



Present	
1. Diane Backhouse (PSO)	6. Pamela Rushton
2. Simon Honeywell	7. Karen Snowden (Warden & SC)
3. Martin Howard (PCC Sec & SC)	8. Ben Scott
4. Karen Killick (V. Chair, Deanery & Diocesan Synod)	9. Richard Wakefield (SC)
5. Matt Levinsohn (Chair & SC)	10. Paul Wheeldon

#	Agenda Items
1.	<p>Opening Reflection – Karen Snowden</p> <p>Karen started by reading a few verses from Isiah 49 and ended reading verse 16.</p> <p>“See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are ever before me.”</p> <p>Karen shared a story which demonstrated that all the people in your lives are important and it is important to acknowledge everyone that we come into contact with.</p> <p>Karen ended with the comment “God has no problem remembering our names.”</p> <p>We ended with a short time of worship singing “ Before the throne of God above”</p>
2.	<p>Apologies for absence</p> <p>Apologies had been received from: Lucy Falcus, Chris Vass, Margaret Vaughan & Guy Wingate.</p> <p>Matt declared an interest as his wife is an employee</p> <p>Richard declared an interest as his wife is an employee</p> <p>Martin declared an interest as an employee of the diocese</p>
3.	<p>Approval of minutes of 21st July PCC Meeting</p> <p>The minutes from 21st July were approved.</p> <p>Proposed by Karen Snowden and seconded by Simon Honeywell, all those present at the meeting were in favour. 3 Abstentions</p>
4.	<p>Matters arising and Chairs update – Matt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Events over the summer both services and also gatherings in the park went great • Ava has arrived and is settling in well. Standing Committee agreed a budget of £120 per month for Uber journeys whilst she is living in Norton until Christmas. • Back to church Sunday: 2 more at 9am another 6 at 10.30 plus some more recently. It was commented that the service was well structured for those who were not regular members. • Welcome lunch at the end of the month has about 10 people coming so far.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bible course just finished with Emma and Ruane on it. Good foundation. • 2 people for baptism possibly two more, however it is likely that we will delay the baptism service. We currently have 4 or 5 interested in confirmation. • The PCC were informed that questions had been raised about Peter’s duties. In response Peter has begun to work using a checklist of actions which will be discussed weekly with Shiromi’. • Sarah Hope has been preaching at St Pauls once a month for the last 3 years, but has felt God calling her to be there on a permanent basis. She is therefore moving to St Paul’s after Christmas which is great news for them but sad for us. It was noted that Sarah’s pastoral role at the 9am service has been really important and that we need to consider who will pick this up. • Clive has been with us a while and had previously been a reader in York Diocese. He now wants now to be authorized as a reader at All Saints. <p>It was proposed by Matt that Clive Shergold be authorised as a reader at All Saints. All were in favour.</p> <p>Our benefice has been suspended for a number of years, however the suspension has now lapsed a vacancy in the benefice exists.</p> <p>During a vacancy in the See of Durham the Crown assumes patronage rights from the Bishop of Durham who is sole patron of the benefice. However, under the applicable legislation it falls to the Bishop of Jarrow, Acting Bishop of Durham, as the “relevant bishop” to act for the Crown in the vacancy. Bishop Sarah has confirmed that she would like to institute the Reverend Matt Levinsohn as incumbent of the benefice. As Matt is the current priest-in-charge of the benefice the appointment can be achieved via the shortened procedure described in section 16A of the Patronage (Benefices) Measure 1986.</p> <p>One of the conditions of using the shortened procedure for Matt’s appointment as incumbent is that the PCC has passed a resolution stating that it approves the proposal that Matt, as sitting priest-in-charge, should be appointed incumbent.</p> <p><i>Matt left the meeting at this point.</i></p> <p>It was proposed by Karen Killick and seconded by Pamela Rushton that the PCC approves the proposal that Matt Levinsohn, as sitting priest-in-charge, should be appointed incumbent. All were in favour.</p> <p><i>Matt was asked to return to the meeting.</i></p> <p>The PCC confirmed with Matt that they fully supported his appointment as incumbent. Matt was grateful for the PCC’s support</p>

