



CHRIST CHURCH DOWNEND PCC
Wednesday 6th May 2026 at 7.30pm in the Garden Room

Minutes

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

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

Opening Prayers. PP. Paul & Dan have been planning the service for APCM Sunday and will be making some 'unsung hero' awards, as we reflect on 'The Unseen Life of Christ Church.'

PP's unsung hero is Barnabas. Acts chapter 4. Paul read the passage and commented on Barnabas' example as an encourager. He then passed round cards for each PCC member to write an encouraging note to an unsung hero from the congregation. These will be distributed during the week.

PP prayed for all unsung heroes in Christ Church and for the APCM itself.

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 23rd March 2026

Minor amendments were made. Approved and signed.

Matters Arising:

Noticeboards - Men in Sheds have moved and John Lockwood has stood down as Chairman. KA to chase to see if they are still able to do the work.

New and Ongoing Business.

1. Christ Church Vision Update. DW.

DW outlined the Sunday teaching plan for the next 6 months.

June-July - 8 weeks Praying the Psalms.

Autumn - Growing wider teaching focus.

Lee Abbey weekend away in September - Ken Benjamin from LICC will be the speaker.

Very good response, nearly full. Families have been helped financially by members of the Church.

2. Giving 4 Life.

Treasures Update - NG

Annual Accounts

These are being finalised for the APCM. All of the figures have been checked for accuracy. Nick

explained the breakdown of the accounts. The Trustees Report has been written.
PR - Question on section 9 about related parties. The statement about Sally Grier is to be deleted as Nick is not considered a member of the management team.
NS - Question about the Unrestricted General Fund. Nick explained the wording.

NG reiterated the overall deficit of £13k for the year, against a projection of £8k deficit.

The set of accounts will have a final audit by Burton Sweet in the next few days.

Proposal to approve accounts as they are, with final version to be adopted at APCM.
Proposed. R Seconded NS. 10 in favour. 1 abstention due to not having read the report.

PP thanked Nick and Gabrielle for all their hard work.

First Quarter B v A

NG - No surprises in the first quarter. Truer picture will only materialise at half year.
The Increased parish Share of £110k will be reviewed in the autumn.
Aware of potential for significant building expenditure which could put finances under pressure.

PP shared the content of an email from Gabrielle on giving income.
In 2025, 52 people gave to general fund via standing order - 1 had increased giving in line with inflation. 74 people gave through PGS. 40 have inflation increase in place.
On 24th May there will be a focus on giving in the services and the benefits of inflationary increases will form one element of this.

Giving 4 Life

Practicalities of New Banking platform still being worked through. We will need a 5th signatory on the account - Standing Committee to discuss
Discussion on Debit Cards ongoing - further conversation at next G4L meeting.
The group had discussed the role of the Giving 4 Life team. Keen to ensure it was effective and ensured good communication with PCC and the whole congregation.

3. Staffing Update (PP/DW)

Youth Intern. We have advertised for over a year. There have been a lot of conversations but no progress. There continues to be a national shortage of Youth Workers.
We are having conversations with a possible internal candidate.
A Prayer meeting on Sunday 10th in the evening will focus on the need.

Tracy Peterson has expressed a desire to join the Anna Chaplaincy team and has been working alongside Anne-Louise. Anne Louise would take on the role as line manager.

Recommendation for Tracy Peterson to train as an Anna Chaplain and for the PCC to cover her training expenses.

Proposed DW Seconded MN All in Favour.

Christ Church Junior School is advertising for a new Head Teacher. The second round of interviews take place on 18th/19th May.

NS prayed for Tracy Peterson in her new role.

MN prayed for the Youth Worker situation

PP prayed for the Junior School

4. Parish Safeguarding LG

DBS Checks Completed. Written Report from Beth Mullings

Following the last meeting PP had asked LG for a list of people who hadn't completed their training, and subsequently wrote to them. ½ of the backlog is now cleared.

PP spoke about our policy on chasing up DBS renewals? It was suggested that we give people 3 months to complete their renewal after they are first notified. If not done then they will be asked to stand down.

Policy proposal. (subject to confirmation from Laura Green) If a member of the congregation has not responded to a DBS renewal request and prompts from the DBS administrator, they will be asked to stand down from their role 3 months after the initial request.

Proposed NS. Seconded SG. All in favour

Action: PP to discuss with LG and ensure the Safeguarding Policy is updated.

5. Wardens Report. MN & BA

MN has started the process of getting a B1(6) which is required by the Diocese for any roof work.

It has been recommended by Pete Albon Crouch that we remove the outside tiles on the roof as there are wet timbers in the loft. This will require scaffolding. Cost £1650 for 4 weeks and £82.50 per week there after.

PCC to authorise in principle the work of stripping the roof tiles, subject to funding.

Proposed PR. Seconded AP. All in favour

The Church Nave floor is showing signs of wear and tear. MN proposed a deep clean which is to take off the surface and reseal. Cost £3890 + vat. MN proposed that we use some of the Warm Space funds as much of the damage comes from Warm Space activities.

Proposed MN. Seconded RC. All in favour

NG questioned the legitimacy of using Warm Space Funds, but trustees felt that this was appropriate use of them.

Security Cameras. AP

On Saturday morning AP was in church and saw a group of people outside the side door on the security camera. They then disappeared to the side of the Church where there are no cameras. This highlighted the need for more camera coverage around the building.

No funds are currently available and we still have not had a response to a grant application for shutters on the windows. MN suggested that we would need 2 extra cameras and will obtain a

quote for consideration. It was noted that the shutter prices have increased since our original quote. PP mentioned that there is a new contact person in the Diocese for building matters with significant experience of historic properties.

6. Deanery Synod.

No meeting since last PCC

7. Off site youth activities for approval. PP.

No further activities requiring approval.

8. Annual Report - For approval.

The PCC approved the Annual Report for circulation to the wider church community.

9. AOB

Roger Cholmondeley stated that he would not be standing again this year for the PCC due to family commitments. He thanked everyone on the PCC for their support.

PP thanked RC for all he has done over the years.

Members were encouraged to stand again and fill in the relevant forms. We will also be seeking new members.

Date of next meetings - Monday 15th June 2026, Wednesday 23rd September 2026, Monday 23rd November 2026 all at 7.30pm in the Garden Room
APCM Sunday 17th May 2026 after the service.

PCC BBQ Tuesday 11th August 2026 at 6pm at the Vicarage. Members and partners.

Closing Prayer - The grace.



16/6/26