



| Present | |
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| 1. Diane Backhouse (PSO) | 7. Karen Snowden (Warden & SC) |
| 2. Derek Evans | 8. Ben Scott |
| 3. Simon Honeywell | 9. Chris Vass (Warden & SC) |
| 4. Martin Howard (PCC Sec & SC) | 10. Margaret Vaughan (Deanery & Diocesan Synod) |
| 5. Matt Levinsohn (Chair & SC) | 11. Richard Wakefield (SC) |
| 6. Pamela Rushton | 12. Paul Wheeldon |

| # | Agenda Items |
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| | <p>Opening Reflection – Margaret Vaughan</p> <p>What does define a good Christian leader? <i>Some quotes where shared</i> "Great leaders follow Jesus' example and are servant leaders. They are led by the Holy Spirit and find their wisdom in God's Truth. Whether leading thousands of followers or shepherding small flocks, God calls Christian leaders to possess certain leadership qualities. These qualities include humility, determination, teachability, compassion, and more. By learning to grow in these qualities, Christian leaders exemplify Christ and point others to his sovereign leadership."</p> <p>There are numerous references in the bible as to what makes a good leadership "Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood." Acts 20:28 ESV</p> <p>1. "And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ." Ephesians 4:11-12 ESV "Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life." Proverbs 4:23 ESV "He must increase, but I must decrease." John 3:30 ESV</p> <p>Core Principles</p> <p>Servant Leadership: The primary model is Jesus, who served by washing feet; leaders prioritise others' needs over their own.</p> <p>Christ-Centered Vision: The ultimate goal is to glorify God and help people grow in their faith and service to Him, not personal ambition.</p> <p>Leading by Example: Actions speak louder than words; integrity, honesty, and a strong work ethic demonstrate faith.</p> <p>Discipleship: A core mission is to make and mentor disciples, teaching them biblical principles.</p> <p>Spiritual Foundation: Decisions are informed by prayer and God's word (the Bible) before worldly wisdom.</p> |

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| | <p>The reflection ended with a time of open prayer as we start a new term and a new calendar year.</p> |
| 2. | <p>Apologies for absence Apologies had been received from: Lucy Falcus, Karen Killick & Guy Wingate</p> <p>It was confirmed that the register of interests remained accurate.</p> |
| 3. | <p>Approval of minutes of 15th December PCC Meeting The minutes from 15th December were approved.</p> <p>Proposed by The Chair, all those present at the meeting were in favour. 2 Abstentions</p> |
| 4. | <p>Matters arising and Chairs update – Matt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At SC we did a review of Christmas. Lots of people we had not seen before. A few exploring faith. Some higher numbers some a little lower. Overall the staff team were really pleased how it went. No obvious take aways apart from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Ensuring schools stuff it is obvious what age it is for, (ii) Alpha seeing if people would sign up then and there. (iii) Keep building on Christingle service which was the first time. (iv) Spread the load more as Ben and Matt did a lot this time and Ben is coming toward the end of curacy etc. • Kintsugi youth has started. Group of 12 students mainly year 8. A good relationship with the school has been developed • TLG are starting at Easter as it takes a while to get everyone trained. Funding will be covered so no need to come out of overall budget. • Mix and Mingle is going to have a ladies WhatsApp so that more church ladies can bring in ideas for future events and perhaps help run one off events. • Richard updated the congregation on discipleship feedback, however we need to keep looking at that. • Community team are writing to ministry leads to see about engaging more. So far 7 out of 22 have been returned. They are due back by the end of the month and a reminder will be sent . • Buildings team need to have a meeting with Guy and Matt to come up with a plan. • Survey of service times. Mainly positive. 45 responses. 17 positive, 19 makes no difference, 10 worse. Propose two things: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Coffee clear up by 1pm. Anyone else can leave cups for Monday on two trays in the hatch. (ii) Aim to end service in final song by 12.05 instead of the full 12.15. This should help with people feeling it is much later as it won't be much later. If God says go longer we will but I would like to encourage service leaders to have approximate times so they know when they are planning a service that is likely to overrun. It was also noted that it is important that the service starts on time. |

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| | <p>It was proposed by Chris Vass and seconded by Richard Wakefield that we continue with the service at 10.45am and a review to be made in 3 months. All were in favour.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Hub. The diocese are currently looking through our policies before saying if we can go ahead and be a hub. They are also seeking clarification on how the work will be financially sustainable in the future. • We have an underlying deficit which we are not going to see the impacts of until 2027. On Feb 15th we are going to encourage people to review giving and encourage those who have not given to begin. • Alpha has made a good start with 12 attending the first session. Mainly people we have been journeying with a bit who are now wanting to go deeper. • It has been a pastorally a difficult season with the deaths of Gren, John & Andrew over the last couple of weeks. • Need a new person to lead pastoral care at 9am, now that Sarah has moved to St Pauls. Please let Matt know of any thoughts that you have. |
| 5. | <p>Financial update – Matt</p> <p><u>General Accounts for December 2025</u> We finished the year with an overall surplus for 2025 of £17.5k Main items of note: 1) We spent £22k less on salaries due to vacant Youth worker position. 2) We spent £1.8k less on church maintenance which helps offset £2k more than planned spend on Flat 558B for various refurbishments. 3) We subsidised church mission events to tune of £1.6k most of which was unplanned spend (e.g church camp). 4) Consumables and sundry expenditure almost £1.4k higher than planned. 5) Grants received were down £3.5k reflecting less national insurance rebate. 6) We spent £5k less on energy than anticipated (continued trend of lower monthly spend).</p> <p><u>2026 Budget</u> Guy suggested that we revise the 2026 utilities budget to reflect actual 2025 spend plus 4% inflation. This would reduce our planned 2026 deficit by about £4k. The PCC agreed to leave the budget as previously agreed</p> <p><u>Annual Finance Report for 2025</u> Draft circulated in PCC papers for review and feedback. Matt has already input to report narrative. Next steps after any necessary PCC amendments is to engage our independent assessor who will review our accounts. This process normally takes 4-6 weeks during which time I provide supporting paperwork and address any questions raised by the review. Aim to bring final accounts for 2025 and annual finance report for 2025 back to March PCC for approval prior to APCM. Martin will need to make APCM papers available to the church</p> |

