PCC Minutes, 21st September 2026

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

#	Agenda Items
1.	**Opening Reflection** – Simon Honeywell Simon explained that for the last month he had been working on fitting a new bathroom at home and that it had reminded him of how we have to deal with frustration in both our own lives and in the life of the Church. He shared 1 Peter 5v7 "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." Which reminds us that it is not our job to to control the outcomes but to surremder to God's control. God oftens uses delays in our plans to refine our relationship with him. We need to be practicing thankfulness. We ended with a short time of worship singing 10,000 Reasons.
2.	**Apologies for absence** Apologies had been received from: Chisomaga Chinwuba, Andrew Eley, Derek Evans, Lucy Falcus & Guy Wingate
3.	**Approval of minutes of 20th July PCC Meeting** Proposed by Matt Levinsohn as the chair, all those present at the meeting (8) were in favour with 2 Abstentions
4.	**Matters arising and Chairs update** – Matt • Kiki has arrived since last time and has settled in well. Thanks to Karen Killick for housing her this side of Christmas. Kay and Sola will host her afterwards. • Natalie continues to raise funds in the US in order to join us to serve doing Madi's maternity cover when Madi goes on leave next month. Originally, we did not know if we would need to advertise for someone and pay them. Natalie is not being paid due to visa constraints and so the 9 months saved pay will be used to extend Madi's time serving the church. • Bible Society outreach has not gone well. It was a pilot by the bible society so there needs to be some work on their part to figure out why. Other churches have had similar. We had 2 people to Grill a Vicar, 1 to the round table discussion, and 7 to the Bible course although 4 are Christians wanting to improve their bible understanding.

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	It was noted that the printed Gospels were good and a really good way to share the bible with others. It was also suggested that the mission may have hidden benefits that we are not currently aware of. • The church continues to have new people join. We are seeing good growth and exploration of faith. Ministries are going well. Parents life group, daytime alpha, Baby saints, are all helping people find us. Matt is working with Stuart and Ruth to help people find groups to support them. We have 7 people being baptised or reaffirming their baptism next month. • We have done some work on improving the computer over the summer and if these patches do not work we will need a new one. • The reflections on August services were positive, but we probably need a creche as almost all service leaders found it hard to engage the youngest. • It remains unclear what the right pattern of services will be. God does not seem to be sharing that with anyone as yet. It is possible that St Paul's may need more support with Paul leaving and that we may have a greater role there which may explain why. Other thoughts are to have a mid-afternoon or late afternoon traditional service and so need some people to go see St George's Fatfield who already have that pattern. This may help us to evaluate if a trial period here would be right which in turn may open space for a second morning service. • The youth hub is going great. We are seeing growth in our Friday youth club and some of this is starting to impact Sundays. Outreach in Eggleclife is going well including the two kintsugi groups, Christian union and the drop in is about to start. • Children's ministry is also expanding. Our thanks to the team which has made it possible to start Sparklers, which have initial had about 5 each week. This has not only improved how the groups ages are spread, but also opens up space to invite more children and their families. • We have moved the communion rails to beside the organ and put the books in the chapel. The aim is to make whatever we now call the Library feel more usable to children and youth. Are the PCC happy for us to sell or get rid of the bottom cabinets if they are not needed? • Martyn's Law document was shared with the PCC prior to the meeting: 3 changes have been identified: o For Invacuation we will not seek to move people to a central place but will keep them where they are and barricade doors. Howsarlock devices to be bought where locks could be opened without a key from the outside. o Panic alarm button system £65 to be bought and buttons around the building in covert places. o Break glass key for centre same as in narthex. It was also suggested that we look at being able to lock the doors from the Narthex into church for general. A quote to be obtained for the next meeting.

