



CHRIST CHURCH DOWNEND PCC

Wednesday 21st January 2026 at 7.30pm in the Garden Room

Minutes

Those Present: Paul Peterson. Philip Rowe. Maggie Nichols. Bryan Ashton. Debbie Pastwa. Roger Cholmondeley. Sally Green. Linda Lloyd. Nick Gale. Ali Rowe. Andy Pound. Katie Allen. Dan Watts.

Apologies for absence: Nigel Stowe. Julian Cox. Richard Bacon.

Opening Prayers. (PP)

Paul and the AYF Band went into Downend School yesterday. This was a great opportunity building on the links developed with the school over the last year. The band did 4 presentations during the day which were very well received, with positive feedback and engagement. They also met with the recently formed Christian Union group exploring 1 Thessalonians 5:15 together. 8 young people attended the CU. Meanwhile we have a few more teenagers attending church and youth activities.

At the other end of the spectrum, Ann Louise and Tracy led a service in Avonmere Care Home this afternoon. The Church is engaging with people of all ages week by week.

Worship leaders from CC Juniors came into church on Thursday and really enjoyed engaging with members of the 9.30 congregation, and we hosted some curates for schools ministry training this week too.

These are just some examples of our outward facing ministry. PP suggested we pray in small groups for our work in schools and care homes sharing the good news of Jesus.

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 26th November 2025:

Approved MN. Seconded SG. All in favour.

Matters Arising:

GDPR training (DW) - Beth has sent out links for the training. 7 people have completed it so far. It was clarified that the Data controller is the PCC. but we do need a named person to ensure that processes are followed correctly.

Action: In the absence of a volunteer PP and DW to discuss who should take on this role.

Parish Hall charges for 2026. - PP met with SG and Chris Green to discuss the proposed charges for 2026 and associated issues. This led to a greater understanding of how decisions had been made, and led to the proposed charges being ratified. At the next halls committee meeting there will be a discussion about general principles for establishing rental charges and decision making going forward.

New and Ongoing Business.

1. Christ Church Vision Update. DW.

Congregation numbers were up this Christmas on the last few years.

Tea & Toast on Tuesdays - very good attendance and good relationships being built. Some families have come to other activities in the Church. DW thanked the team for all their hard work. Warm Space attended well. Music Train continues to be very popular. Bubble Church numbers increasing. Looking forward - the sermon series in Church for January/February is on Nehemiah. The blessings of repentance.

During Lent we'll be exploring our spiritual health. DW has designed a spiritual MOT booklet - people will be able to meet with a staff member one to one to discuss it.

2. Giving 4 Life. Treasurer's Update NG

Update for last 12 months.

5k surplus on general fund projected, compared to a budgeted £8k deficit. This is largely due to an increase in regular giving.

Rental income is down and further work is needed to boost this.

CC AMP fund will be in deficit at year end. This needs to be cleared from reserves.

Proposal that we agree to clear the Church AMP from the general fund.

Proposed KA. Second PP. All in favour

Action: PP/NG to notify bookkeeper

3. Staffing Update

Youth intern/worker progress report. PP

Still not made any progress with recruitment, but we have been accepted as a SWYM placement.

DW stressed the importance of recruiting soon to relieve the pressure on DW and PP.

NG asked about the differing financial outlays for an Intern versus a Youth Worker. PP explained that there was not much difference as the reduced salary costs for an intern were balanced by the increased SWYM placement costs.

Associate Minister proposed sabbatical Spring 2027

Every ten years clergy are entitled to a 3 month paid sabbatical. Paul's last sabbatical was in 2015. Paul would like to take his sabbatical in Spring 2027 - probably February-April.

Proposal that we approve Paul's 3 month sabbatical.

Proposed DW. Seconded AR. All in favour.

Annual leave.

The Staffing Committee have agreed that staff can carry forward a maximum of 5 days of holiday into the next calendar year with their line manager's permission.

CAP Centre Manager, Sally Grier has asked to become an unpaid volunteer from 1st Feb.

JC has explored the legalities of this and If Sally and Rosie are doing the same job we cannot pay one and not the other. There may need to be a distinction between the roles.

Proposal: Approval in principle for Sally to become a volunteer, but further conversations needed to establish the preferred way forward.

Proposed PP. Seconded DP. All in favour.

Action: PP to discuss further with SG and RB

4. Parish Safeguarding

DBS Checks completed - See written report.

Still awaiting paperwork from 2 people. One online renewal has not yet responded. 2 no longer require DBS checks.

5. Wardens Report. MN & BA

General Update. See Report.

MN stated the police have identified the person who broke into the Church and they have made an arrest.

Damp in the Garden Room being looked into.

The north wall is still wet. We need more help and advice.

Gutters & Gullies to be cleared 22nd Jan 2026.

Home Office Grant for shutters - application submitted but no date given for when we might hear. The Giving 4 Life team has suggested we wait and see if a grant is forthcoming at our next PCC meeting, before proceeding with the work. NG asked about insurance implications. The price is reviewed every 3 years and has recently been renewed.

A grant has come in for £15,000 from WECA for the Parish Hall heat pump project. This was an increase on the expected amount of £11,700.

Heat Pump Planning issue

South Glos planning team have told us we may need to submit revised plans as there are minor discrepancies in the final outcome. James Gardner is contesting this on our behalf. South Glos planner to visit in the next 2 weeks.

Action: JG to report back

6. Deanery Synod. AR - Next meeting 11th February 2026

7. Off site youth activities for approval. PP.

The Mix. Friday 6th March 2026. PCC approved this activity to be covered under our insurance.

8. Correspondence - None.

9. AOB

APCM Sunday 17th May 2026 - SG asked whether there would be services at both Church Centre and Christ Church. DW suggesting one united service, so no service at Church Centre at 9.15am that Sunday.

AYF Band - AR expressed gratitude for the use of the Church for the AYF band

Date of next meetings - Monday 23rd March 2026 at 7.30pm in the Garden Room
Wednesday 6th May 2026. APCM Sunday 17th May 2026

Closing prayers PR



23/03/26