

Minutes of the PCC meeting June 21st 2025 9.00am in Church House

Rev. Rona. Started the meeting with some words from a hymn.

Those present: Rev. Rona Stuart-Bourne (RSB), Nicki Edwards (NE), Harold Clarke (HC), David Johnson (DJ), Paul Springett (PS), Richard Redman (RR), Susan Wales (SW), Tone Higgins (AH), Trevor John (TJ), Anne Salkeld (AS), Louisa Hughes (LH), Felicity John (FJ)

Apologies for Absence: Amanda Macintosh (AM). David Grant (DG); Mary Clothier (MC).

The minutes of meeting held on 15.03.25 had been previously circulated and agreed as a true record, with one correction (Jonathon RODD [sp])

Safeguarding: NE distributed the completion certificates for "Foundations of Safeguarding" and explained that the next module will cover domestic abuse – this will be delivered in the November meeting.

Milborne Wick: NE has spoken with AM about her difficulty in attending PCC meetings due to work commitments. **At the end of this meeting, it was agreed that when the PCC organises dates for next year. Exeat Saturdays will be a priority so AM can attend.** AM sent word that the History Talk and Walk in Milborne Wick went very well; RSB also said that Holy Saturday at Wick was a success; there has been 1 baptism and 2 more are booked for this year; and AM wished to remind everyone that Wick's annual fundraising cream tea is happening at the end of August.

Goathill: The formal declaration from the Registrar re: the amalgamation of the churches of Milborne Port and Goathill has been formally ratified. The new parish name is Milborne Port with Goathill and Charlton Horethorne with Stowell. [Milborne Wick and the new members of the benefice, Compton Pauncefoot, Maperton and Blackford are yet to be included in the benefice name.] Trudy will remain churchwarden of Goathill, and she and Harold will represent the church on this PCC and Deanery Synod. They will continue to have committees for such things as fundraising. HC reported that the faculty had been submitted for the roof of the Church, and the duck race fundraiser realised £496. This was down on last year. RSB reminded people that on Sunday 22nd June there will be a Communion Service at Goathill.

Deanery Synod: RSB and HC attended the last meeting. There was a discussion on a "bubble" church. This was a concept developed during Covid whereby each family has a mat and stays within their own "bubble", but that resources including scripts were available, and that the service was very powerful. It was suggested that puppets should be fundraised for. Templecombe do this every week in a separate service from the more traditional one, but they hope to combine these services eventually. Other news generally is that the Gideons have now become "Good News for Everyone" in the UK as the USA founding base does not allow women leaders. They have a depository in Sherborne Abbey and are handing out 20 bibles a day.

Minutes from the sub-committees:

RR reported on the **Charity and Mission Committee**. Two new charities are being included – Tearfund, and The Roost – a drop-in centre in Yeovil which provides daycare and help for local homeless people.

The Events Committee quiz night held on the 25th of May realised a nett profit of £579, and the Summer Fete is pencilled in for July 19th. The church will not run cream teas at the SOMP fete 21st. June because the organising committee failed to rebook the hall when the date was changed. The Open Gardens was wet but successful. Coming up are: the organ recital by Michael Bawtry (08.07.25), the Church Fete (19.07.05), and the autumn quiz night in November (15.11.25). Martyn Else is unable to provide fish and chips that particular evening, so it is suggested that teams bring their own picnic. AS raised the question of impactful communications. As pew news only appears once a month now and Helen is also away, it was felt that flyers needed to be printed and distributed as well as using the usual social media. Michael Bawtree's recital has been advertised through Margaret Phillip's Organ School, Sherborne Abbey and Wincanton Choral Society. AS also made a plea for bottles and gazebos for the Church Fete. HC and TH suggested they knew of a large cover for the band.

RSB asked DJ to report on the **Christian Aid Committee**. DJ pointed out that this is not a sub-committee of the PCC, but a village based ecumenical committee with representatives from the RC church and Reborn. However, he did report that Christian Aid Week had raised approximately £1000.

Finance: PS reported that the total Church Assets were £204,050.75, plus the buildings which also include Church House and St. John's Cottage. The stone mason, Daniel Kempf (DK), will need to be paid soon, but PS hopes this will be after the end of June because the deposit account at that point will bring in approximately £3000.00 interest. However, deposit account funds will need to be dipped into as receipts are not keeping up with outgoings. SW pointed out that this account will be boosted eventually when VAT is claimed, plus grants and other various funding becomes available for the major works. PS reminded us that from 2027 all churches and charities with assets above £2000.00 will have to register. To this end he is very carefully checking the status of accounts and has discovered that most are under the title "restricted" (This was how the previous treasurer designated them). This category is set up by a donor and is legally binding (so the money MUST be spent under it's given heading. PS wishes to change the majority of these funds to "designated", which is not legally binding, and money can be moved to where it is needed. A discussion ensued. NE suggested that the Restoration Fund (approx. £55,000.00) at present, remains as a restricted fund so that people who give towards the restoration of the church know that that is where their money is going. Otherwise, all funds will keep their titles and will be used for what they say they will, unless the church is under duress.

