

Present	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Diane Backhouse (PSO) 2. Lucy Falcus (Deanery Synod) 3. Simon Honeywell 4. Martin Howard (PCC Sec & SC) 5. Karen Killick (V. Chair, Deanery & Diocesan Synod) 6. Matt Levinsohn (Chair & SC) 7. Pamela Rushton 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Ben Scott 9. Karen Snowden (Warden & SC) 10. Chris Vass (Warden & SC) 11. Richard Wakefield (SC) 12. Paul Wheeldon 13. Guy Wingate

#	Agenda Items
1.	<p>Opening Reflection – Martin Howard</p> <p>'Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will.' (v2) Romans 12:1-2</p> <p>For some people, at the point of their salvation, a huge transformation can be seen. Their thinking, behaviour, language and character instantly changes. For others, the transformation happens more slowly as they start to partner with the Holy Spirit to train and discipline their bodies and their minds, listening to God through the voice of their conscience and His Word.</p> <p>This reading is full of imagery for instance the Greek word translated 'transformed' is the same Greek word used for Jesus' transfiguration on the mountain in front of Peter, James, and John (see Matthew 17:2). It means to change, transfigure, a complete metamorphosis. And the Greek word used for 'renewing' our mind carries a real forcefulness, almost an aggression. It conveys the idea to renew ones mind with an attitude of hostility, hatred, and enmity towards a worldly mind. And then there's the phrase, 'Do not be conformed to the pattern of this world' When I read the word 'pattern', I think of a template used to make lots of things the same. It's a way of doing things that someone has created, and others follow, but God is saying in this passage: 'I have another pattern, another template for you to follow. It is a pattern that uses the threads of love, cut with the Word of God and the sword of the Holy Spirit. This is the pattern you are to follow, starting with your mind and your thinking.'</p> <p>The French monk Brother Lawrence made it his purpose and pursuit to have a mind fixed continuously on Christ and to be in constant conversation with Him. He said of his journey: 'It is a matter of acquiring a new habit of thought...'</p>

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	<p>Are we ready to acquire a new habit of thought? Are we hungry to break the pattern of the world in our lives? To renew our minds by following a different template? To seek a metamorphosis by being transformed from one degree of glory into another, into God's likeness?</p> <p>Think on the word 'transfiguration'. Imagine the magnitude of change the disciples witnessed in their lives and the lives of others with whom Jesus came into contact.</p> <p>Take some time to think about where you see renewal in your own mind and in our church is needed.</p> <p>A short time of prayer followed.</p>
2.	<p>Children's and Families Update – Cat Wakefield</p> <p>Cat shared an action plan linked to the church vision.</p> <p>Gems & Trailblazers Highlights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our team, people stepping up to lead. • New families coming recently. (Children being the ones asking their parents to bring them to church!) • Children's enthusiasm, sitting at the front and joining in – their joyful freedom in worship. • All learning the memory verse for the term: Mark 10:27 (kids shouting it out loud from their seats in the service.) • Children teaching us things and sharing what they've learnt in the service - working well to be looking at the same chapter of Mark as the adults each week. • Our church family – we're so grateful for every single child when there are some churches who are desperate for children in their church. <p>God's Giants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group is small and have been focussing on the "Diary of a Disciple" • Have been following the Chat & Catch principle. <p>Monday parents Life Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working through the prayer course which has allowed the group to explore prayer in different ways. <p>Toddler Team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduced a prayer box and the team are regularly offering to pray with people. • The team have had a number of socials together. <p>Beacon Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The focus has moved to having events at different times of year such as pancake party, glow party, mothers day rather than monthly events. <p>Holiday Club</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This was very well received with a large team of volunteers.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lots of comments were made by children and leaders • Another Holiday Club is planned for next Easter with support from a Mission Team. <p>Schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The doors are generally open to the local schools and regular assemblie take place in Preston, The Links & Junction Farm <p>Baby Saints</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is started last week with a focus on those for whom Toddlers is not appropriate. The first session had 8 adults and 8 babies. <p>Cat shared some thoughts on the future</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing openness in our schools • Transforming Life for Good will be starting in Preston Primary in the new year. • Singing Stars Choir has just been launched as a luch club at Preston. • The development of Baby Saints • Childrens Leaders – prayer cards were shared with the PCC to allow them to pray for the team over the coming months.
3.	<p>Apologies for absence</p> <p>Apologies had been received from: Derek Evans & Margaret Vaughan</p> <p>Matt declared an interest as is wife is an employee</p> <p>Guy Wingate & Chris Vass declared their interest as a trustee of a charity supported by the PCC.</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>
4.	<p>Approval of minutes of 20th October PCC Meeting</p> <p>The minutes from 20th October were approved.</p> <p>Proposed by Karen Snowden and seconded by Paul Wheeldon, all those present at the meeting were in favour. 2 Abstentions</p>
5.	<p>Matters arising and Chairs update – Matt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Youth Hub: Met with Billingham reps so may well end up partnering with them in the youth hub work. Matt is meeting with another church this week. Matt to share the youth hub bid with the PCC (ii) Lots of new people joined the church. We are also following up with existing members as we want all to know they are loved and valued. (iii) Rich and Matt in consultation with Tim are moving the bake off until the new year as we felt the compromises to make it work alongside the games evening would make the evening less effective. (iv) Ben and Matt have been discussing doing Alpha in January. There seems to be more openness to faith so letting down the nets seems good. This will be