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5.	<p>Vision Update – Matt</p> <p><i>Disciples Who Make Disciples</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Helping parents to disciple their children and young people. Included in this is increasing parental awareness of their children’s faith. Postcards. Cat is starting a “Parenting for Faith course. A Youth briefing for parents took place last week which was felt to be very useful. 2) Increased focus on discipleship in children’s ministry including listening to God, reading the bible, sharing faith and celebrating what God has done. 3) We will respond with what next for adults discipleship in the light of the survey. One of the things we want to work if if we are confident to help make disciples. 4) We are revisiting being a youth hub with Kathryn when she returns. I can bring paperwork for that to the next PCC. It would mean having an additional member of staff on about 20hrs who would both work with getting two other youth groups improved, but also back fill Kathryn’s time so she could help with that too. 5) Fasting Wednesday’s are continuing this term. <p>Youth actions and priorities will be added once Kathryn picks up the post of Youth Pastor again.</p> <p><i>Less Busy And Helping People Join & Blessing the community</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Welcome lunch coming up end of the month. We are up to 11 people with many more to follow at next one. 2) Social calendar looks good. Will come back to who is organising. Doc the PCC asked for has been produced. 3) Blurring boundaries between ‘church’ and non church people. 4) Start group for parents of very young children- Home group style in church building each Monday. 5) Helen Sankey is looking at setting up a parent baby group for non christians. 6) Greater focus on blessing our community: Death Café, Bereavement Journeys, CAP course (teame now in place and starting in Jan), Kintsugi, Connect Coffee & Discussion group (slowly growing in numbers) 7) More people are looking to develop further links with our local schools. <p><i>Develop reaching 20-39’s</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Social media focus: Childrens min plus wider & website focussing outwards. 2) YAG plus broadening current life groups. 3) Focus on discipling those in that bracket. Eg. Baptism, mentoring. 4) It was noted that we have become a younger church in the last few years.

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6.	<p>LLF Update and next steps – Matt</p> <p>A powerpoint had been shared a couple of weeks ago with all PCC members but it was also displayed on the screen during the meeting. The values shared underpin what has been the view of our ministers in this church and is also Matt’s view. The PCC were aware that there are people in our congregation with a variety of views.</p> <p>Matt explained that we are in a critical moment. The LLF process has stalled. There was a plan for devolved episcopal oversight but that has been rejected by the house of bishops.</p> <p>In February Bishop Steven Cottrell has promised to bring a final motion to general synod. So it is now a moment to potentially try to influence the process. But also a moment not to forget our values and not to forget we want to act like Jesus in every way. It is important that this does not distract us from the other things we are developing as a church and the focus on discipleship.</p> <p>A timeline of the process so far and probable route forward was shared.</p> <p>We looked at the core values which had been shared and these were supported by all.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) All people are loved and we are to value and welcome all people as made in the image of God and loved by Him regardless of sexuality of anything else. We are against homophobia and repent of it in the church. B) Scripture teaches (and has been held to teach since long before Jesus), that marriage is between a man and woman and sex belongs in that relationship. C) Unlike eating food offered to idols for example, sex and marriage are not secondary issues. God’s design for sex and marriage are clear and are based on the pattern of his relationship to us. <p>It was acknowledged that as a church we had perhaps not got it right in the way information had been shared with the congregation as part of this process. Whilst it was not felt that now was the right time to start discussing this again in detail, it was suggested that we run a series of short session on a variety of topics of which this would be one.</p> <p>We looked at some of the key issues that had been identified with the process so far.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2/3 majority needed to change doctrine continues to be ignored. • The House of Bishops is yet to produce the theological rationale asked for. • Diocesan Synods were asked for their views on changing the clergy sexual conduct doc, despite that document not existing. • Legal advice given to the House of Bishops continues to not be made public. <p>The PCC were concerned that a lot of things had not been done or key information not provided by the Church of England as part of the process. It was also noted that a lot of things have been</p>

