

Present	
1. Diane Backhouse (PSO) 2. Chisomaga Chinwuba 3. Andrew Eley (Warden & SC) 4. Derek Evans 5. Lucy Falcus (Deanery Synod) 6. Martin Howard (PCC Sec, V.Chair & SC) 7. Karen Killick (Deanery & Diocesan Synod)	8. Matt Levinsohn (Chair & SC) 9. Pamela Rushton 10. Karen Snowden (Warden & SC) 11. Ben Scott 12. Richard Wakefield (SC) 13. Guy Wingate (Treasurer, SC & Deanery Synod)

#	Agenda Items
1.	Opening Reflection – Andrew Eley Andrew shared that as part of the Bible Course that his Life Group are working through, he is doing the linked daily bible study. He share Jeremiah 29 v4-11. Verse 11 is well known but verses 5-7 got his attention. They were in exile for 70 years but God still asked them to settle down, plant gardens, marry and have children. It was a long time, but God did not expect things to be put on hold. They had suffered defeat and been removed from the land promised to them. They put their energy into building a community even if it was temporary. God was with them throughout and it is applicable for us today.
2.	Apologies for absence Apologies had been received from: Simon Honeywell & Margaret Vaughan
3.	Approval of minutes of 15th June PCC Meeting Proposed by Pamela Rushton and seconded by Richard Wakefield, all those present at the meeting (11) were in favour; 2 Abstentions
4.	Matters arising and Chairs update – Matt - American team- mission really encouraging with lots of things happening throughout the week. - We formally said goodbye to our American Interns on Sunday as we wanted to do this before people went on holiday, however they are still with us until next week. - It has been a busy term but one with lots of sharing faith in it. - Church camp went well with the most people attending so far. We had a good mix of children and adults including some new people attending. We were also joined by some people from St Mary's/ - New serve team person called Kiki who will be joining us in September. She is 21 and has completed university, so will bring a different range of experiences. - Madi maternity leave coming around. This will start mid Oct. We are exploring someone who could fill that gap and positive noises so far.

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	• Matt was going to propose we replace the PC at the back but we have updated the software, and all is well. • Bible Society plan is up and running. Fliers have been printed and are available for distribution.
5.	Financial update - Guy Income has increased significantly this year and we have had some very generous one off donations. Church centre lettings show a significant increase, however this needs to be checked. Maintenance is high due to the fence project at the start of the year and other works, however it is still within budhet for the year. Staff training budget has been spent but we are not expecting any further costs. Charitable giving is on track. We looked at the budget going forward and the potential funds that we have available for projects to the building. Our 2026 budget showed a planned reserve of £67k at the end of the year and £40k at the end of 2027. With the increased giving and donations we expect to end the year on £84k which would mean about £62k at the end of 2027 and significantly above our £45k contingency. We currently have £13,818 in the building fund and if we add the one-off donations that would take us to about £28K. We are expecting another £8k in one off donations which would leave us with about £36k to spend on both building projects (Windows & Library). However if we do not have any further donations or increase in giving we would end 2027 on about £36k which is below our agreed contingency.
6.	Library Proposals – Andrew / Martin Simon had been in touch with our Quinquennial Architect but the costs that he has proposed for the work are significantly higher than our budget. He is looking into obtaininf costs from other architects as we only need a relatively basic drawing and specification to allow us to go out to obtain quotes. Heating replacement costs for the library have been looked at but we have not as yet received a quote. Andrew will be following this up. We agreed to revisit this in September.
7.	Safeguarding Update – Diane Backhouse The dashboard remains at 95% and we are one of the most proactive users of the dashboard in the diocese. We have archived some activities such as CAP which we are not currently running. The safeguarding matrix is being updated and will be sent out to ministry leads over the summer.