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	<p>promoted in the next couple of weeks so that we have a 6 week lead in over Christmas.</p> <p>(v) We have not done anything about the CCTV as yet.</p> <p>(vi) The Bishop wrote back to our letter about LLF. Essentially she says thanks for our support and hopes the current pause on LLF will help.</p> <p>(vii) Remembrance went really well. We are going to look at making a couple of adjustment requested by the uniform groups but overall really positive.</p> <p>(viii) The New Wine Leaders training does not really work due to the timing and therefore it is proposed to take the staff team to the Vineyard Leaders training event. Approx costs of £1500 for 2026 and this is covered in the budget for training.</p> <p>(ix) The wardens and Martin have been meeting to talk about the windows. People gave to the carpet, the hall floor, the lights in the hall and the windows. We have been looking at options for the windows including replacing them entirely, adding secondary glazing, and adding polycarbonate type covers. The savings to our heating bill are not likely to be huge, perhaps £200 a year and therefore they are potentially working out expensive. For the next PCC costs to be obtained for polycarbonate protection.</p> <p>(x) Initial thoughts about work to the Library have been discussed to turn it into another useable space for youth/childrens work etc. It was suggested that we engage an architect to draw up some basic plans for the room, the cost for this is likely to be £1000+. It was suggested that we consider if anyone in the congregation might know someone who could do this for us.</p> <p>(xi) Matt is due to be installed by Archdeacon Rick on Sunday 1st February.</p> <p>(xii) The short time between the two morning services makes it difficult for setting up worship group and pastoral follow up after the 9.00am service. It was therefore suggested that we trial a 10.45am start in January.</p> <p>This was proposed by Karen Killick and seconded by Guy Wingate. All were in favour.</p>
6.	<p>Financial Update including Budget – Guy</p> <p>October Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Giving is up and increasing for the first time in a number of years. • Cost of energy has gone down and likely to be partly linked to the new hall lighting. • Mission giving is slightly behind but it will go out soon • Room hire is up £700 this year on budget <p>Budget 2026</p> <p>The full details of the budget was shared with the PCC before the meeting and the following key points were shared.</p>

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	<p><u>MAJOR ITEMS OF EXPENDITURE</u></p> <p><u>Salaries</u></p> <p>Assume all church staff receive National Living Wage *NLW” regardless of whether or not they are on minimum wage. This will preserve wage differentials.</p> <p>The 2026 increase in national NLW has been set at 4.1%.</p> <p>For information, the average national wage is anticipated to go up by 3.9% in 2025 [GOV.UK, 5/8/2025]</p> <p><u>Energy Costs</u></p> <p>Assume increases in line with inflation.</p> <p><u>Parish Share</u></p> <p>Previously discussed at September PCC and agreed 5% increase (£4200) as suggested by Diocese.</p> <p><u>SOURCES OF INCOME</u></p> <p><u>One-Off Donations</u></p> <p>Assume current rate of one-off donations is maintained at £3000. This is in addition to any special donation appeals.</p> <p><u>Regular Voluntary Giving</u></p> <p>Assume level of income in 2026 continues at same rate in 2026 (no decline).</p> <p><u>Rental Income</u></p> <p>Flat 558A (TVYFC): Propose no increase as tough financial year for TVYFC Flat 558B (Private Let): Propose increase rent by 4% as predicted rate of inflation for 2026.</p> <p><u>Room Hire</u></p> <p>Proposal not to increase hire charge for church rooms to maintain level of use.</p> <p><u>CONTEXT FOR OTHER BUDGET ASSUMPTIONS</u></p> <p><u>Maintenance costs remain same in 2026</u> reflecting actual maintenance spend in 2025 plus an allowance for inflation. Assumes no major surprise maintenance and repairs needed. Any planned building improvements to be funded by specific additional giving for specific projects.</p> <p><u>Expenditure on consumables remain same in 2026</u> reflecting actual spend in 2025 plus an allowance for inflation with continued cost-conscious purchases.</p> <p><u>No subsidies to church activities in 2026</u> that are not pre-defined and agreed as part of 2026 budget setting process.</p>

