

MINUTES OF THE ALL SAINTS' CHILTON PCC MEETING **held at All Saints' Chilton on Tuesday 3rd February 2026 at 7.30 pm.**

Present:

Rev Jeremy Parsons
Hazel Benton (Vice Chair)
Pat Moseley
Judith Russell (Churchwarden)

Rev Pam Rolls (Acting Secretary)
Alex Reich (Churchwarden)
Liz Morris

1. Opening Prayer

The Rector opened the meeting by reading from Genesis 39. He said that the Old Testament was full of reversals of circumstances including those affecting Joseph. This reflected the topsy-turviness of the world. As a PCC we have inherited a great deal of complex circumstances. When we act faithfully God will always do a good thing.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Naomi Gibson, Stuart Gibson, John Pigott and Jan Radford

3. Rector's Report (Paper A)

The meeting noted this very comprehensive report.

4. Governance Review Update (Paper B)

The meeting felt this report was also very comprehensive but at some points it was not clear whether actions applied to Harwell or Chilton, eg item 15 (increased focus on mission and outreach at PCC meetings). At the next PCC meeting in June we would clarify this in the first part of the meeting when both PCCs were together.

5. Minutes of the meeting on 7th October 2025 (Paper C)

The minutes of the meeting on 7th October 2025 were unanimously accepted as a true record and signed.

6. Decisions requested of Standing Committee between meetings – None.

7. Matters Arising - None

8. Quarterly Newsletter for approval (Paper D)

Judith explained that this Newsletter had resulted from the Governance Review with a view to improving communications with our congregations. Harwell had set off quickly and drafted a booklet but, unfortunately, this could only be produced in hard copy and not uploaded to the church website. Judith had worked on a similar Newsletter for Chilton but in A4 format which could be printed and uploaded to the website. The PCC agreed that we should proceed with the Newsletter which Judith had drafted with an amendment to the final paragraph on page 1 saying that the next Newsletter would be produced in June 2026 rather than May. Judith would ask Deborah Evans to print 50 copies of the first edition and some of these would be available on the tables at the next Village Hall Service.

9. Outreach event Chilton Field Saturday 13th June 2026

Alex and Pat proposed that this should be an informal outreach event which would include fun runs of different distances and a bring and share meal. There might also be an event at the amphitheatre. Pat agreed to check whether this date might clash with an event at Chilton School. Pat also suggested that families should book their children into the fun runs and he would give more thought to the logistics

involved. PCC noted that other matters that would need to be addressed included First Aid, Public Liability Insurance, Marshalls and DBS checks. PCC was supportive of the event but agreed that there needed to be a team to organize it. Alex and Pat would lead such a team.

10. Harwell Feast Marquee event Sunday 24th May 2026

Alex reported that he was liaising with Rebecca Lewis about a Songs of Praise service. They proposed that the service takes place at 4pm and that the other services in Harwell that day be cancelled. As a result, the communion service which would have taken place in the evening would be moved to Chilton at 9.30am. The Harwell Orchestra had been made aware of the Songs of Praise. Further thought was being given to a theme and content for the service.

11 Finance Reports (papers E,F & G)

The PCC appreciated Stuart's work on the end of year accounts, financial report and proposed budget for 2026. It was noted that there were some other items which would need to be taken account of in the final budget including new taps for the kitchen, inspection of the lightning conductor and the results of a review of staff pay if this had not already taken place. *(Comment from Stuart -Staff pay review already included, usual December CPI increase as agreed by PCC a few years ago. This was 3.4%)*

12. Fabric Report (Paper H & I)

This Report focused on options for improving access to the Church via the main door. There were various possibilities for external and internal ramps and it was recommended that a handrail was installed inside the Church. The Diocese had recommended that we consult our Architect, Philip Waddy, over the options. Andrew Hayes had generously offered to pay for such a review by the Architect and for the work to be undertaken. Judith proposed and Liz seconded the proposal to consult the Architect. Hazel added that she had long thought we should think about building a disabled-friendly extension. The Rector suggested that a group be formed to look at examples of extensions built at other churches.

13. IT Sub Committee Update

There was no written report for this meeting. The newly formed Sub Committee met before Christmas and allocated jobs. Most of the actions were for Harwell. Stuart has resolved the problem of displaying videos via Easy Worship at All Saints'. The Sub Committee should meet again later in February.

14. All Age Services in Chilton 2026

Alex had taken a lead with arranging these services and was working with the Rector and four other people. The first service of this kind in Chilton would take place on 22 March on the theme of 'The Upside Down Kingdom'. The Rector reported that the first of the new-style All Age Services in Harwell had been well received.

15. Review of Christmas

Pam reported that the Crib Service had a small congregation and the Christmas Eve Communion services numbers had dropped a little, but attendees had engaged well with the services. The Carol Services and Christmas Day Family Communion had been very well attended. Marilyn Thomas had suggested that in future the Family Carol Services should always take place in Term Time so that the Schools could participate. The PCC noted that our Christmas services should be well advertised including in the notice board at the entrance to Chilton Field.

Some parishioners had expressed disappointment about the Church Christmas Card which had been secular in appearance, the font was very small and there was no message – just a list of services. The

Rector suggested that a Communications Group be formed to decide the design and content of future cards. Alex asserted that the Rector should write a message in the Christmas and Easter cards and that other people could be asked to write a message for the Chilton Chronicle during the rest of the year. These suggestions would be taken up at the Rector and Churchwarden meetings.

Hazel explained that the process for obtaining a free Christmas Tree for the tower was getting more difficult but she had succeeded in getting a tree this time.

Pam added that the carol singing in The Crown had been very well attended.

Pam had received letters of thanks from Anne Pickford and Carol Pigott for the Gift Tokens they had been given for playing the piano and organ so regularly.

16. Any Other Business

Naomi's three year term of office as a Trustee of CAP was coming to an end. The PCC agreed unanimously that Naomi's term of office should be extended for a further three years.

17. Future dates

Oasis Café dates – 3rd Saturday of the month from 10am to 12 noon on 21 February, 21 March, 18 April.

The meeting closed with the grace at 8.50pm.

Pam Rolls
Acting Secretary

Signed by

Date