

Minutes of the special meeting of the PCC of Milborne Port held on Monday 13rd
December 2025 in Church House at 10.am

Those present: Rev. Rona Stuart-Bourne (RSB), Harold Clarke (HC), David Grant (DG); Paul Springett (PS), David Johnson (DJ), Richard Redman (RR), Anne Salkeld (AS), Susan Wales (SW), Tone Higgins (AH), Trevor John (TJ), Trudy West (TW). Roger Cowley (RC), Felicity John (FJ)

Apologies for Absence: Nicki Edwards (NE), Amanda Macintosh (AM). Louisa Hughes (LH), Mary Clothier (MC).

RSB opened the meeting with prayer.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the Parish Share. The diocese has “generously” given parishes a five year “buffer” transition plan – the amount they have asked for is £53,186 for 2026 – that is a rise of 4.5%. What they want is a figure of £66,306, which would not allow us to run the church. It would mean that everyone who attends church would need to give £20 each per week. This is not do-able for those on small pensions, and couples would have to find at least £160 a month. Milborne Port Benefice gets no help whatsoever from central funds, whereas other parishes (many in urban areas) do.

It was noted by DG that The Parochial Fees are going up by 3.8% - and this is .2% above baseline inflation. A discussion ensued and it was decided to say that we will try to find an extra 3.8% (£50,668 – up from £48,813 in 2025)) - which matches the rise in Parochial fees. There were no objections when the vote for this was taken, all were in favour. A letter will be composed by RSB and others.

It was noted that Milborne Port is trying to cut expenses, but, for example, money gained through the retirement of the vergger and cleaner – who have not been replaced – is about the same as the money no longer coming in from deceased members of the congregation. The diocese could find savings by – for example – reducing the number of Bishops to one.

The next item for discussion was the need secure funds for the repair of the roof at Goathill church. Nick Bunt is to stand down but hopes to see this project through. He will attend the next emergency meeting, either the 10th or the 17th of January 2026 – RC to see which Nick can do and will inform us. The ROM (Rough Order of Magnitude) and other financial figures are in the attached document.

The meeting ended at 10.45am.