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	<p><u>Cost of insurance in 2026 does not increase</u> beyond pro-rata increase in asset value of church buildings.</p> <p><u>Water and waste costs remain same in 2026</u> reflecting actual spend in 2025 plus an allowance for inflation. Potential further increase as part of national investment water infrastructure in our region.</p> <p><u>CONTINGENCY RESERVES</u></p> <p>Anticipate surplus of £22,000 at end of 2025 attributed to savings from not paying a salary for the vacant Youth Minister position over 9 month period.</p> <p>Anticipate unrestricted funds at end of 2025 is in order of £77,000.</p> <p>Target contingency held as unrestricted fund for 2026 is £40,000 (equivalent to two months operational budget) as required by our church policy.</p> <p>Our 2026 financial plan assumes our outgoings exceed income by £26,382.</p> <p>Projected contingency reserve at end of 2026 to be £50,600 versus target of £40,000.</p> <p><u>Future Issue</u></p> <p>With our budget mainly based on fixed costs, the challenge will be in 2027 when current rate of spend would leave our contingency reserves at the end of 2027 standing at approx. £23,000 versus £40,000 target.</p> <p>It was proposed by Matt that we accept the 2026 Budget as presented. All were in favour.</p> <p>The need to provide more information on the finances was discussed and information will be shared with the congregation in January. It was agreed that the congregation need to know that we have a £26k deficit in 2026 and the need therefore for increased giving to clear the deficit.</p>
7.	<p>Safeguarding Update – Diane</p> <p>1. Actions taken since last PCC:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Parish Dashboard was updated – now at 89% progress. Diane emailed 60+ staff and volunteers that need to complete RADA (Domestic Abuse) training in November and asked them to reply with preference – online or face to face training. A number did not respond after a second reminder email, so ministry leads were asked to contact their teams. There remain 5 non-responses. 27 have completed training so far and 10 wish to attend face to face training On 12th February. Two further risk assessments have been finalised: Pastoral Ministry and Baby Group. Diane attended Pastoral Team meeting to discuss risk assessment, Code of Safer Working Practice and safeguard protocols. Diane attended a recent PSO Get Together where items were discussed: RADA (Domestic Abuse) training requirements and resources; DBS checks and keeping information – new guidelines; Safeguarding Adults; PSO skills Audit.

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	<p>f. Diane has attended a further 2 out of 6 extra masterclass training sessions for PSO with the diocese: Understanding Models and 1 in 4: Mental Health and Faith.</p> <p>2. Future actions needed:</p> <p>a. Some new ministries need to write a risk assessment - Diane will email for these as well as contacting Kathryn to discuss Youth RA.</p> <p>b. From Masterclasses – construct signposting for support – community links, e.g. Posters, helplines, etc. and to stress to refer to professionals where support that is beyond our capabilities is needed, e.g. mental health issues, etc.</p> <p>c. From the Dashboard, over next few months:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PCC needs to discuss how to encourage those in leadership roles to better promote vulnerable groups. - Matt and Diane need to discuss how the church may better respond to victims and survivors. - PCC needs to discuss how they can better support people in safeguarding roles. - PCC needs to review the Safeguarding Action Plan, procedure for dealing with safeguarding concerns and allegations, and list of church activities. <p>3. Safeguard concerns:</p> <p>a. Three concerns were raised this month and supported appropriately.</p> <p>A question was asked about people being up to date with DBS and training. Diane confirmed that with the exception of RADA Training, all other training was up to date.</p>
8.	<p>Work Party Feedback</p> <p>Discipleship: Loads of great stuff and positive messages. Overall it was really positive and we had 50 respondents to the survey. However 40% don't feel part of church which is something to address. Many don't read their bible or pray as a daily habit. Some feel they are not serving in line with their talents.</p> <p>It was agreed to share the key points with the congregation. Initial feedback to be made over the next couple of weeks and more detailed feedback in January</p> <p>Buildings: The group had looked at the Eco Church Award and for us to reach silver will require more of a focus as a whole church including it being a focus of some of our teaching. At outline plan of proposed works to the building, some of which would help us reduce carbon and some which would provide greater missional opportunities by creating extra meeting space for use on a Sunday in particular. Overall potential spending of £85K over 4 years was identified.</p> <p>More work is required to refine the proposals.</p> <p>Community Working Group: Looks like we are doing well in terms of younger people in church. Less well perhaps with older?</p>

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	<p>The membership of the group had change quite a bit during meetings and therefore only limited progress had been made. It was suggest that a questionnaire goes out to the ministry teams in January. Another meeting has also been arranged with the social prescribers. A meeting is about to take place with Mr Gittins the headteacher at Egglescliffe to look at running Kintsugi in the school.</p>
9.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Deanery Synod – at the last meeting there had been some really good discussion in small groups and the meeting had a very positive feel.</p> <p>Diocesan Synod – Bishop Sarah’s talk was very good and encouraging and she has clearly grown into her role over the last 18 months. The synod overall was very encouraging and it was good to see that church attendance in the diocese was up by 1% which is the first increase after many years of decline. The Diocese is however having to set a £700k deficit budget. Interviews for the Bishop of Durham take place on 9th&10th December.</p>
-	<p>Close - The meeting finished with prayer at 9.20pm</p>
-	<p>Date of next PCC meeting – Monday 15th December</p> <p>Opening reflection to be led by Richard Wakefield</p>