

Minutes of the PCC meeting September 20th. 2025 9.00am in Church House

Those present: Rev. Rona Stuart-Bourne (RSB), Nicki Edwards (NE), Harold Clarke (HC), Paul Springett (PS), David Grant (DG); Mary Clothier (MC). Richard Redman (RR), Susan Wales (SW), Trudy West (TW), Tone Higgins (AH), Trevor John (TJ), Louisa Hughes (LH), Felicity John (FJ)

Apologies for Absence: Amanda Macintosh (AM). David Johnson (DJ), Anne Salkeld (AS), Roger Cowley (RC).

The minutes of meeting held on 21.06.25 had been previously circulated and agreed as a true record.

Safeguarding: NE and RSB explained that the church needs to adopt the Safeguarding Policy (paperwork attached to agenda). Also, that a plan is needed to bring the information to the congregation's attention; that we need to think about our neighbours, lonely, vulnerable older people and the young people growing up in our communities. RSB suggested that the sermon delivered on "Safeguarding Sunday" should not be a yearly nod to safeguarding, and HC suggested something every month to bring it to the fore – **ACTION:** in intercessions and/or notices. NE continued by asking the question, "who is responsible for social media?" RSB made note to self but also pointed out that everyone is responsible for what they put onto social media and should follow National Guidance (<https://www.churchofengland.org/help/social-media-guidelines>). **ACTION:** NE and RSB to sit down and discuss. NE also said that a safeguarding folder needs to be kept safely in the office.

LH reported that the first session of the Little Jays Toddler Group saw 6 children, including one from Stalbridge, that she had had very positive feedback and hopes that numbers will increase through word of mouth. She has also created a facebook page which is posting on Millborne Port News and Views. She explained that she keeps all relevant compulsory records and comprehensive registration forms that can also count as a safeguarding record. These should also be **kept safely** in the office.

There is now a requirement that everyone on the PCC needs to have DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) Certification. **NE will** send it out to all online but asks that each of the PCC sits with her and goes through it.

Milborne Wick: AM did not attend the meeting, but we were reminded that their Harvest Festival is to be at 6pm 21.09.25. The August Cream Tea was very successful and an approximate figure of £1700 was raised. However, there were only 6 attendees at Leo Aylen's poetry evening.

Goathill: TW reported that the church had been used well during the summer. There had been two weddings, a musical evening and a benefice service, all of which had been absolutely lovely. Roof repairs are ongoing, and Nick Bunt has had quotes which he will take to the roofing committee. PS will take over as treasurer will take over as treasurer at the end of December – TW will ensure that Nick is informed.

Deanery Synod: RC is on the Deanery Synod but it was thought that there had not been a meeting since the PCC's previous meeting, so there was nothing to report.

Minutes from the sub-committees: These were sent out with the meeting agenda. RSB suggested that it would be good if people could join in and support the memory lane service. Also to encourage people to come along and support the Open Day on 4th October. Gill Sakakini (Diocese) is coming along to help produce a community art project of a star installation for the church. MC suggested adverts just for the Arts project on facebook. Rachel Greaves (organist) has produced a poster for the Open Day, copies of which were available to pick up to display and it was suggested that Rachel could be asked to take on a Social Media role for the church. MC also expressed concern about the organ. Rachel is getting quotes for the cost of repairs, which so far look quite onerous. RSB reminded the PCC that there is a service in church every morning at 9 am to which everyone is welcome. There is also an app available.

Finance: PS reported that he had instructed Helen Soloman to go ahead and rent a new printer. Funds are £8000 up compared to 01.01.25. Outgoings have been lower, and the pay machines have been successful, especially with events like baptisms. (£1285 plus gift aid to come). At a recent funeral at Charlton Horethorne, pictures had been taken of the QR code but these have not resulted in giving, possibly because people forgot to use them, or the money went to the chosen charity. £20,000 has been taken out of the deposit account to cover what is being done at the moment.

Fabric: SW reported that the stonemason, Daniel, had finished most of the outside work by the end of August and will complete this next year – in the meantime he will continue with work on the inside of church. DG has ensured that there is a photographic before and after record of what has been done – and it appears very good. Daniel must comply with the DAS architects' specifications.

Their views have differed, and Daniel has reported that he has spent 45hrs extra producing new specs (£1400) – this has adversely affected his home life and other work. So far £9164.74 has been spent out of the initial starting quote of £17000. DG suggested that "approval in principle" should be given to some form of compensation for the extra work. NE suggested an upper limit of £1000.

ROOF: Tom Griffin's (TG) comprehensive report and schedule of work has just arrived. SW has sent through a List B application to the diocese which has no time limit once approved. TG has recommended 4 contractors to put forward quotes.

Organ: see above sub committees. Quote so far £200-300,000.

Church Cleaning: There are advertisements going into the parish magazine and on facebook for new vergers and cleaners.

Boiler: This will be serviced this week.

Ride-on-Mower: this has been repaired. The Parish Council have contributed £100+VAT and TJ suggested that Church House will pay some or all of the balance.

New Keys for the vestry door have been cut.

Electricity Supply: RSB - the church needs a new electricity supply – Phase 3 which is 3 cables with a higher load. Cost will be £25,000. HC and SW had been to Martock to look at the infra red “chandelier” – cost approximately £10,000.

Project St. Johns: Neither of these can go ahead until the roof is waterproof and mended. DG asked TG for “ballpark” figure. Repairs – not replacement – of tower/roof/guttering will be a 6 figure sum. PS says the whole church balance is £207,000, of which £50,000 is in the repair fund. **DG is to look into fund-raising bodies in Somerset** (Dorset is well served.) (FJ – suggest these funds might be OK for Goathill).

RBS is putting a piece in the magazine to suggest that people sell unwanted items and give the money to the restoration fund.

Extra: Tony Thorp went a talk about Church roofs – he was concerned about the swifts but the talk was about bats.

Health and Safety: Observational – Daniel's wooden scaffolding (dealt with); long – handled dusters during interior cleaning a wobbly danger; bat droppings causing asthma.

Correspondance: Rural forum – RSB attending on Oct.3rd and asked if anyone would like to join her.

AOB: There was a reminder that there is a Julian service for prayer and quiet contemplation on Tuesdays between 4 and 5pm.

LH reported that the Little Jays has been given £300 from SOMP to help towards mats and other equipment.

From January 2026 there is a course in Wells on “Exploring your Spiritual Journey”. The cost is £375 and the course is spread over 3 terms, every other week.

Dates of next meeting: 18th. Nov. 10.00am.

The meeting ended at 11.15 am with a prayer.