

PCC Minutes
1 February 2026

Item

1 Welcome and opening prayer

Alec Corio opened the meeting, and John Savage led us in prayer.

2 Apologies

Apologies were received from Alison Blunt, Bettina von Cossel, Steve Edwards, Margaret Cranfield, Amy Flannery, Abe Konadu-Yiadom. The majority of the church council being absent, the meeting was not quorate.

3 Approval of minutes of November PCC meeting

Approved by those at the meeting, but requiring resolution via correspondence.

4 Matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda

None notified.

5 Mission Action Plan updates

- a. Strategic oversight of objectives for the new Director of Music and Children's Worker, PCC lead: Alec

Adverts should be going out in the week of 9 February. No members of the church council wanted to make any further changes to the final draft recruitment packs.

- b. Pet blessing service, PCC leads: Alec and Gail

Maria Constantinou has offered to have the school partner in this, and the school choir sing at the service. It will be planned for the summer. Gail Philips will begin the process of looking for dates. Then Gail, Alec and Maria will begin planning.

- c. BBQ or Garden Party, PCC leads: John and Roger

John Savage and Roger Melling will continue to ask for volunteers to lead on this.

- d. Trip to Tree Cathedral, PCC leads: Bettina and Gail

As Bettina von Cossel is moving, Gail offered to keep this trip on the MAP agenda. Alec has forwarded her information and potential dates for a trip.

6 St Mary's job fair

- a. Key office holder vacancies
- b. Other key vacancies

Discussion of the need for the church council to identify potential volunteers for key office holder positions, and the difficulties of some areas of work being completed by volunteers.

There was also discussion of the requirements to fund an administrator's post which could be progressed through a targeted and well-timed stewardship campaign. An employed administrator is the only practical solution to fulfil some areas of work, though governance and leadership roles would be required to supervise even areas of work completed in this way.

7 To ask questions on written reports circulated or available to the PCC

a. Children's Outreach Working Group

No questions, but praise for the excellent work that led to the children's Christmas party.

b. Communications

No questions.

c. Events and Fundraising Committee

Praise for the excellent work that led to the Christmas Fayre, and confirmation of forthcoming Table Top Sales etc.

d. Fabric

In addendum to the report, the fire alarm batteries will need to be replaced and there will be an access cost associated with this. The costs of sump pump repair are not likely to be as high as those mentioned in the finances report, below. Unfortunately, the costs of future building projects will require us to factor in the end of the governments Listed Places of Worship scheme on 31 March, and that we will not be able to reclaim VAT on building work after this date.

i. Resolution in support for internment of Ian Gilbert ashes

Approved by those at the meeting, but requiring resolution via correspondence. It requires a faculty.

ii. New piano

This generous gift will be received, and sited appropriately. It does not require a resolution or faculty. Standing Committee can authorise the expenses of removal and tuning.

e. Finances

Roger Melling provided a further update on predicted income and outgoing in the coming year, and details of the plans to outsource bookkeeping and payroll (for the children's worker and director of music posts). He proposed 2 resolutions to authorise these, that will require resolution via correspondence.

f. Halls Working Group

Confirmation of hall availability, meeting dates, maintenance and cleaning work.

g. Partnership Enabling Group

No report received, but Alec gave a verbal update.

h. Planned public events

No questions

i. Safeguarding

Alec gave a verbal update.

j. St Mary's VA Primary School

No report received, but Alec gave a verbal update.

8 Any other business

None notified, but some time for discussion and confirmation of dates and of the fundraising potential of church building hires for recordings.

The meeting closed with the Nunc Dimittis, and prayer.