



CHRIST CHURCH DOWNEND PCC

Tuesday 21st January 2025 at 7:30pm in the Garden Room

Minutes

Those Present: Dan Watts, Paul Peterson, Bryan Ashton, Maggie Nichols, Sally Green, Roger Cholmondeley, Lynda Lloyd, Philip Rowe, Ali Rowe, Richard Bacon, Nigel Stowe, Katie Allen, Julian Cox. Guest: James Gardner.

Apologies for absence: Debbie Pastwa, Andy Pound.

Opening Prayers. (DW) Prayers for Andy Pound and his family.

Our journey on SHAPE. DW gave examples of his experience of the Growing Leaders Course he has been helping to facilitate.

DW read Judges 6. The Israelites are living in fear, God states he is with them. Gideon thinks God has left them. God states what he has already done for them and that he is with them and will give them strength.

Silent prayer. DW prayed for everyone.

Minutes of the meeting held on **Monday 25th November 2025**. Approved MN. Seconded KA. All agreed.

Matters Arising: None

New and Ongoing Business.

1 Christ Church Vision Update. DW.

Deeper, Wider, Younger. A lot of good feedback. Julie Gardner very enthusiastic in her role as schools chaplain and has got openings into more schools.

Christmas event over 300 children attended. Good attendance from children and parents.

More help needed with Tea and Toast on Tuesdays as increase in numbers. Some families have attended Sunday morning service.

Help also needed on Fridays at Jigsaw.

2. Warden Report, MN/BA

Electrics. At the November meeting it was agreed to proceed with electrical repairs. This has now been done. MN still looking for the sign off certificate.

Roof. 3 grants have now been applied for, National Churches Trust, Gloucester Historic and Laing Family Trust, but no guarantee that we will receive any money.

We may be able to get vat repaid from Listed Places of Worship Scheme if work completed and paid for before end of March. Costs £40K now with vat back. £50K later including vat. Previously the PCC/Giving 4 Life team had set aside up to £20k towards this. Proposal to go ahead with work now and hope we get the grants.

Proposed MN. Seconded NS. All agreed.

MN to action

North West Wall. Still very damp. Stonemason did visual check from ground and thinks coping stones need to be resealed - will need scaffolding tower to confirm. Internal damaged plaster to be removed in the next few weeks to check state of stonework. Gutters to be cleared soon and Mark's equipment may ascertain how bad coping stones are.

Parish Hall Alarm System. Contract with ADT is coming to an end and annual renewal is £650. Suggested new system from PDH is £1600 now with annual charge of £65.

Proposal that we go for new system. Proposed BA. Seconded MN. All agreed.

3. Parish Hall Heating Proposals working towards net zero. James Gardner.

The boilers in the Parish Hall are 21 years old and need replacing. Looking at new Heat Pump technology, James explained the efficiency and that it could be done in 2 phases but would cost more.

Quotes from 3 companies £30K, £38K, £60K. Subject to due diligence propose we go with the lowest quote. Project is VAT exempt as it is Net Zero.

Potential Funding. Bristol Diocese grant £10K. Weca Green Business Grant £12K. Christ Church to find £8K.

Saving on Gas standing charge, removal of gas connection and cooker in kitchen to be replaced with electric cooker cost £1,000.

Proposal to go to next stage and apply for grants, check out company, verification of details & performance of proposed solution. Apply for planning advice and permission from electricity supplier.

Proposed BA. Seconded RC. All agreed.

JG to action

4. Giving 4 Life. Adrian Harding

Insignis Cash Platform. Investment Accounts.

AH gave a brief overview of our bank accounts and the proposed way forward.

PP explained 4 different CCLA accounts at the moment, it would be better if all accounts were in one place.

RC asked why can't we go direct to Lloyds? They are unable to provide this sort of account.

Unfortunately, there is no link to QuickBooks, which may cause extra work for our bookkeeper.

Proposal for taking on Insignis Cash Platform for our savings accounts

Proposed PP. Seconded KA. All Agreed.

Proposal to close 4 existing accounts.

Proposed DW. Seconded MN. All Agreed with G4L Team to come back with clear outline of processes and checks.

Action: AH to liaise with treasurer elect and bookkeeper

12-month Budget v Actual Summary

£22k more income over budget

£4K expenses more than budget.

Giving higher from legacies and bequests, looks like we will end the year in a roughly break even position.

Possibility of gift day in Spring 2025. 9th March 2025.

DW. Funding is ending for Harriett and Julie. Need money into funds for salaries.

PP & DW also expressed the need for a dedicated Youth Worker.

PP had put in a proposal for a grant from Mullers to start the ball rolling, and is happy to explore other grant options. We would need £14,700 p/yr. for a Youth Worker for 2-3 days p/w

PR affirmed the priority is to invest in young people.
The gift day would be specifically for the 'Growing Younger' element of our vision.

NS prayed for the finance/funding.

5. Staffing Update.

Staff Policies. Social Media Policy. Clarity re point of contact. Anita Dobson & Simon Clark.

Proposed JC. Seconded DW. All Agreed.

Children's worker update. DW

Harriet has asked to reduce her paid hours to 10 hours per week on a temporary basis for Jan & Feb 2025. DW has had a discussion with her and this will be reviewed in March.

Temporary reduction in hours for CAP Centre manager. Rosie Brydon has requested a reduction to 15 hours a week from 20 hours for the foreseeable future due to other commitments. This is effective 1st Feb 2025.

Christ Church School Foundation Governor, Amanda Bowden, renewal for another 4 year term. Amanda is happy to stand again and the head is supportive.

Proposed DW. Seconded NS. All Agreed.

Action: PP to forward minute to the diocese

SIAMS Inspection Christ Church Infants School Tuesday 28th January 2025. DW prayed for CC Infants.

Curates training was hosted by Christ Church, CCJ and CCI recently – thanks to Julia Watts for organising.

DW led an assembly at CCI and the curates met with children and the head at CCJ.

6. Parish Safeguarding.

All Policies and Procedures are being followed. DW to have meeting with LG next week.

DBS Checks all complete.

7. Youth Weekend Away 4th-6th April 2025 at Viney Hill.

An information sheet was circulated in advance.

This new form is being proposed for due diligence for any residential activities. PCC need to know about these trips to be covered by insurance.

PCC support for Youth Weekend. Proposed PR. Seconded MN. All Agreed.

Possible Parish Weekend Away.

PP. last weekend away was very well attended and all agree it was very good and well supported.

Possible dates Autumn 2025 or Spring 2026.

NS was positive at the prospect of another Lee Abbey weekend.

Approx. £140 p/p Sliding scale for younger children.

LL stated let people know well in advance for people to save.

KA supported us running these weekends every 2 years to encourage relationship building and integration of newcomers

DW Good idea for families/children for a weekend away. Some families will not be able to afford to go away so Holiday at Home at Church over a weekend later this year could be explored.

PR suggested possibly get our own speakers at Lee Abbey for the weekend.

Action: PP to make a provisional booking for September 2026

AR Closing Prayer.

Next Meeting Wednesday 26th March 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. J. ...' with a large initial 'L'.

27/3/25