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	<p>allowed to happen without challenge for a long time which made the process much more difficult.</p> <p>The PCC looked at the potential red lines shared by the Alliance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Provision of stand alone services of same-sex blessings. b) Provision of same-sex marriages for clergy c) Sanctioned disapplication of discipline for clergy. <p>The PCC considered 4 suggested proposals but due to the fact that there is still lots of uncertainty they were considered separately</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The PCC continue to fully support our clergy at All Saints Church in their decision not to conduct same-sex weddings or use the Prayers of Love and Faith <p>This was proposed by Karen Killick and seconded by Richard Wakefield and all were in favour except Matt who abstained.</p> 2. In the event that a red line agreed by PCC is crossed by the House of Bishops or General Synod, the PCC resolve to seek alternative spiritual oversight for All Saints Church from an orthodox diocesan bishop. <p>It was agreed to wait until a new Bishop of Durham is appointed</p> 3. Write to Bishop Sarah to share our views with her. <p>This was proposed by Matt Levinsohn and all were in favour. It was agreed that a copy of the letter be appended to the minutes that are published.</p> 4. In the interim, we will pay our Parish Share to the Diocese of Durham via the Ephesians Fund as a practical means of demonstrating to the House of Bishops that we are not aligned with their continuing efforts to advance same-sex blessings/marriages <p>This was proposed by Pamela Rushton and seconded by Karen Killick. However only 4 were in favour and therefore this resolution was not carried.</p>

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7.	<p>Financial Update & Parish Share – Matt</p> <p>Guy had shared the following comments via email ahead of the meeting</p> <p>Utility payments are lower than planned. This may correct itself by year end. It has been a warm year so we have probably used less electricity.</p> <p>Salaries are also below budget because we have not had a Youth Pastor. This will change from 1st October when Kathryn Belmont starts.</p> <p>Guy highlighted Youth accounts as there has been a lot of spend and income movements here. This picture shown will significantly improve in September when Gift Aid is received. This budget line should finish the year roughly on budget.</p> <p>The amount of money for building improvements remains the same as last PCC. We need to decide if we are going ahead with the new windows. Wardens to speak to this later as part of their Warden's report.</p> <p>A draft budget for 2026 has been reviewed this with Matt and will be presented at the October PCC.</p> <p><u>Parish Share</u></p> <p>This year we gave £84K. The guided pledge this year is a 5% increase taking it to £88200.</p> <p>The PCC considered this along with the projected surplus this year due to lower staffing costs and it was felt that as we had the funds available this year we should increase our parish share.</p> <p>Matt proposed that we offer a parish share of £88,200 and all were in favour.</p>
8.	<p>Safeguarding Update – Diane</p> <p>1. Actions taken since last PCC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Matt and Diane had a termly safeguard meeting on 08/09/2025 where new ministries: Men’s Breakfast, Parents of Younger Children and Baby Group Outreach, were discussed as well as planned ones for future. Parish Dashboard was updated – now at 81% progress and several items are being brought to Sept PCC for approval and then updated. b) An email was sent to a further 17 volunteers requesting completion of Safeguard training. This is to be completed, and certificates returned by 30th September. So far, I have had one certificate returned.

