



| Present  |  |
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| 1. Diane Backhouse (PSO)<br>2. Chisomaga Chinwuba<br>3. Andrew Eley (Warden & SC)<br>4. Lucy Falcus (Deanery Synod)<br>5. Simon Honeywell<br>6. Martin Howard (PCC Sec, V.Chair & SC)<br>7. Karen Killick (Deanery & Diocesan Synod) | 8. Matt Levinsohn (Chair & SC)<br>9. Pamela Rushton<br>10. Karen Snowden (Warden & SC)<br>11. Ben Scott<br>12. Margaret Vaughan (Deanery & Diocesan Synod)<br>13. Richard Wakefield (SC) |

| #  | Agenda Items   |
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| 1. | <p><b>Opening Reflection</b> – Diane Backhouse</p> <p><b>Where do you see/meet with God?</b><br/>           In the Bible we see that God met with groups and individuals in a variety of ways.<br/>           In <b>OT</b>, we see him meeting with Abraham several times – met with God at great tree of Morah at Shechem where God promised him the land he could see just after he had told him he would make Abraham into a great nation outside his tent (Gen 12). Then in Gen 18 3 visitors appear and bring the promise of a son.<br/>           Moses met with God on Mount Horeb in a burning bush where God commissioned Moses to go to Egypt to bring Israelites out (Ex 3). Later, on Mount Sinai – God appeared and gave Moses the Ten Commandments (Ex 19).<br/>           Elijah in 1 Kings 19 met with God, initially in a cave, then outside on the side of a mountain, in a still small voice – showing God doesn't always have to appear in thunder and spectacular ways. It can also be in quiet moments.<br/>           In <b>NT</b>, God (Jesus) met with his disciples and followers many times after his resurrection - Mary outside tomb (John 20) bringing comfort after Jesus' crucifixion and reassurance that all was not lost. Other examples were on the road to Emmaus, in an upper room, while going about their everyday lives – fishing, mountain in Galilee where Jesus sent them.<br/>           We are taught that God will meet us through Bible reading and spending time with him in prayer. There are other ways of meeting with God worth thinking about.</p> <p><b>Community</b> – supporting others, friends - conversations, example of others reaching out and showing God's love. Transformation of people when they come to know God and start following his teaching. We can see God at work in others and can take encouragement from these examples.</p> <p><b>Church</b> – gathering for worship and prayer as a family where we can experience God's presence and gain/offer support.</p> <p><b>Creation</b> – gardens, nature - woods, mountains and landscapes, sea, the universe with its planets, millions of stars, solar systems and galaxies. The human body with all its intricacies. When we think on these things we see the awesome power and creativity of God.</p> <p><b>Creativity</b> – some people experience the presence of God when they view a piece of art or listen to a piece of music e.g. the majesty and power within Handel's Messiah or the Hallelujah or some orchestral music. Books can also help us meet with God. Worship and contemporary Christian songs can lead us into God's presence and help us meet with him.</p> |

