so on. That we would see the year of the lord's favour proclaimed and joy come into homes all over our area.</p> <p>The time ended with a few minutes of reflection and prayer.</p>
2.	<p>Apologies for absence Apologies had been received from: Chris Vass, Simon Honeywell & Karen Killick</p> <p>Matt declared an interest as his wife is an employee Richard declared an interest as his wife is an employee Martin declared an interest as an employee of the diocese Margaret declared an interest as Lay Chair of Durham DBF</p>
3.	<p>Approval of minutes of 17th March PCC Meeting & 6th April Post APCM Meeting The minutes from 17th March were approved. Proposed by a Paul Wheeldon seconded by Pamela Rushton all those present at the meeting were in favour. 5 Abstentions</p> <p>The minutes from 6th April were approved. Proposed by a Pamel Rushton seconded by Paul Wheeldon all those present at the meeting were in favour. 4 Abstentions</p>
4.	<p>PCC Induction – Matt / Guy</p> <p>Matt shared a general introduction to the role of the PCC by outlining the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-operation with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. • The consideration and discussion of matters concerning the Church of England or any other matters of religious or public interest, but not the declaration of the doctrine of the Church on any question. • Making known and putting into effect any provisions made by the diocesan synod or the deanery synod, but without prejudice to the powers of the council on any particular matter. • Giving advice to the diocesan synod and the deanery synod on any matter referred to the council. • Raising such matters as the council consider appropriate with the diocesan synod or deanery synod. <p>Guy shared two documents with the PCC members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charity Commission booklet – Charity Trustee: what's involved • Church of England booklet – Trusteeship: An introduction for PCC Members



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5.	<p>Matters arising and Chairs update – Matt</p> <p>Lots going on in the church since last time:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Holiday club over the easter holidays.• Good Friday all age service. Worked very well following on from the Holiday Club. <p>Launch of evangelism team for teesside: 11th Oct we are hosting conference for churches across both Durham and York Dioceses.</p> <p>Diocesan synod - LLF discussion continues nationally but nothing further and therefore no further action required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Transformation bid continues (Youth Hub etc). <p>People joining the church which has been great: Welcome team are working hard to help people be noticed and find a home. Some discussion took place on establishing a system to ensure people get followed up at an appropriate time. Churchsuite “Flows” could potentially be used for this.</p> <p>Today we held a session on baptism.</p> <p>GEM (Greater Europe Mission) leaders are coming Wednesday and Thursday to explore what partnering with us and other churches might look like. This is an American mission group that is looking at planting churches alongside local church leaders.</p> <p>Mason who is a trainee pastor from North Carolina arrives on the 3rd June. Ben is line managing him. He is with us for June & July and will be living with John Littlehailes.</p> <p>We are about 90% sure of being offered a serve team person for next year probably line managed by Cat and working with older children and youth. To reduce the pressure on providing housing for the intern it was agreed to split it to Sept-Dec and Jan-July.</p> <p>Life Exhibition getting booked up.</p> <p>American mission team 1 coming 21st -28th June. Outreach in park planned on 22nd June and therefore the church picnic will move to become a picnic tea at 4pm.</p> <p>Church camp numbers are increasing but currently only 20 adults, 10 children and some youth signed up.</p> <p>Couch to 5 K starts this Sunday, 1/3 don't find bible easy. Will see how it goes and maybe start something else.</p>

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	<p>Youth Pastor Update</p> <p>We have one application so far and expecting another application shortly. Both are local and have lots of experience. The plan is to interview on 7th June and follow a similar format to the previous interviews.</p> <p>Matters arising:</p> <p>It was raised that the hearing loop is still not working and that a number of people are finding it difficult to hear without it. This is in hand and will be sorted as soon as possible.</p>
6.	<p>Working Parties - Matt</p> <p>The previous working parties were too indefinite length and therefore lost focus. These were discussed at Standing Committee and the following focus for the work parties was suggested.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Eco/Buildings: Work on plan for development. How do we develop the site to support Eco Church and Net Zero agenda. 2) Discipleship Audit: What are life groups doing, Sermons, etc. How good is our discipleship. First question is how to analyse it? 3) How well are we meeting the needs of our community. Maybe start with Elaine Eley who has links with social prescribing and survey out ministry. Who is here? Who isn't? Who is being served? Who isn't? What could we cut to do something else? <p>PCC members were asked to consider which work party they would like to join by the June meeting and time will be allocated in July PCC meeting to start discussions. The working parties will then report back in November.</p>
7.	<p>Financial Update – Guy / Margaret</p> <p>Margaret Shared a summary of the current financial position:</p> <p>Congregational giving is broadly meeting budget, there have been a couple of substantial one-off donations which are increasing the income line. the impact of holding some Satellites income is also increasing the surplus by about £3k; expenditure broadly on budget</p> <p>Expenditure:</p> <p>Utilities - this looks low but the invoices for March and April have now been paid so this will correct itself in May</p> <p>Curates and vicar's house expenses - looks high but we have paid both annual water bills now so the budget is not reflecting the phasing of the spend</p> <p>Staff salaries etc -underspent - direct consequence of not appointing youth Pastor</p>