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	<p>c) PCC raised a number of questions in July PCC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. How long do we wait before volunteers are removed from a ministry if they no longer serve or have not completed an appropriate DBS check or safeguard training? To date 7 volunteers have been removed and this happens immediately they step down or if DBS check or safeguard training has not been completed after both Diane and Matt have emailed reminders (approximately 1 month) ii. After an incident involving a gentleman bringing toys and wandering around the building PCC asked: Who was it reported to? The incident was reported by Matt to PSO, Beth Miller (DSO) and Wardens. What is the follow up to this? After such incidents key people are to be alerted and watchful for any return or similar incidents. <p>2. Future actions needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) From Parish Dashboard ‘Promoting a Healthy and Safe Culture’ activity will be an item on Oct’s PCC. b) Diane to contact Ministry Leads to request updated team lists to check all DBS and safeguard training status and to introduce the CofE Code of Working Practice they should be aware of and bring to their team’s attention. c) Diane to meet intern and discuss safeguard procedures and protocols on 16/09/2025. d) To complete Pastoral and Ukrainian Café risk assessments and finalise Youth risk assessment with Youth Leads once Kathryn is in role. New ministries will need to write a risk assessment - Diane will email for these. <p>The safeguarding dashboard requires the PCC to agree to the regular hirers using the building</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="268 1429 1342 1727"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="268 1429 635 1462">Name of hirer</th> <th data-bbox="635 1429 954 1462">Group name</th> <th data-bbox="954 1429 1342 1462">Notes</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="268 1462 635 1503">Christine Brooks</td> <td data-bbox="635 1462 954 1503">Rainbows & Brownies</td> <td data-bbox="954 1462 1342 1503">Church member</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="268 1503 635 1543">Debbie Rhodes</td> <td data-bbox="635 1503 954 1543">Slimming World</td> <td data-bbox="954 1503 1342 1543">Thursday group</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="268 1543 635 1583">Sarah James</td> <td data-bbox="635 1543 954 1583">Slimming World</td> <td data-bbox="954 1543 1342 1583">Saturday group</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="268 1583 635 1624">Egglescliffe Parish Council</td> <td data-bbox="635 1583 954 1624"></td> <td data-bbox="954 1583 1342 1624">Uses the meeting room</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="268 1624 635 1664">Zubaidah Moore</td> <td data-bbox="635 1624 954 1664">Zumba</td> <td data-bbox="954 1624 1342 1664"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="268 1664 635 1704">Danny Fowler</td> <td data-bbox="635 1664 954 1704">Toddler football</td> <td data-bbox="954 1664 1342 1704">new hirer, starting trial October</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The above regular hirers were proposed by Matt and all were in favour.</p>	Name of hirer	Group name	Notes	Christine Brooks	Rainbows & Brownies	Church member	Debbie Rhodes	Slimming World	Thursday group	Sarah James	Slimming World	Saturday group	Egglescliffe Parish Council		Uses the meeting room	Zubaidah Moore	Zumba		Danny Fowler	Toddler football	new hirer, starting trial October
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9.	<p>Calendar 2025-26– Martin</p> <p>The following activities are planned for the coming year and following PCC members agreed to take a lead on the planning of the events.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 Nov - Games Night, Bake Off & Activities - TBC • 24 Jan - Barn Dance – Pamela Rushton • 21 March - Murder Mystery Event – Simon Honeywell & Martin Howard • 23 & 24 May - Church Fete - TBC 																					
10.	<p>Policies – Martin</p> <p>The following policies were due for review in following PCC members were thanked for volunteering to review them over the summer.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Policy</th> <th>Reviewer</th> <th>Changes</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Data Protection Policy</td> <td>Paul Wheeldon</td> <td>None</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Diocesan Safeguarding Policy</td> <td>Diane Backhouse / Richard Wakefield</td> <td>None but currently being reviewed by diocese</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Disclosure Policy</td> <td>Guy Wingate</td> <td>Links updated and minor changes to text</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hire Policy</td> <td>Pamela Rushton</td> <td>Minor grammar issue</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Booking Forms</td> <td>Chris Vass</td> <td>None</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Privacy Policy</td> <td>Simon Honeywell</td> <td>Need to remove section on Covid, reference to Test & Trace</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The PCC accepted all of the minor amendments and agreed to review them again in 2027.</p>	Policy	Reviewer	Changes	Data Protection Policy	Paul Wheeldon	None	Diocesan Safeguarding Policy	Diane Backhouse / Richard Wakefield	None but currently being reviewed by diocese	Disclosure Policy	Guy Wingate	Links updated and minor changes to text	Hire Policy	Pamela Rushton	Minor grammar issue	Booking Forms	Chris Vass	None	Privacy Policy	Simon Honeywell	Need to remove section on Covid, reference to Test & Trace
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11.	<p>Warden Update – This was circulated before meeting for information only this month.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Parish inspection was carried out by Paul Neville on Monday 4th August with Chris Vass and Karen Snowden present. Paul Neville’s report will follow in due course. 2. Matters highlighted for action: - Photos of digital equipment to be updated for inventory. 3. After looking around our grounds Paul Neville advised us to get advice from an arborist about the trees surrounding the church. A few of the trees may need cutting back and one tree has a large branch over reaching our hall. One quote obtained so far from an arborist is £450 for full inspection and report. 4. Paul Neville advised that all our risk assessments were to be available to leaders of ministries. This has been done and is on church website, with a passcode needed to access. 5. Paul Neville also recommended that we have a Nominated Health and Safety Officer. 																					