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|    | <p>However, there are times when it is difficult for us to read our bibles or talk to Him. So, what are our experiences in these times?</p> <p>For myself I often find God when I am out in my garden among my plants and gazing on his wonderful creation – noticing the intricacy of flowers and amazing variety - I feel closer to him and can talk to him there. In my everyday life, in ordinary moments – e.g. washing up and looking out of the window to watch birds flying around building nests and looking for food, caring for their families. When I am out in the countryside especially among mountains I feel his presence – they are majestic reminding us of God’s majesty and power. I remember tales of my mum singing hymns: How Great Thou Art - at top of mountains in Switzerland as she experienced God’s presence. It is interesting that God met many in the bible on mountains. Podcasts and books have helped. Initially I listened to a podcast in 2024 Jonathan found when I was at the start of my Meniere’s journey “Overcoming Meniere’s” and grieving from the death of my mum. At the time I was extremely low, experiencing attack after attack, spending weeks in bed unable to walk and function normally. Never knowing when it would end and if this was my life now, knowing its classed as an incurable disease. However, as I listened to a fellow Meniere’s sufferer I met with God and hope was rekindled that life could get better. I was able to read the accompanying book a couple of weeks later in a more stable period. At the same time, as I was only able to listen to radio, I heard Philippa Hanna’s “You’re still God” for the first time. I remember listening, weeping and praising God in my circumstances as I was brought into his presence.</p> <p>What I have learnt thinking about this is that everyone is individual, and God meets us in our own ways – he knows us so well.</p> <p>Where do you meet with God? Take time in pairs to chat about your own experiences. Pray</p> <p>We ended the reflection with a short time of prayer.</p> |
| 2. | <p><b>Apologies for absence</b><br/>Apologies had been received from: Guy Wingate &amp; Derek Evans</p>  |
| 3. | <p><b>Approval of minutes of 26<sup>th</sup> April PCC Meeting after APCM</b><br/>Proposed by The Chair, all those present at the meeting (9 ) were in favour; 4 Abstentions</p>   |
| 4. | <p><b>Matters arising and Chairs update – Matt</b></p> <p>Matters Arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Andrew Eley confirmed that he was happy to continue as the Electoral Roll Officer.</li> <li>• The APCM minutes were shared with the PCC ahead of the meeting and Martin asked PCC members to review the minutes and let him know of any errors.</li> </ul> <p>Chairs Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At the APCM it was suggested that future APCM’s should take place outside of a service. The PCC agreed to discuss this at the January meeting.</li> <li>• We have two 10:2 serve members arriving in June for 2 months (Kendall &amp; Natalie)</li> <li>• We hope to have a serve team member again next year but still need to sort out housing before we can confirm.</li> <li>• Matt had shared a document looking a moving forward with 4 areas. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Windows to Nave and Library – The DAC had provided some feedback on the proposals and had suggested that we incorporate an arched top to the</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  |

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|    | <p>windows to match the current style. Some quotes have been obtained but awaiting final quotes and will discuss at June meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Library changes were briefly discussed. It was agreed to delegate it to a small group consisting of Simon, Andrew , Cat &amp; Kathryn who will bring further proposals to the July meeting.</li> <li>○ Bible Society are planning a major campaign in Teesside focussed on “Bible Conversations” They are planning on a £400k advertising campaign and each church will plan a range of events such as the Bible Course, Alpha or other social events.</li> <li>○ Church Growth. This was discussed in the next agenda item.</li> </ul> <p>The prayer team has asked if we praying more than talking about these!</p>   |
| 5. | <p><b>Church Growth – The Options – Matt</b></p> <p>Matt felt that we were getting much better at discipleship and numbers at the 10.45am service are increasing. Whilst the services are not full they are often at 80% and research says that churches generally don’t grow beyond 80%.</p> <p>Four options can be considered.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● We could build to make the building physically bigger.</li> <li>● We could “give” some members of the congregation to other churches.</li> <li>● We could plant a new church.</li> <li>● We could run more services.</li> </ul> <p>The latter was felt to potentially be the best option and discussions have already taken place with Cat, Kathryn &amp; Jim who are supportive of running more services.</p> <p>Looking forward we agreed to do the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Canvass the congregation and put all the options on the table.</li> <li>● Consider when people would come to a service.</li> <li>● Follow the timeframe of praying and discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Survey in June – PCC July / September – Launch in January.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Listening evenings to gather peoples views and thoughts.</li> </ul> <p>We then looked at what our core DNA as a church is.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Worship that honours God.</li> <li>● Authentic (non-performance) worship</li> <li>● Focus on the bible in teaching</li> <li>● Everyone has a ministry</li> <li>● Family <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Small enough to know people</li> <li>○ Supporting each other</li> <li>○ Minister to all ages</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Prayer</li> <li>● Anglican</li> <li>● Informal / relaxed</li> <li>● Gifts of the Spirit</li> </ul> |

