

MINUTES OF THE ALL SAINTS' PCC MEETING

held at St Matthew's, Harwell on Tuesday 7th October 2025 at 7.30 pm.

St Matthew's, Harwell and All Saints', Chilton PCCs were **present together for Items 1 to 9**.
For the other items, only All Saints' PCC members were present.

1. Opening Prayer

Jeremy read from Psalm 48.1-6, 12- 13 and lead the Meeting in prayer.

2. Rector's Report (Paper A)

The Rector said that his Report (Paper A) had already been circulated and asked for any comments or questions on it. Hazel Benton thanked him for the update on his health and commented that this had led her to question whether the extra responsibilities for GWP, Valley Park, and now a second School Governorship would not overtax him. Jeremy replied that he believed the extra involvement in these areas would not result in much of an increase in his workload, but should this happen, he would, of course, review the situation. He pointed out that links with St Blaise School could be beneficial to the Benefice. Stephen Manning commented that the Church Wardens would need to be aware of possible problems and would assist Jeremy in prioritising his workload.

Revd Pam Rolls commented that while she, Jan Radford, and Alex Reich had offered to explore future All-Age services at Chilton, she did not wish to lead on this. She felt a joint Benefice Group would be a better option. Rebecca Lewes supported this view. Jeremy responded that given the different character of the two churches he felt it would be beneficial for each PCC to discuss and decide on whether they wanted an Intergenerational Act of Worship to continue as part of their pattern of Services, and if so how frequently. Once this had been decided, it would be up to the Leaders and Preachers team to work out if this can be delivered. It was agreed to discuss this question later at the individual meetings.

3. Governance Review (Paper B)

Stephen Manning introduced the paper and noted this was the sixth version of the Review, and reflected the input from 18 meetings he had held with many people, including Jeremy, Geoff Maughan (consultant), and PCC members. Stephen summarised the content of the paper focussing particularly on mission, outreach and succession planning. He thanked everyone for their contributions and asked the Meeting to approve the Report and its recommendations.

Adrian Rance-McGregor asked about ownership of the recommendations, and Stephen replied he would be responsible for keeping a schedule of the progress of implementing them. In answer to a question from Hazel Benton, Stephen said the joint PCCs would be given the opportunity to review progress after twelve months.

Resolution	To accept and implement the PCC Governance Review				
Proposed	Tony Hughes	Seconded	Alex Reich	Passed	Unanimously

4. Greater Didcot Report (Paper C)

The meeting noted that the content had largely been covered in discussions under item 2

5. IT Subcommittee (Paper D)

Stephen said the paper was self-explanatory and followed on from the discussions at the March PCC Meeting. It proposed an IT subcommittee chaired by Stuart Gibson which would review the current IT situation, identify what needs improving, propose a series of recommendations to PCCs, and drive the changes through. He asked the Meeting to approve establishing the Joint PCC Subcommittee and the proposed membership.

Resolution	To form a IT PCC sub-committee comprising those named in Paper D				
Proposed	Hazel Benton	Seconded	Nick Clarke	Passed	Unanimously

Tony Hughes mentioned that he has a large collection of papers and electronic files relating to church matters, particularly buildings, which may not exist elsewhere. Others may also have similar documents. Tony requested that the Subcommittee be asked to include consideration of this problem in their remit.

6. Safeguarding Software (Paper E)

The Meeting noted that the expenditure mentioned in the paper had been approved by the Standing Committees. Rebecca Lewis raised a concern about the deletion of past records from the system, particularly those with safeguarding implications. She was assured by Jeremy that such records would be retained and that the focus was on individuals who had died or left the parish, and duplication of records. Nick Clarke said the purpose of this exercise was to reduce the files held on HUB Church and therefore our expenditure with them. He drew the Meeting's attention to the need to discuss at a future meeting how long do the Churches wish to keep people's details on their records.

7. 2026 Meeting Dates (Paper F)

The proposed dates were approved by the Meeting

8. Children, Young People and Families Sub Group update/All Age Services

This topic was covered in discussions under Paper A

9. Harwell Feast Marquee Offer (Paper G)

While the opportunity to have a Church Service using the marquee was welcomed, the general feeling was that we did not have the resources to do this in 2026, but we would like to think that we would be able to in 2027 should the offer be repeated. Rebecca Lewis and Alex Reich asked the meeting to allow them a couple of weeks to see whether they could come up with a viable proposition for 2026. It was agreed to wait until the end of October before replying to the offer. (**Action Elizabeth**)

All Saints' PCC only

Present:

Rev Jeremy Parsons (present for item 18)
Hazel Benton (Vice Chair)
Naomi Gibson (Secretary)
Pat Moseley

Rev Pam Rolls
Alex Reich (Churchwarden)
Stuart Gibson (Treasurer)
Liz Morris

10. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from John Pigott, Jan Radford and Judith Russell.

