

Minutes of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) Meeting
Monday 16th March 2026
The Main Hall

Opening Prayer:

The meeting began with a prayer of thanks for the past year's decisions and a request for wisdom and clarity for the evening's deliberations.

Attendance:

Attended by: Ian Dunn, Rita Dunn, David Campbell, Roy Brown, Andy Parkin, Liz Earll, Sarah Campbell, Hilary Kendrick, Katherine Parker-Vaughan, June Binfield, Lloyd Stickels, Mary Bridges, John Reid, Reverend Matt Hodder (Chair), and Robin Page.

Apologies for Absence:

Apologies were received and noted from Rev Alice Bates, Sue Brooks, Sylvia Mills and Richard Baker.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

The minutes from the January 19th meeting were reviewed and were formally approved.

Matters Arising:

- A confidential item was discussed.

Safeguarding (Presented by Matt on behalf of Chris Knight – Parish Safeguarding Officer)

- Training Requirements: Matt emphasized that while not all PCC roles require a DBS check, all members are mandated by the Diocese to complete "Basic" and "Foundation" safeguarding training modules.
- Data Breach Update: The council was briefed on a security breach involving the legacy "e-bulk" DBS system. Members were advised that they might receive individual notifications from the Diocese if their data was affected.

PCC Committees

Ministry, Mission and Worship (presented by Rev Matt)

- Easter Services were discussed by Rev Matt (see flyer in church) This year the main difference will be a dawn service on Easter Sunday, followed by "tea and toast."
- Good Friday: An "all-age workshop" (similar to Sunday Praise) is scheduled for 11:30 AM.
- Roy Brown enquired whether the Sunday services had seen an increase in attendance. Our average Sunday attendance is around 90 people for the 9.30am service.
- Music Update: Patrick Dunn (organist) outlined a program of reflective music for Holy Week. This includes a dedicated performance on the Wednesday before Compline and specific musical settings for the Good Friday and Easter Sunday services.
- Prayer and Spiritual Life (Reported by Matt on behalf of Alice): * Pew Sheet Reform: To focus on urgent needs, the weekly prayer list will now only include those "acutely unwell."
- Prayer Course: A new course exploring various methods of prayer will launch on Wednesday, April 29th, led by Matt and Alice.
- Prayer Ministry: plans to station a small prayer team at the front of church after each service to offer prayer for those who would like it are presently being paused, because there are not enough volunteers currently who would like to be involved.

Fabric (Presented by Andy)

- Clock Chimes/Bells: An electrician is coming to look at the bells and the clock chiming silencer. Hilary Kendrick expressed sadness about the prospect of the bells being silenced at night; a final decision on the exact “off and on” times will be made once the feasibility is confirmed and the electrician has visited, but it was noted by Andy that there have been several cases over the past few years of churches and local councils losing court cases based on noise pollution, to this is seen as a preventative step, albeit a costly one.
- Electrical Survey: A survey is scheduled for March 23rd to look at the feasibility of joining the church and hall together under the solar side for better energy efficiency.

Finance (Presented by Robin)

- Utility Supplies: Robin reported that gas and electricity contracts have been renegotiated. These new contracts come into effect on April 1st and will freeze utility prices for the next three years.
- Income & Legacies: * The church received £8,500 from the Church Commissioners for chancel repair work. A significant legacy of £77,000 from the estate of Daniel has been received, designated for the “Refreshment and Toilet Project.” Further legacies from Mrs. Perry (£10k–£20k) and Janet Brown (5% of net estate) are currently in probate.
- 2025 Accounts: The PCC formally approved the 2025 accounts (Proposed by Robin, Seconded by John). They were approved by majority, with one abstention.
- Operational Costs: It was noted there is an £878 annual increase in National Insurance contributions due to statutory changes affecting the three part-time staff members.

Halls (Presented by John)

- Mulberry Room: The PCC approved a quote of £3,095 for new hospital-grade “poly-floor” flooring. (Proposed by Mary Bridges, Seconded by Roy Brown), approved unanimously.
- Hall Sound System: The PCC approved the expenditure of £3,500 for a new three-microphone wireless set and docking station for the hall. (Proposed by June Binfield, Seconded by Rita Dunn), approved unanimously.
- Personnel and Staffing: A confidential item was discussed.

Fundraising (Presented by Roy)

- Fundraising Leadership: Roy and Laura announced they are both stepping down as Chair/Leads of the Fundraising Committee. Robin Page and Shelley Lennon will be taking over as co-chairs. Roy expressed that while stepping down as Chair, he would like to focus his efforts on organizing a music/movie event.

Churchyard (Rev Matt)

- Tree work (pollarding lime trees) commenced on March 9th.

Deanery Synod (June Binfield and Mary Bridges)

- Mary announced she will be stepping down from her role when the 3 yr term is up at the APCM. She would seek re-election onto the PCC in a non-Deanery role.
- June expressed her desire to continue if elected. It was noted that the church needs one more person to fill the remaining vacancy.

Electoral Roll

- It was recorded that there are currently 145 people on the electoral roll.

Health and Safety

- No accidents or incidents were reported for this period since the last PCC meeting in January 2026.

Date of Next Meeting

- The APCM will be held on Sunday, May 3rd at 11:00 AM, followed immediately by a short PCC meeting.

Any Other Business (AOB)

- Upcoming Events (Roy): A Bake Sale is scheduled for April 4th, with a Quiz Night planned for May.
- PCC Resignation: Katherine Parker Vaughan informed the PCC of her resignation after two years of service. The committee thanked Katherine wholeheartedly for all that she had brought to the role.
- Sarah highlighted the “Thanet Gang Show” performances over the Easter weekend, encouraging the congregation to support the local youth.
- Silverware Loan (Ian): Ian confirmed the progress of the formal loan agreement with Canterbury Cathedral regarding the church’s historical silverware was now complete. It lasts for 5 years.

The Grace

- The meeting concluded with the Grace: