

Minutes

Those Present: Paul Peterson. Maggie Nichols. Nigel Stowe. Dan Watts. Philip Rowe. Debbie Pastwa. Sally Green. Katie Allen. Julian Cox. Andy Pound. Bryan Ashton. Nick Gale

Apologies for absence: Richard Bacon. Linda Lloyd. Ali Rowe. Mark Tanner.

Opening .

Paul welcomed Nick Gale to the meeting. Nick is an accountant by profession and has previously been treasurer at St Michaels, Stoke Gifford.

PP proposed Nick Gale as the new honorary treasurer. Seconded NS. All in favour.

Opening Prayers (DW)

Season of waiting - Advent - Time to be still, reflect and pause.

Isaiah cpt 40 ver 3-5

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 16th September 2025:

Approved MN. Seconded DP. All in favour.

Matters Arising:

GDPR training (DW) Still ongoing, possibly completed by the end of year.

Church Centre Noticeboard (KA). Katie had spoken to John Lockwood and their workshop is closed at the moment due to building issues. He will contact Katie when the workshop opens. It was agreed that we wait due to the significant cost saving.

New and Ongoing Business.

1. Christ Church Vision Update. DW.

Lee Abbey weekend is filling up well - a few rooms still available.

Weekend at Home went well, very positive feedback. Possibility of repeating every other year.

Youth Weekend at Viney Hill - Last weekend in March 2026.

These off-site events were noted and received for insurance purposes.

2. Giving 4 Life

Nick Gale had attended and chaired the Giving 4 Life meeting.

10 month BvA and fund balances.

Net Operating Income £11.6k

Income. Overall ahead of budget by £8.8k

Overall underspend £2.8k

CC AMP fund is in deficit as we have not been putting enough aside year by year in the budget. This will need to be cleared from reserves at the end of the year.

In response to NS query about reduced lettings income, PP explained that this has been partly due to introductory rates offered by the new pavilion at King George Playing Fields. We have

lost one regular hirer and are missing out on party bookings. More effort is now going into advertising our facilities.

2026 Parochial Fees.

The Church of England set the main fees. PCC has discretion on other fees.

The draft fees document was circulated in advance.

Proposed NS. Seconded PR. All in favour.

PP to share with office and finance staff.

Parish Share proposal

DW explained how the money is divided up.

The diocese has asked for £150k, reduced by £27k discount. Approx £120k

DW has spoken to The Ven Christopher Bryan. DW proposed that we commit to a minimum of £100,000 with a stated aspiration of £110,000. A standing order would be set up assuming the higher figure.

Proposed AP. Seconded DP. All in favour.

DW will pursue a meeting with Archdeacon Christopher for key trustees and report back to PCC with implications for future budgeting & policy.

PP to write to diocese and inform the bookkeeper.

2026 draft budget

Nick Gale went through the document, which had been put forward by the Giving 4 Life team..

The budget proposes a Net Deficit of £7.5k

RB sent in a comment supporting budgeting a small deficit in the light of this year's projected small surplus but recommended that looking longer term for 2027 we should look for a balanced budget.

2026 Budget. Proposed DW. Seconded MN. All in favour.

PP thanked Nick and Gabrielle.

3. Staffing Update

Youth inter/worker progress report. PP

Still not made any progress with recruitment.

We have however been in discussion with several youth agencies to find creative solutions

SWYM now recruiting trainees for September 2026.

KICK - Possible shared role with Downend School

Mullers - Encouraged by things in the city. Exploring a possible partnership.

Julie Gardner - Keen to participate in a National Training Programme, related to her role. Will require 5 additional hours per month from 1 of January 2026. Funded through saving on children's worker's hours. DW has already notified the office finance team.

CAP volunteer debt coach. Karen Scorer has now resigned. PP had an email from Karen thanking us for all the support she has had. Now looking for a new debt coach.

Sickness Policy AP.

Sickness & Absent Policy - see document circulated.

RB sent in a question which was answered.

Minor amendments were agreed.

Proposed AP. Seconded JC. All in favour.

All policies complete and review dates in place.

4. Parish Safeguarding

DBS Checks completed - See written report.

Transportation Policy. - DW & LG have produced the document circulated in advance.

A policy to safeguard Youth and drivers to and from external venues.

Minor amendments suggested and approved.

Proposed DW Seconded SG. All in favour.

5. Wardens Report.

General Update.

Replacement window installed in CAP office after break-in. North Wall of the balcony still very damp - advice being sought. Written report given for updates.

Church Buildings rent increase 2026.

Main Church building rent to increase by 3.5%

PP will attend the Halls Committee meeting on 8th December where Halls rentals will be finalised. The PCC Standing Committee are seeking clarification over next year's proposals.

PP to report back in January

6. Deanery Synod.

MN gave a brief report on the meeting.

7. AOB

PR had done some research about best practice for money raised through fundraising activities. It was proposed that sponsorship money and fund raising money must always go through church accounts or direct to the relevant charity's accounts rather than via individual's personal accounts.

Proposed PR. Seconded BA. All in favour.

It was noted that further discussion would be needed concerning other situations where people were receiving payments for meals etc through their personal accounts.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 21st January 2026 at 7.30pm in the Garden Room

Closing prayers NS



21/1/26