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5.	**Church Camp 2027 -** Matt Church camp overall cost about a thousand pounds although it is hard to tell because those who gave online were not easy to allocate against costs so the difference may be smaller. We are planning to run this again in 2027. Matt is of the view that it is worth it because people are helped to integrate. This year we had more people than previous years. It was agreed that we should put £1,000 in the budget to cover the cost of the camp.
6.	**Financial update –** Martin on behalf of Guy - Regular voluntary giving continues higher than 2025 - Further legacy one-off donation received. Normally annual one-off donations amount to £3000 so an exception year this year. - Our lettings are up thanks to a few new regular bookings. - To date we have we £15k surplus against a planned £20k deficit. - Maintenance overspend due to new fencing put in at start of year - Sundry expenditure higher than planned, most of additional spend associated with buying our own communion wine that was previously given as a gift. - Satellites Camp currently showing a loss of £2,750. Kathryn and John Belmont to provide balance of payments received and how this will net out at zero cost. - Diocese continue to reimburse Youth Hub expenditure in line with claims made by Kathryn and John Belmont. **It was proposed by Martin Howard and seconded by Simon Honeywell that we transfer £6000 from general cash balance to Building Improvements Fund to complete windows replacement and £20,000 from general cash balance to Building Improvement Fund as budget for library renovation.** <u>Draft Budget for 2027</u> - Assumptions noted in spreadsheet - Assume we go ahead with windows replacement and library renovation and that we defer library building work to January 2027. - Assumes we offer a Parish Share at 2.5% increase - Assume Real Living Wage increase to salaries at 3.7% - Leaves budget deficit of £20k. If we continue this level of deficit in future years (2028 beyond) we are likely to have to dip into contingency funds. Last time this happened we reduced our Parish Share contribution to compensate. - It was noted that the budget for the Youth Hub needs to be removed from the general accounts and set up as a separate fund in the accounts. <u>Parish Share</u> Parish share proposed in the budget was £90,405 which is 2.5%. The diocese have proposed a Guided pledge of £90,846 (3%) which is very close to the amount in the budget. **Matt as the chair proposed that we offer a parish share of £90,846 and all were in favour.**

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7.	**Safeguarding Update** – Diane Backhouse **1. Actions taken since last PCC:** a. Safeguard Audit was completed successfully with all ministry leads complying to request – very little updating was needed. Ministry leads were contacted to give feedback concerning their teams. b. Termly safeguard meeting with Matt was held on 14th September where two risk assessments were discussed and drafted - personal one and one based around Martyn's Law. Several vulnerable persons were also discussed – their needs and support given. c. All ministry leads and PCC were sent the updated Safeguard Matrix 2026 identifying roles that need to go through safer recruitment process prior to volunteering in ministries. d. Diane completed Leadership training in August and is awaiting her certificate. e. Richard Wakefield has kindly agreed to become Deputy PSO to support Diane as PSO. **2. Future actions needed:** a. PSO to attend team meetings annually as planned in risk assessments and as they arise. b. Continue to update Parish Dashboard and Safeguard Hub as needed.
8.	**Wardens Report –** Karen Snowden The planning application for the windows is in process and the faculty is now with the registry and the the chancellor. The electrician has fixed the lights in the corridor, emergency lights and smoke alarms. Roof tile replacement is in hand and just waiting for the roof to be available when the weather is favourable. Hall hire rates are being reviewed, however following research of other local halls it seems that the rates are similar to others in the area.
9.	**Library Proposals** – Simon No updates as yet as we are still looking for someone who can draw up the plans.
10.	**Policy Review**– Martin The following policies were reviewed and approved by the PCC. Health & Safety Policy – Derek Evans Updated fire safety procedures were added. Some minor amendments to section 5&19 were agreed. Donations and Legacy Policy – Guy Wingate Volunteer Guidelines Safer Recruitment Process – Diane Backhouse **Richard Wakefield proposed that we accept the amended policies, this was seconded by Margaret Vaughan and all were in favour.**
11.	**Any Other Business**

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#	Agenda Items
	None
-	**Close** - The meeting finished with prayer at 8.55 pm
-	**Date of next PCC meeting** – Monday 19th October Opening reflection to be led by Lucy Falcus