Minutes of the PCC meeting held in Church House, 10.00am Saturday 19th. September 2026

Present: Paul Springett (treasurer) (PS); Susan Wales (Churchwarden) (SW); Nicki Edwards (NE); Roger Cowley (RC); Felicity John (secretary) (FJ); Trevor John (TJ); Anthony Higgins (AH); David Johnson (DJ); Richard Redman (RR); Harold Clarke (HC); David Grant (DG); Mary Clothier (MC); Anne Salkeld (AS). David Griffiths (DGr).

Apologies: Trudy West (TW) Louisa Hughes (LH)

Minutes of meeting on 18.07.26 Matters Arising.

- Correction: p2 1st mention of Charity and Mission should read "Events".
- The first aid kit for the tower has been purchased and installed thanks to bell ringer Jo Batchelor.
- All went well for the Confirmation and Rona's Leaving do Services. Thanks to Anne and Neil and the team for the bbq and food, and the lending of the gazebos from Venn.

Finance: (PS)

Approximate (because of Bank shutdown/upgrade) totals as of Thursday 17th September 2026:

General Fund	£23,649.75
Savings	£6047.19
Nat West (charity)	£1472.67
CCLA deposit account	£178,408.69

(Church Council Local Authority account)

The General Account is down but all fund-raising moneys are being swept into the Repair Fund. PS asked that £25,000. Be moved from the CCLA account into the General Fund to keep things going – all in favour.

The builder, Mike White, has presented the final roof bill. This is £31,703.04. (£26.419.20 plus £5283.84 VAT). He will retain a 5% liability fee for 12 months in case of any defects showing up, therefore we will be covered.

The £332.00 cash (plus any gift aid) from Rona's leaving service will be put into the Benefice Fund. This fund pays for anything Benefice-wide such as Helen's £7000 pa salary'

Stowell's Ecclesiastical Insurance payment is due. This has risen by 35% due to nationwide lead thefts.

St. John's is on a 3 year discount scheme for Gas and Electricity.

PS also informed the meeting that the Parish Giving Scheme is no longer independent as is now part of the CofE. The Diocese tracks everything we do – for example, fees from weddings.

Kate Mayo from the diocese would like to meet up with PS and NE.

SW thanked PS for being brilliant at the finance job.

Goathill:

Harvest Festival is next Sunday 6pm. The afternoon of music raised £343.

Milborne Wick: Their Harvest is tomorrow at 2pm. Taken by Stuart Thomas. The Harvest Supper is at the Church, costs £25 a head on the 10th October. 6pm.

The Carol Service will be on the 18th December and taken by Jane Craw.

Despite the uncertain weather, on August 30th a marquee was erected at Manor Farm, the Ukulele band played and the annual cream tea raised just under £1000.

The Vacancy:

NE had a meeting with the acting Archdeacon a couple of weeks ago. The system has not changed since Rona was appointed. He was very positive, but the average time for a vacancy now is 18mths to 2 yrs. The process starts with a Pre-Section 11 meeting with all the PCCs in the Benefice. This will be in October and November with Diocesan Facilitator and is a chance to start thinking about the "sort of person we want as our parish priest". Then we write the parish/benefice profile, start advertising and eventually appointing. NE pointed out that 8 parishes placed a huge demand on one person, so the Parish Profile is key – not a tourist brochure, but how can we support the priest.

Deanery Synod: The next meeting will be on November 3rd at West Camel with the Bishop of Taunton.

Minutes from the sub-committees:

Events:

The Sea Shanty afternoon is on the last Sunday 25th October 2-4pm. (Goathill to cancel their 4th Sunday Service). Tickets from Waynes.

There will be a Christmas Tree Festival this year organised by SW. SW has had a meeting with Clare Andrews (SOMP). The Christmas Trees will coincide with Light Switch on (Saturday 28th. November). There will be no stalls in Church, but people will be clearing up on the Sunday which means there will be parking problems down Bathwell Lane. Therefore, the Beefice Service will be moved to Blackford. SOMP are sponsoring the trees and the theme will be a word used by each organisation which contains the sound "tree" – however it's spelt (eg "Historee".

Other committee meetings include Magazine on Monday and Charity and Mission next month.

Fabric:

(see Finance for figures).

The light at the bottom of the tower stairs was smashed when the scaffolding was being taken down. Mike White the builder has knocked off £300 from the overall bill and Robert will fix it in due course.

The lights in the north aisle can now be fixed as the risk to more water in the junction box is over.

The stonework on the west window needs looking at – this part of the Quinquennial. DG will make applications for grants.

The boiler service is happening soon – it is broken at the moment.

The organ needs looking at – no point in the very hot weather, but solutions will be tried this autumn.

Health and Safety/safeguarding: NE – we need to get together a pastoral team to keep an eye on an increasingly old congregation. Jenny Hill was suffering from the beginnings of dementia and lived alone and died alone. There are confidentiality issues, and the fact that people with dementia will tell one person one thing, and another person another thing. NE to get in touch with Sally Oxford at the surgery to see if they have any ideas or systems in place.

Tuesday Lunch Club – drivers still needed to transport those no longer able to drive. AS to get in touch with Sherborne Voluntary Ambulance service as Alan is in a Dorset (Leigh) Care Home to see if they could at least bring him one way.

Letters: none. Any that come through electronically are emailed on by FJ.

AOB:

- A typo on the agenda "Mary". MC said that as the magazine and online updates on the repair were good, and LH was working full time and hadn't arranged a meeting, then for the moment that was good enough re: keeping people updated and the ongoing fundraising to the forefront of village residents minds.
- Helen is the whole Benefice administrator. She would like more hours but is sometimes interrupted by people wishing to chat. PS says there is no money for this and she should operate an appointments system to ensure that she is not interrupted. Also that she should always leave her desk when her hours are up and not put in extra hours. She has a benefice phone with a low cost contract.
- PS wishes to remind the retired clergy that the diocese now requires a separate claim form every time they kindly take a service and that these claim forms are dealt with on a monthly basis.
- PS suggests that there should be a formal Benefice Committee to cover all things that are Benefice wide. This will be brought to the informal meeting of churchwardens by SW.
- PS wishes to hand over to someone else after the next APCM – he will be 74 next year (cake and candles on July 4th) and would like some happy retirement with his wife. The treasurer does not have to be a church goer or the PCC and Paul has set everything up to make life as easy as possible regarding doing the accounts. It may be that we have to pay someone.
- SW will also stand down at the APCM. At present she, as sole churchwarden, is supported by a team of people who take on various roles and keep things going. She is looking to come up with a job description and there is a handbook available from the diocese. FJ and DG both pointed out that the information from Exeter diocese was much easier to find, succinct and clear!

The meeting ended with the Grace at 11.20am.

Next Meeting: Saturday 21st November at 10.00am.