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	We have previously discussed establishing a deputy PSO role to provide support for Diane and being a point of contact at the 10.45 service. Someone is going to be approached to see if they are willing to take on this role. A ministry update is being sent out for review and will be completed over the summer. Diane & Karen Snowden will be updating their Leadership training shortly. We have received no safeguarding concerns this month.
8.	Wardens Report – Karen Snowden We have had an updated quote which was shared with the PCC prior to the meeting, however the quote did not include £1k for the secondary glazing in the Chapel. The costs had increased as we had requested a window design to match the current external appearance which is felt will comply with the informal planning advice that we had received and was in line with feedback that had been received from the DAC. We have requested a further quote which removes some of the opening windows to the north side and should reduce the overall cost. We are currently looking at a maximum cost of £19,515 (current quote) and minimum cost of £15,360 (original cost) It was proposed by Richard Wakefield and seconded by Guy Wingate that we proceed with the window replacement subject to planning and faculty approval, based on the figures shared with the PCC. All were in favour.
9.	Feedback from Church Survey - Matt A few key messages. • Before that it is worth bearing in mind the stats Martin has shared about the size of the church. The 9am plainly has many strengths but is struggling and has been for a little while. Prior to covid we were low 40's. Post covid that has shrunk to 31 on average and remaining at that level. 81% of those responding from that congregation have been for 10 years plus. • The 10.45 service according to the spreadsheet of data has grown from 130 ish for 3 ish years to 141 this year. What the data cannot show is the number of people who are part of the church but come less often. So 83% attend every week from the report. But that leaves 17% who don't. A detailed report on the survey data was shared with the PCC ahead of the meeting. Nathan helpfully made it using AI and then fact checked it. It does over-emphasise those who write a lot and had strong views but it is pretty good. As a PCC we wanted to know about the future of the church and specifically how to make the tent bigger, creating more space for people to join without losing it's shape. The report was always going to be able to tell us some useful things, but was always going to struggle to tell us: What those very sporadic people think, and what those who are not here would find helpful. It also can't tell us what God wants.

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	What were some key findings: Positive: 67% of people are in a life group. We are a friendly congregation. Fewer people mention cliques than before. Worship and quality bible teaching matter. Family feel matters. People are held back from attending more not by what we do as much as by things in their lives getting in the way. Children’s and youth ministry are really key. Welcome is strong. Openness to the Holy Spirit. Many people volunteer and more would be happy to do so. To Improve: Service quality. Sound and visuals both have issues. Both also have issues recruiting. Leading is not always good and services do not always feel well put together. Time to listen to God is something people want more of. It was noted that the idea of the “Jar of Risk” is perhaps a difficult concept to understand and will be rebranded. Interesting: Appreciation of liturgy is split by congregation broadly. Church planting is not popular but mainly because of lack of resources. 86% of families with teens could make an evening service. That might reach different people. Our current communion pattern works for those for whom it is their pattern. On the issue of more or changes in services: No clear way ahead. There is demand for a range of styles. The general consensus is that 10.45 feels too full, even though we have only reached 80% capacity on a few occasions. It was agreed that it would be useful to have the survey results split by the services that people attend. This will be distributed to the PCC over the summer.				
10.	Policy Review– Martin The following policies need reviewing for approval in September. <table><tr><td>Health & Safety Policy – Derek Evans</td></tr><tr><td>Updated fire safety procedures to be added</td></tr><tr><td>Donations and Legacy Policy – Guy Wingate</td></tr><tr><td>Volunteer Guidelines Safer Recruitment Process – Diane Backhouse</td></tr></table>	Health & Safety Policy – Derek Evans	Updated fire safety procedures to be added	Donations and Legacy Policy – Guy Wingate	Volunteer Guidelines Safer Recruitment Process – Diane Backhouse
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11.	Any Other Business None				
-	Close - The meeting finished with prayer at 9.10pm				
-	Date of next PCC meeting – Monday 21st September Opening reflection to be led by Derek Evans (however Derek informed us that he may be away)				