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	<p>Guy shared some procedural details.</p> <p>Whilst the financial position is positive a risk review will take place at the mid year point to clearly review where we are up to.</p> <p>Guy reminded the PCC that the Gap Analysis had identified 3 areas that needed to be addressed via an induction of PCC members each year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial Control Document – a very detailed document has been produced. As it contains a lot of confidential information it is not for wide publication, however a summary document was shared with the PCC. <p><i>It was noted that the protection for the treasurer was not included in the document and it needed to include the fact that the Gift Aid Secretary sees the bank account each month and would be able to spot any unusual transactions.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register of interests will be maintained and actions such as a member stepping out of the meeting for discussions that could be a conflict of interest will be used. • Disclosure Log will be maintained, managed by the Standing Committee shared with the PCC as required. It was agreed by the PCC that a threshold of £25 will be used and any gifts above that level should be declared. <p>The proposed templates were approved by all.</p> <p>Therefore all the actions from the gap analysis conducted against the Charities Commission checklist of controls have not been either completed or are in hand to be closed in coming days.</p>
8.	<p>Safeguarding Update – Diane</p> <p>1. Actions taken since last PCC:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Diane has updated Safeguard Matrix and sent to PCC for review and approval. b. Diane continued updating Parish Dashboard. PCC were informed of task relating to Known Offenders and Leaders/helpers being aware of the Code of Safer Working Practice they need to adhere to. c. Youth Risk Assessment was sent to Tim and Ruby for reviewing – no response as yet. d. Kintsugi Risk Assessment was finalised and agreed with team leaders. <p>2. Future actions needed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Matt and Diane will be having a termly safeguard meeting on 27th May. b. Diane to attend ‘Training in trauma - informed response to disclosure’ at next available opportunity – so far no other dates have been scheduled. c. To continue finalising risk assessments and make available for ministry leads and their teams. d. To continue updating Parish Dashboard as work is accomplished, considering new National Safeguard Standards being introduced from December, with an 18-month allowance to be fully compliant.



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9.	<p>Social Update– Martin</p> <p>Murder Mystery (SH) – This was planned for Saturday 22nd March at 7pm and was an enjoyable evening.</p> <p>Sunday Afternoon Walk (MV) – This was planned for 6th April after APCM starting at 12.30pm. Two walks were be planned; a short walk around park and a longer walk to Bowsfield Nature Reserve which included a litter pick. Six large bags of litter were collected</p> <p>Mens Prayer Breakfast & Walk (ML) – This took place 26th April and consisted of bacon butties followed by a prayer walk around the parish. The date at the end of the holiday was perhaps not the best as only a small number attended.</p> <p>BBQ & Treasure Hunt (MH) – This was well attended including a number of new church members and included a walking treasure hunt around Preston Park.</p> <p>Picnic in the Park – 22nd June. Due to the American Mission Team hold a mission event in the park that afternoon it was agreed to move this to a Picnic Tea at 4pm.</p> <p>A Night at the Musicals – 28th June (Youth) – The young people are hosting the evening as a fundraiser for the Satellites Camp in the summer.</p> <p>Church BBQ (ML) -13th July – It was agreed to cancel this due to Church Camp the week before.</p> <p>Lake District Day Out / Walk (BS) -It was suggested that this is planned for 16th August.</p>
10.	<p>Warden Update – This was circulated before meeting for information only this month.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At the date of writing this report (10.05.25) the carpeting of the Nave is booked to commence on Monday 12.05.25 2. The roofing tiles and mortar repairs have now been completed to the roof of the church. 3. Weekly ground maintenance support by Andrew Eley has been very helpful in improving the garden areas within our grounds. Hazel and John Taylor care for the plants in the flower beds at the front of the church. 4. We have been advised by the company who refurbished the centre flooring not to clean the floor using water, the water can penetrate the finish on the flooring and cause damage. <p>The centre floor is best maintained using the large blue scissor dry mop. The dry mop is stored in the centre with the tables at the back of the hall. Peter the caretaker has been requested to Hoover this mop each week.</p> <p>We do have a separate floor cleaning mop and solution for use by Peter for marks that are more permanent. (as advised by the company who refurbished the floor)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. The Wardens Visitation is on 10.06.25 beginning at 6.30pm at St Edmunds Church in Sedgfield.
11.	Any Other Business



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The MIND charity are running support sessions for young people and have asked if they could use a room at church. No space was available at the proposed time but space is potentially available in the TVYFC Offices and discussions are on-going.• The PCC had been asked via email to confirm that we were happy to support a donation of £1000 to the "SORD" Charity. Nine PCC members responded and all were in support of this donation.• It was commented that the car parking markings were now very clear and made the car park easier to use.
-	Close - The meeting finished with prayer at 9.00pm
-	Date of next PCC meeting – Monday 16 th June Opening reflection to be led by Pamela Rushton