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| | <p>membership a couple of weeks before APCM is held and this will be the nearest PCC meeting to provide the necessary approvals.</p> <p>Martin also noted that he would be requesting the reports for the Annual Report shortly with the aim to present a final draft to the March PCC as well.</p> <p>PCC to provide any feedback to Guy by end of January.</p> <p>The PCC noted their thanks to Guy for his very efficient collation of the end of year accounts prior to the PCC.</p> <p><u>Financial Controls for Charity Status</u></p> <p>The Register of Interests and Disclosure Log were reviewed at Standing Committee. The need to ensure we apply recusal was emphasised based on learning points from a recent case of Charity/PCC interactions that occurred elsewhere in the country. We will review Register of Interests at first PCC after APCM during review of Charity Commission Trustee Duties. 'I.e. Be clear when having discussions who should and should not be part of it'</p> <p>The current list of groups renting church rooms and the rates charged was also reviewed.</p> <p><u>Mission Giving from end of 2025</u></p> <p>We had an additional £750 to assign to mission partners at the end of 2025 to match of 10% tithe. Sue Leven's group have suggested £250 to each of Compassion , CAP and Beacon Foundation Uganda.</p> <p>Matt proposed from the Chair that we make these additional mission giving payments. All were in favour with 2 abstentions (Chris Vass and Derek Evans recused themselves from the vote)</p> |
| 6. | <p>Safeguarding Update – Diane</p> <p>1. Actions taken since last PCC:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Parish Dashboard continued to be updated – now at 96% progress. b. A further email was sent to request RADA (Domestic Abuse) training be completed by remaining 4 non-compliers 11.01.26. No responses have been forthcoming. c. PCC have been sent CAP Money Course and Men’s Breakfast Risk Assessments to approve. These were approved by all. d. PCC have received Safeguard Action Plan and Summary, Responding to Safeguard Concerns Flowchart, and Church Activities list for annual reviewing and approval. <p>Diane proposed that the action plan reflects where we are at present. All were in agreement. The flowchart was also approved by all. The list of church activities were discussed and approved.</p> |

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| | <p>2. Future actions needed:</p> <p>a. PCC to approve Ladies Social Events: Make and Mingle and Ukraine Café Risk Assessments as well as reviewing all church Risk Assessments approved previously in 2025.</p> |
| 7. | <p>Calendar 2026</p> <p>The calendar for the first few events of 2026 was reviewed</p> <p>January</p> <p>Barn Dance - 24th Jan – Currently 72 tickets sold and agreed to donate all profits to the band.</p> <p>Alpha Course CAP Course Make & Mingle – 29th Jan</p> <p>March</p> <p>Murder Mystery Event - 21st March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently recruiting the cast. |
| 8. | <p>Wardens Report – Chris Vass & Karen Snowden</p> <p>1. Windows update. St Mary’s at Long Newton have recently updated their windows, and a meeting is due to take place with the company who did the work for St Mary’s and with ourselves. Martin Howard has kindly agreed to be involved with this meeting to explore if this is the right company to update our windows.</p> <p>2. Peter has decorated the entrance hall to the Flat 558B, and a new carpet has been purchased and fitted there on 05.01.26. A quote of £200 to replace the extractor fan in the flat has been received and accepted and the work is due to commence shortly.</p> <p>3. Thanks to all those who helped take down and store the Christmas decorations.</p> <p>4. Community Payback have commenced the rubbing down of the metal railings in preparation for painting them. The group started on the 06.01.25 and will be with us every Tuesday. The weather was freezing when they came to us, but they still managed to make a good start. The weather in winter is too cold for the group to paint so it probably will not be until Spring when we see the work finished. They have also collected and bagged up all of the leaves around the site.</p> <p>5. The urgent roofing repairs in the library mentioned in last December’s report was completed successfully before the Christmas break. JMW Roofing have again provided us with a 10-year guarantee for their work.</p> <p>6. Tree pruning work is due to commence on 20th January.</p> <p>7. Fencing to be renewed on Yarm road side of Church grounds. The cost of this fence will be £1,380 plus a little extra for a small part of additional fence not</p> |

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| | <p>included in the original quote.</p> <p>It is has been agreed that this will be done after the tree work has been finished.</p> <p>It has been noted that we have had some youths hanging around behind the building from time to time and that a high fence and gate across the end of the hall would prevent this.</p> <p>It was proposed by Matt as the Chair that both fence be completed up to a total cost of £2500. All were in favour</p> <p>The plan for the other fence around the garden area is still to be finalised. It was suggested that Community Payback might be able to do this fence later in the year.</p> |
| 9. | <p>Any Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The question of external lighting near the meeting room was raised again and the wardens confirmed that a quote is being obtained. • It was raised that the church is quite cold from about 11.30am during the service. This will be discussed at the wardens meeting and adjusted accordingly. • Derek asked on behalf of The Beacon Project if it would be possible to share children who need sponsorship on the church facebook group. As this is a charity that we support we agreed that this would be appropriate. It was also suggested an article could be placed in the monthly newsletter. |
| - | <p>Close - The meeting finished with prayer at 8.50 pm</p> |
| - | <p>Date of next PCC meeting – Monday 16th February</p> <p>Opening reflection to be led by Paul Wheeldon</p> |