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	<p>6. Secondary glazing of Nave windows. Further helpful advice given by H&H Double Glazing Ltd. A stain glass window specialist has also visited all Saints and his full report, and recommendations will be with us in the next couple of weeks.</p> <p>7. A new notice board is needed for Yarm Road entrance; costs are being sought.</p> <p>8. The Youth room has now been successfully redecorated with the help of the American Mission Team.</p> <p>9. It transpired that a faculty was not required for painting the wood panelling in the Nave, and this work has been successfully carried out. Many thanks to Stuart Johnson Derek Evans and Andrew Eley for their help in this work.</p> <p>10. The work on repointing the chimney has commenced. The gable end has been painted, and further minor works will hopefully be finished shortly.</p> <p>11. We have accumulated quite a large pile of branches etc from cutting back shrubs and trees etc. Part of the pile has been removed from the front of the Yarm Road entrance, at a cost of £180 but we still have a large pile left. We are looking at how best to remove or possibly hiring a woodchipper shredder.</p> <p>12. We have commenced rationalising and reorganising the garage, and our aim is to make it an area that is accessible for those in the congregations who wish to be involved in maintaining our buildings.</p>
12.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p><u>Eco Van Pop Up</u></p> <p>We have been contacted by Andy & Ruth Watson who would like to bring their Eco van to our car park every so often, maybe monthly. They live locally and do attend our childrens/family events.</p> <p>We discussed it at wardens meeting a while ago and more information was obtained so it could be discussed at the PCC meeting.</p> <p>Ecologico/Eco Connect North East CIC is a local community interest business dedicated to promoting sustainable living and supporting local families.</p> <p>They also run workshops, clothing, swaps and pre-loved prom events to support the local community to create a caring, sharing, circular community.</p> <p>They already have a strong local customer base and following out in the community and have done markets and fairs since 2019, but we are now excited about working with other organisations to serve more varied community settings (which now includes schools, retirement homes, workplaces and community organisations) and they believe that All Saints could be an ideal location to pop up.</p>



PCC Minutes, 15th September 2025

#	Agenda Items
	<p>The PCC did not feel that this was perhaps suitable for after a Sunday service and that it could be trialled initially after the midweek Toddler group. If successful it could be a termly event and they could possibly be invited to the summer fete.</p> <p><u>Working Party Update</u></p> <p>It was noted that so far 21 people had responded to the discipleship questionnaire. Reminder to be made this Sunday.</p> <p>More time will be available next month for work parties to discuss progress and agree further actions.</p>
-	<p>Close - The meeting finished with prayer at 9.16pm</p>
-	<p>Date of next PCC meeting – Monday 20th October</p> <p>Opening reflection to be led by Chris Vass</p>



Letter sent to Bishop Sarah following discussion at PCC

Monday 6th October 2025

Dear Bishop Sarah,

We would firstly like to thank you for your leadership during the lengthy period of discerning who the next Bishop of Durham will be. We wanted to wait until a new bishop of Durham was in post before writing, but the window to be heard before February's synod is small, hence writing at this juncture. Behind this letter is a firm resolve to remain in the Church of England, to see it thrive, and to see it faithfully bear witness to Jesus and reach new and existing generations with the life transforming message of the gospel.

As you will be aware, All Saints Church strives to be somewhere where all people are welcomed and can call home; to be a community where all forms of prejudice are challenged. We lament the prejudice that has existed in the church.

The current LLF process risks departing from the doctrine of marriage which has long been held as orthodox in the Church of England, and sanctioning relationships which we hold as incompatible with scripture. We are deeply concerned that due process for changing doctrine has not been followed, that theological work has been postponed for the sake of expediency, and that there is an unwillingness to provide adequate protection for those churches who in conscience cannot proceed down the path toward same sex blessing and marriage.

We look both to depleted numbers of ordinands, to the divisions across the worldwide communion, and to the devastating collapse of denominations in other countries which have gone down the route of liberal sexual ethics and implore the House of Bishops to stop the LLF process.

We are writing to you in the hope that our letter helps you to be aware not only of the strength of feeling about the proposed changes, but also to ensure it is clear that our views come from a sincere reading of scripture rather than from prejudice or hatred. As well as reflecting on theology, the journey of LLF has caused us to reflect on our pastoral care of those same sex attracted people in our church family and we are grateful for that.

If General Synod does vote through stand-alone services of same sex blessing, or allows for same sex marriage for clergy, or if Bishops sanction the disapplication of clergy discipline in these areas, we will respond in alignment with guidance from the Alliance who very much represent our standpoint.

We hope you can hear in this letter our heart for a flourishing Church of England and that we are for you and for the diocese. Please know we continue to pray for you and for those yet to be reached in our region.

Yours sincerely

The PCC of All Saints Church, Preston On Tees