THE PARISH OF ST PETER – IN –THANET

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL HELD ON THE 25th SEPTEMBER 2025

Present

S. Mills (SM), L. Stickels (LO), J.Reid (JR) R.Brown (Roy B), A.Parkins (AP) I.Dunn (ID), J.Binfield (JB), R. Page (RP), H.Kendrick (HK), K. Parker-Vaughan (KPV), L. Earll (LE), M.Bridges (MB), C.Knight (visitor)
S.Brooks (Mins).

Rev Alice Bates,

CHAIR; Rev Matt Hodder

1. WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

Rev Matt welcomed all attendees and read the Parable of the Mustard Seed from Matthew Chapter 13. He gave thanks that all we need is a mustard seed of faith to achieve many things and prayed that God would be at the heart of all business.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Rita Dunn, Richard Baker.

3. MINUTES OF THE PCC MEETING HELD ON 21st July 2025

The minutes for 21st July were proposed as correct by SM, with no amendments. This was seconded by ID and agreed unanimously.

4. MATTERS ARISING

a) A confidential item was discussed.

b) PCC Secretary. The PCC thanked Sue for her long service as Minutes Secretary. A new Secretary will be appointed in January 2026. Rev Matt suggested to the PCC that Sue be co-opted onto the committee until the next APCM. Rev Alice proposed this and econded by ID and passed unanimously.

5. SAFEGUARDING

Chris Knight thanked the PCC for their support as he undertakes the training as a Lay Minister. Re safeguarding, all PCC members must have DBS checks. This is pending, awaiting the appointment of a new company to authorise the checks. Stage Two training will take place for the PCC next week. As a Parish we are working towards attaining Level TWO, including an approved list of activities. We need to be transparent and up to date. Rev Matt confirmed that Chris was succeeding in his endeavours.

6. PCC COMMITTEES

Fabric Committee

A report was brought to the meeting. Topics included the cessation of clock chimes at night and the work on the heating. The DAC has approved the phased heating plan and it is hoped work will start soon on the installation of the new boiler. AP proposed that the Halls Committee and the Fabric Committee should combine to work on the project to place solar panels on the Hall roof in 2026. This was seconded by LS and passed unanimously. AP advised that the solar panels would offset carbon emissions and there may be grants to help with the cost. After completion of this work, the intention is to resume work on the toilet block and on silencing the clock chimes during the night. RP proposed a vote of thanks to AP for all the work he has done on the heating.

Finance Committee

Robin Page, the treasurer, had previously circulated the finance report. Funds and expenditure are both bouyant. Discussion followed on the suspension of collections during the services in favour of a retiring collection. The congregation is increasing but collections are down by about 14%, with a slight increase in card donations. Some favoured a return to using a collection plate at the offertory hymn. Rev Matt noted that collections at baptisms had increased following the decision to pay 50% to charities chosen by the baptism candidate's family. KP-V proposed that a more prominent collection box should be placed near the door and also by the refreshments area, seconded by ID and passed unanimously. The PCC thanked Robin for all his hard work.

Ministry, Mission and Worship

Rev Matt is preparing work on the new "Three Things " project in the diocese. The focus will be on youth, trying to increase numbers and on new activities and committees. He will report back at the next meeting.

Halls Committee
Report circulated. JR had several things to ask for PCC approval. JR proposed that £900 should be paid for the repairs to the Portland toilet, seconded by SM and passed unanimously. Secondly, JR proposed that £800 should be paid for the removal of the air conditioning unit from the Portland door. This was seconded by MB and passed unanimously. Following concerns expressed by the residents of Arklow Cottage about loud music at night, JR proposed that loud music would not be permitted after 7pm in the Portland Hall and Mulberry Room. Music in the main hall would not be affected This was seconded by Rev Alice and passed unanimously. The hot water tank in the Main Hall disabled toilet developed a leak and had to be replaced as a matter of urgency as there was dampness ,the cupboard has been replaced with another. The cost is unknown but as had to be done was PCC approved and will be advised to members when known.

Lastly, JR proposed that the expenditure the Halls committee can authorise without needing PCC permission be raised from £500 to £1,000. The proposal was amended to include all committees' expenditure, seconded by SM and passed unanimously. JR confirmed that the Halls income was good and they benefited from not having to pay the gas bill as the boiler was out of operation. The PCC thanked JR and all his committee for their work.

Churchyard- including Garden of Remembrance
Rev David Tate had reported a good attendance at the Eco fair last weekend. Some useful initiatives were raised, eg nesting boxes for dormice.

Fund Raising
Report circulated in advance and accepted. Summer fair was successful but more volunteers needed. Boot fair last weekend raised £400, two more are planned before the Christmas Festive Fayre. A quiz night is to be held on 17th October. RB asked for ideas for new ways to raise funds. He had thought of a nostalgia film night but the logistics were complex. The PCC thanked RB and all his committee for their work.

Social Committee

SM confirmed that around £300 had been raised at the recent tea and talk events. A Harvest Supper is planned for October.

7. DEANERY SYNOD

The road show was attended by Rev Matt, Rev Alice, ID and SM. A meeting at All Saints Birchington was attended by Rev Matt, Rev Alice, JB and MB. This concerned the organisation for chaplains in the work place, who can also assist in emergencies. It is possible that we may offer chaplaincy services to Westwood Cross.

7. HEALTH AND SAFETY – Accident reporting

None reported

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is on 27th November, 7pm in Mulberry Room.

10. AOB

A new youth group will begin on 10th October. This will be an invitation event, held fortnightly, LE,LS and Rev Matt will work on this with the help of Laura and Emily Miller.

Some masonry has fallen down in the Children's Corner in the church. Pending repairs, the area is cordoned off and the children's activities moved to St John's Chapel.

The policy document on the recruitment of ex offenders was discussed. If safe to do so, this was considered viable. Rev Matt proposed the adoption of the policy, seconded by JB and passed unanimously.

A discussion was held about making a donation towards the cost of the Westover Beacon congregation obtaining a building for worship. A building is available but costs of £40,000 need to be paid before it can be used. KPV suggested we mention the appeal in church. ID proposed we give £5,000, seconded by MB and passed unanimously.

11. THE GRACE

The meeting closed with the Grace.