

MINUTES OF THE ALL SAINTS' PCC MEETING

held at All Saints' Chilton on Tuesday 1st July 2025 at 7.30 pm.

St Matthew's, Harwell and All Saints', Chilton PCCs were present together for opening prayer. For the other items only All Saints' members were present.

Opening and Prayer

The Rector, Revd Jeremy Parsons, welcomed the PCCs to the meeting and opened the meeting in prayer reading from 1 Timothy, Chapter 1 vs 12-17. He reminded us that as we discuss PCC matters to remember and acknowledge before others that we are all sinners but God gives us grace upon grace.

Before we split into our separate meetings, Tony Hughes asked if there was an update on the Committee structure and decision making consultation. Stephen Manning reported that the report was 95% finished and Jeremy and himself were meeting with Geoff Maughan later this week to finalise things. The report would then be brought to either the Combined PCC meeting in September or the individual meetings in October.

All Saints' PCC only

Present:

Rev Pam Rolls
Alex Reich (Churchwarden)
Naomi Gibson (Secretary)
Pat Moseley
John Pigott

Hazel Benton (Vice Chair)
Judith Russell (Churchwarden)
Stuart Gibson (Treasurer)
Liz Morris

1. **Apologies for absence**
Apologies were received from Jan Radford.
2. **Minutes of the meeting on 4th March 2025 and extract from the Combined June meeting about the resolution for plasterwork repairs**
The minutes of the meeting on 4th March 2025 and the Resolution were unanimously accepted as a true record and signed.
3. **Decisions requested of Standing Committee between meetings -None**
4. **Matters Arising-**
 - **A special event at Chilton Field as part of bringing the church "over (or under) the bridge" update**
Hazel reported that she has spoken to Tim Brook and Phil Corbishley following the last meeting about possible dates and ideas for this outreach event. She followed up with them recently and they suggested that the Church man the BBQ at the School Fete as they thought an event should be big or not at all. This proposal was too late for this year's school event. Alex had also been in correspondence with the Brooks and Corbishleys by email and in principle they liked the idea but were too busy with the organisation of the Village Hall services and All Age Service to organise anything this year. The PCC also realised that they would not be able to put something together for this September.
Pat Moseley suggested a fun run ending in a BBQ and music. It was suggested that we could do this in the Spring and dates of Saturday 16th May or Saturday 13th June 2026 were suggested. These dates will be checked. **Action:AR**
Hebrews 12:1-2 – Running the Race for God will be the theme. Encouraging believers to run the race of faith with endurance, laying aside anything that hinders, fixing our eyes on Jesus.
A working party will be formed to put together arrangements.

- **Change to the second Sunday of the month services for decision**

It is proposed that from July 2025 the 10.30am Village Hall service on the second Sunday of the month should be the only service held in Chilton on that Sunday.

There will be some exceptions to the combined service when there will be no service in the Village Hall and the service will revert to 9.30am in All Saints' church, for example in November when the second Sunday is Remembrance Sunday. The location of the service will be well advertised leading up to the Sunday so everyone is aware.

Proposed by Judith Russell, Seconded by Liz Morris. This was agreed unanimously.

Naomi will let Deborah Evans and Marilyn Thomas know for service planning and communication purposes. Judith and Alex will revise the posters for the Lych gate and porch to reflect this.

Action: NG, JR & AR

- **Holy Communion- Offering the Common Cup again proposal**

After consultation with the All Saints' congregation after the March PCC meeting about reverting to the common cup for Holy Communion, those who expressed an opinion, preferred to stay with intinction. It was therefore proposed to continue to deliver Communion by intinction until told otherwise by the Diocese.

Proposed by Pam Rolls, Seconded by Alex Reich. Agreed unanimously.

5. Election of PCC Officers

Vice-chair:	Hazel Benton
Treasurer:	Stuart Gibson
Secretary:	Naomi Gibson

All the officers agreed to continue in their roles.

6. Election of Sub-Committees

Standing Committee: Rector, Churchwardens, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Pam Rolls and Jan Radford (Following discussion, the makeup of this committee was decided to remain as it currently stands until the consultation process has been completed)

Finance: Clergy, Churchwardens, Treasurer

Chair of Fabric: Vacancy

Other member of the Fabric Committee: John Pigott, Judith Russell

7. Election of PCC Representatives

Village Hall Management Committee: Liz informed the PCC that representatives from groups were no longer a requirement but as she stands on the committee she would report back to the PCC as appropriate.

Stewardship/Gift Aid Secretary:	Stuart Gibson
Electoral Roll Officer:	Carol Pigott

Health and Safety Representative: This is a requirement, and a name was identified to ask. **Action:JR**
Pat Moseley offered to be the point of contact to report any health and safety concerns or issues.
Elaine Shrimpton, H & S representative from Harwell has offered to help the new person.

Approval of Sidesmen (PaperD)

Judith Russell
Naomi Gibson
Hazel Benton
Carol Pigott
Andrew Hayes

Alex Reich
Liz Morris
Audrey Slater
John Pigott

Items 5- 7 were proposed on block by Pat Moseley, seconded by Liz Morris and elected unanimously. Hazel thanked everyone for their hard work and contributions to the running of All Saints'.

8. Appointment of people for tasks

This was circulated as Paper E.

We were grateful to Jan Radford and Pam Rolls who offered to do the Baptism follow up with the families and encourage them to come along to family friendly services.

The following posts are vacant, Ride and Stride Coordinator, Fabric Committee Chair, Churchyard Coordinator and Health and Safety Officer. The PCC were asked to identify people to fill these roles.

Judith faithfully carried out the Fabric Committee and Churchyard role for many years and was thanked for her valuable contribution as she steps down. Judith urged that someone needed to oversee the Churchyard maintenance, and she was willing to still sort a few fabric tasks.