(Item 18 was discussed at the beginning of the meeting before Jeremy joined the St Matthew's PCC meeting)

18. Future of All Age Services in Chilton

Paper M detailed the need for the Children, Young Peoples and family's subgroup to step back from running the termly services in both churches in 2026. The PCC discussed the way forward for All Saints'. It was agreed that we wish to continue having this type of service three times a year. It was also decided that we need to reach further into the community to attract a different group of children and families. The PCC are grateful to Jan and Pam who have invited those recently baptised to the intergenerational services and it was suggested that we encourage Chilton School to attend more services.

Jeremy offered a range of resources that could help with planning and ease the organisation of these services and subsequently hope to encourage a group of volunteers to help and support the running of these services.

Action: JP & AR

The proposed dates for 2026 are 22nd March, 28th June and 22nd November.

Alex was keen to help and would take on inviting the groups of people on a regular basis to appropriate services including all age festival services and the Village Hall monthly service.

The following was proposed by Hazel and seconded by Liz:- That All Saints' have three All Age Services a year using resources available. Alex and Jeremy will lead and liaise to move this initiative forward and that we would all support this endeavor in what ever way we can.

This was agreed unanimously.

11. Minutes of the meeting on 1st July 2025

The minutes of the meeting on 1st July 2025 were unanimously accepted as a true record and signed.

12. Decisions requested of Standing Committee between meetings

Approval of the purchase of Safeguarding Software (Item 6, paper E on joint agenda). St Matthew's agreed to pay the subscription for the first year.

13. Matters Arising-None

14. Outreach event Chilton Field next year

It was agreed at the last meeting to explore an event in Chilton Field to raise the profile of All Saints' and encourage church attendance particularly from residents of Chilton Field. Pat circulated an event that happened in Chilton in the 70's but it was decided it was too ambitious for us now. He was thanked for bringing this to our attention, but it was decided to go with the **Fun Run idea on Saturday 13th June 2026.**

Alex agreed to head this up and form a committee to explore further plans for the event. **Action:AR**

15. Finance Reports

Papers J & K were circulated before the meeting. Stuart reported that although the finances seemed healthy at the moment, thanks largely to a couple of one-off donations, the large items such as insurance and Charities and Missions were paid for in the second half of the year. Also the joint expenses had not been paid for Q3 or 4.

It was suggested the Collectin is taken over to the Village Hall Service on the second Sunday of the month and perhaps a QR code. **Action:HB**

The Parish Share is expected to be paid in full this year, but this is going to increase by 4% in 2026.

16. Fabric Report

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

Liz reported that she now liaises with the grass cutters to ease Judith's responsibilities a little.

17. Health and Safety- Nothing to report.

Seasonal & Services

18. Future of All Age Services in Chilton (Reported at the beginning of the minutes)

19. Preparation for Christmas

- i. Living advent Calendar – Hazel to ask Sarah Barrett and Esther Corbishley if they are organising anything this year. **Action:HB**
- ii. Carol service dates -Family Carols 4pm on 13th and Carols by Candlelight 6.30pm on 14th December.
- iii. Refreshments at Carol services- Naomi offered to organise the refreshments at the Carol services this year and will ask for assistance nearer the time. PCC members were asked to provide a dozen mince pies each as usual. **Action:NG**
- iv. Advent wreath – Naomi will kindly make.
- v. Christmas trees and decoration – Pam will kindly provide the inside tree ready for Advent Sunday (30th November) and Hazel will ask the Garden Centre to donate a tree for the tower. Alex will collect the tree from the Garden Centre and Hazel will ask Tom Barrett and Tim Brook if they will erect the tree on Saturday 29th November. **Action: PR, HB, AR**
Pam will investigate who will organise the children decorating the tree this year. **Action:PR**
- vi. Flowers- the Christmas floral arrangements will be in place ready for the Carol Services. Liz to inform flower arrangers. **Action:LM**
- vii. Carol singing – Pam will contact Chris Smith to ask if they want carol singing in the Crown. **Action:PR**
- viii. Crib service – Tuesday 23rd at 3.30pm
- ix. Sherry & Shortbread Christmas Day – Naomi will provide.
- x. Floodlighting of church window- Liz will ask John if he will kindly switch on the floodlight through advent. **Action:LM**

14. Any Other Business

At the Standing Committee meeting it was agreed to send a card expressing All Saints' thanks and appreciation for the work of the Children, Young People and Families group. Naomi to find a card and write. **Action:NG**

15. Future dates

Oasis Café dates – 3rd Saturday of the month from 10am to 12 noon
18 October, 15 November, No café in December

Hazel Benton thanked everyone for coming and the meeting closed in prayer led by Pam at 9.45pm.

Naomi Gibson
PCC Secretary

Signed by **Date**