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|    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outward looking</li> <li>• Children's / Youth Ministry</li> </ul> <p>What are the key stakes holding up our tent?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People in the right Groups</li> <li>• Life Groups</li> <li>• Authenticity in all aspects</li> <li>• Weekly Youth/ Children's work</li> </ul> <p>We reviewed the questionnaire that will be used in June and removed / modified / added questions.</p> <p>It was felt that prayer and discussion dropins were important to run alongside the process.</p>   |
| 6. | <p><b>Financial update</b> – Martin Howard (on behalf of Guy Wingate)</p> <p>1) Monthly voluntary giving is up 6% since start of year following Matt's address to the congregation concerning our longer-term financial position.</p> <p>2) We have also received some very generous one-off donations amounting to £17,000 (one assigned to Youth Hardship Fund, but others available for building improvement works).</p> <p>3) Expenditure is broadly on track with our financial plan with exception of new fencing at front of church which means our maintenance budget will likely be overspent at end of year. I will discuss items requiring discussion with Standing Committee.</p> <p>4) Guy will share a more detailed analysis when I am back in England (probably at for our half year financial review) but wanted to mention that our overall deficit for 2026 will be much less than anticipated at the start of the year.</p>  |
| 7. | <p><b>Trustee Role &amp; Responsibilities</b> -Martin / Matt</p> <p>The PCC had been provided with a number of links to documents prior to the meeting which explained the role and responsibilities of PCC members as trustees.</p> <p>The PCC were reminded of the need for confidentiality and that items should not be discussed more widely until minutes were published, except when we had agreed to gather opinions of the congregation.</p> <p>Details on the financial processes were shared at the meeting with all members.</p> <p>The register of interests was shared at the meeting and following a brief discussion this was updated. Paper copies were collected in and shredded after the meeting.</p> <p>MH informed the PCC that the Charity Commission website had been updated to reflect the new PCC membership.</p> <p>Those members who were not at the APCM were given Fit &amp; Proper Persons forms to complete.</p> |

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| 8.  | <p><b>Safeguarding Update</b> – Diane Backhouse</p> <p><b>1. Actions taken since last PCC:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Parish Dashboard continues to be updated – remains at 97% progress.</li> <li>b. Majority of volunteers needing DBS rechecks have been completed. Outstanding ones have again been contacted by Shiromi.</li> <li>c. All those who were requested to complete RADA training in November have done so.</li> <li>d. We have several new volunteers for children’s ministry and potentially Connect team currently going through the safer recruitment process.</li> <li>e. The new <i>Safer Recruitment and People Management Code of Practice</i> comes into force on 1 June 2026, and is now available on the Church of England website.</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Future actions needed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Several volunteers are undertaking their three yearly Leadership training over the next few months with the diocese.</li> <li>b. Role descriptions need to be written for several volunteer roles.</li> <li>c. New Safer Recruitment and People Management Code of Practice to be read, discussed and disseminated appropriately.</li> </ul> |
| 9.  | <p><b>Wardens Report</b> – Karen Snowden</p> <p>Church Windows – The DAC had provided some initial feedback on the proposed replacement windows and further quotes were still being obtained. This would be discussed in June when all details should be available.</p> <p>Fencing near Yarm Road- It was proposed by Karen Snowden and seconded by Richard Wakefield that we submit a faculty for the erection of a low fence along the edge of the existing footpath to allow the grassed area adjacent of the main hall to be used for children and youth activities. All were in favour.</p> <p>Emergency Lighting is to be checked over the next few weeks.</p> <p>Hall Boiler – there was a fault on one of the boilers and this has been repaired by Nigel Stoves.</p> <p>Roof – a small number of tiles have moved and we are still waiting for the roofer to complete these repairs.</p> <p>Netting in hall – the possibility of netting in the hall to prevent balls damaging the ceiling tiles is being considered. However the practicalities of installing it and the cost would need to be carefully considered.</p>   |
| 10. | <p><b>Net Zero Update</b> – Martin</p> <p>Due to the length of some other agenda items it was agreed to defer this to next month.</p>  |



## PCC Minutes, 18<sup>th</sup> May 2026

| #   | Agenda Items  |
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| 11. | <b>Any Other Business</b><br>None   |
| -   | <b>Close</b> - The meeting finished with prayer at 9.18pm   |
| -   | <b>Date of next PCC meeting</b> – Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> June<br>Opening reflection to be led by Somaga Chinwuba |