It was suggested that the PCC subscribed to a VWHDC Brown Bin for depositing windfall twigs.

Action SG

9. Finance Reports

Papers F & G were circulated before the meeting. Stuart reported that although the finances seemed healthy at the moment the large items such as insurance and Charities and Missions were paid for in the second half of the year.

He reported that the Fundraising Campaign had been successful, and he still needed to contact a few people who had pledged an increase but had not actioned this yet. Due to a couple of givers reducing their giving the overall outcome was a £20 increase per month. There were also generous one off donations.

A significant increase in the electricity bill was noted due to increased costs rather than consumption increases.

10. Fabric Report

Judith Russell circulated the Fabric Report prior to the meeting (Paper F). The PCC were grateful for the comprehensive report and all the hard work that has been carried out.

Permission had been received for the Diocese for repairs to the plaster work in the south aisle and chancel. Judith asked the PCC for backing to go with the quote from John Hoddinott for the plastering work as she has failed to get another complete quote or an alternative, despite numerous attempts to contact many companies. She also reminded the PCC that we needed to decide as soon as possible as it may take time for the plasterer to start the work. The church would be closed for a week initially and then there would be a period for it to dry out before it was painted. We would have to decide how we would manage this once a date had been secured.

It was proposed by John Pigott and seconded by Pam Rolls to accept John Hoddinott's quote for the repairs. This was agreed unanimously.

Papers I and J were circulated before the meeting about the improvement of access through the front door of the church.

Jonathan Hinton had provided a comprehensive report with emails from Diocese including the Diocese Disability Advisor who has looked at the situation. Various options have been suggested. The PCC were very grateful for all the work Jonathan had carried out.

Judith made the following proposal (Paper I):-

"I would like to propose that PCC recommends the establishment of a working party to verify whether a bespoke ramp would be an acceptable method of improving access. This was not mentioned by the Accessibility Officer during her visit to All Saints' but was mentioned by the Diocesan Architect's department some time ago and would be worth exploring as a potentially cheaper and quicker option. It may not be possible due to the angle of slope necessitated by the layout of the front door and access to the south aisle. It would still involve alterations to the path in order to eliminate the step up into the porch and some alteration to the floor of the porch in order to recess the mats.

Following the result of this enquiry, the working party to organise a feasibility study by the appropriate experts – architect / surveyor / engineer, of the Diocese's recommendations.

Once that has been done, the proposed way forward be approved on condition that the majority of the cost be covered by funds from grants – up to three quarters?, the remainder to be found from the Carterton House Fund or other donations from the parish.

Proposed by Judith Russell , Seconded by Pat Moseley. This was agreed unanimously.

The PCC suggested that Jonathan be asked to head the working party and Gillian Hinton and Andrew Hayes be invited to join. Judith will ask Jonathan.

Action:JR

Hazel had found an alternative type of ramp that she had seen in another church and asked Judith to share the link with Jonathan for consideration.

11. Health and Safety- Nothing to report.

12. Seasonal & Services

Review of Easter

Pam reported that the Easter services had been well attended. Maundy Thursday in Harwell took the form of a Passover meal organised by Rob and Marilyn Thomas and 40 people attended. Brendan led the Good Friday service. The Saturday evening Easter Vigil was attended by the Youth Fellowship who seemed to enjoy the reflective service. Jan worked hard to prepare for Easter Sunday and produced a much admired Easter garden.

Festival services until the end of 2025

Naomi produced a paper about the festival services leading up to the end of the year. Decisions needed to be made to help Marilyn Thomas with the service planner

The following was decided:-

Harvest to be held on same Sunday as Harwell, Sunday 28th September, we will be collecting items for the Foodbank again this year but also decorating the church with fresh produce

Gift services - We did not want a dedicated service for the Ukraine Shoeboxes this year, Chilton folk will be informed that it is happening again this year and asked to deliver their contributions by a certain date to Harwell Church.

Suggested that the Toy Service for the Women's Refuge could take place on the first Sunday of Advent 30th November. It was agreed to also support again the CAP Christmas Hamper appeal before Christmas.

Alex mentioned about Advent Doors, Judith reported that the shortened version was well received by parents. Sarah Barrett and Esther Corbishley would be asked if they were prepared to run this again.

Sunday 14th December - 10.30am Village Hall Service with 6.30pm Carols by Candlelight

It was decided to have the 4pm Carols by Candlelight on Saturday 13th December and invite the school choir to sing. (We must remember to ask them nearer the time.)

We would like to have a Crib Service and asked Jeremy if Sasha would be available to do this. He was unsure and did not want to commit before she has returned to work. It was well attended last year but partly because Lucy Ryan encouraged Fledgelings parents to attend. Hopefully this encouragement can happen again this year.

It is Chilton's turn to have this service on 23rd December this year as it was held on Christmas Eve last year.

It was agreed to have a Benefice Holy Communion Service on Sunday 28th December. Pam asked for it to be in Chilton. We do not know what Harwell's thoughts on this are at the moment.

Naomi will feedback these decisions to Marilyn and Deborah.

Action:NG

14. Any Other Business

Liz Roberts from Harwell had circulated a paper the day before the meeting about being in favour of independent safeguarding for the Church of England. Many members had not had chance to read this in advance of the meeting. Harwell were discussing it in their meeting. The PCC were asked to send any comments to Naomi for collation so we can feedback to Harwell on this matter.

Action:all

15. Future dates

Tuesday 2nd September – Combined PCC - online

Tuesday 7th October – Individual PCC at St Matthew's Harwell

Hazel Benton thanked everyone for coming and the meeting closed in prayer led by Pam at 9.15pm.

Naomi Gibson
PCC Secretary

Signed by

Date