A vote was taken and all were in favour.

Fabric: SW reported on this. The lamppost has been painted. A discussion was held as to the way forward with Church heating. Any decision has to be ratified by Bath and Wells property manager, Owain Wynne. It was pointed out that North Cadbury needed a new boiler and a faculty was granted. At this stage, it is unsafe to install solar panels as the roof needs replacing and also it is not allowed because of the stone tiles on the roof. AS (a GP) pointed out that heating pads (as used at Corfe Castle) were unsuitable for the aging congregation, because they did not heat the air we breathe. PS pointed out that a faculty would take an age, so it was unlikely a new boiler could be installed before this winter. A vote was taken to obtain to seek to obtain a faculty and then instal a new, efficient gas boiler, possibly with a bespoke building to raise it out of the wet underground cellar it is presently in. **The vote was unanimous.** RSB to look into quotes and faculty.

Mark and Ross Andrews have cleared the guttering. We are awaiting the report on the roof by Thomas Griffin, the architect. The aim is to have the **tower roof** repaired not replaced. The woodwork under the lead needs inspecting to ensure it is not rotten. Also, the North Aisle lights keep tripping which may indicate a leak somewhere. DG has emailed a useful reply to the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC), to ensure that DK's report complies expectations. SW has spoken to DK on behalf of the PCC (Thursday 19th.June 2025 6pm) to respond to the architect's recommendations and this will be forthcoming in due course. Also discussed was the cost of new stone samples and the old flue that goes up the tower. There is a firm in Henstridge (Razzle Dazzle Testing and Removal) that will check for any asbestos.

Health and Safety: DK has his own wooden scaffolding that is covered by his own insurance policy. Mark Lidster (Church Buildings Advisor) has said that a cherry picker should not be used as it is too heavy (ancient vaults subject to possible collapse under the exterior of the Church). The second phase of the work on the wall alongside Bathwell Lane will be carried out on July 2nd. (Kelly Harrison (Bath and Wells property admin assistant) in consultation with Natalie Hetherington, (Parish Council)).

Archdeacon's Visit: RSB thanked everyone who had organised the events and hospitality of the visit and commented that all had gone well.

Letters: Circulated for this meeting were: (i) emails from Graham Sharpless about the Church website and the need for a.n.other(s) to help him update it. It has been subject to cyber-attack, but no damage has been done as it was disabled promptly. Helen has been away, but Graham has had meetings with her about the website/pew news updates. (ii) Mission and Pastoral Measure re: the union of Milborne Port and Goathill. Passed and Signed by the Bishop and two signatories for the Church Commissioners. (iii) see above re: wall in Bathwell Lane. (iv) see above difficulty of meeting times for AM. (v) FJ has completed an online form detailing parish officers (for MPort with Goathill and MW – the three new benefice parishes were not included this year).

Rev Rona:

- RSB showed a booklet called "Look Around You" – a meditative walk around a church. FJ took it on – this booklet appears to have ceased publication 20 years ago, so FJ has emailed the publishers to see if anything suitable has replaced it – no answer yet.
- RSB repeated her plea for people to do their own funeral planning – she has a form that can be filled in. Also, a plea to think about legacies in their wills, and spread this idea out to the wider church community. DJ suggested people specified an actual sum in their wills to avoid complications of probate. NE pointed out that most people will simply leave everything to their families so suggested giving now as a living legacy. Below is the result of a quick google – you may like to contact your own financial advisors. FJ couldn't find exactly what was required on the diocesan site although they did talk about leaving after-death legacies.

[A living legacy - the pros and cons over leaving an inheritance](#)

RSB continued.

- The "memory lane" service (today 21.06.25) is at 4pm with AS providing refreshments. The next one will be on the day of the Church Fete (19.07.25) so will be in church.
- Next Sunday (29.06.25) will be the first extended benefice service. It will be at Compton Pouncefoot at 10.30am. There is ample parking but there are roadworks on the main route which has closed this road – find an alternative.

AOB: LH requested funding to help set up the "Little Jays" mother and toddler group which will begin 3rd week in September. **All agreed** that £100 or £200 could come from funds for start-up materials. **RSB will also announce this in church.**

There was a reminder that there is a service of quiet contemplation on Tuesdays between 4 and 5pm.

Dates of next meetings: At the moment: **20th Sept. 10 am and 15th Nov. 10.00am.** These dates/times may be subject to change if we are able to move them to coincide with exact dates to allow AM to attend. **NE and AM to discuss.**

The meeting ended at 11.00 am with more words from the hymn RSB has discovered and the grace.