



Haslemere PCC
Minutes of the meeting held at the Link
on Monday 17 March 2025 at 7:30pm

Present

Rev'd Chris Bessant	Chair
Howard Body	Churchwarden
Andrew Culshaw	Treasurer
Gareth David	Churchwarden
Simon Ingram	
Geraldine Lambrechts	
Katie Morgan	
Richard Parker	PCC Secretary
Debbie Peet	
David Sewell	
Andrew Silk	
David Simmons	Deputy Churchwarden

The meeting was opened with a prayer led by Rev'd Chris.

	Agenda item	Action
1.	Apologies for Absence: Noel Cullen, Justin Manley-Cooper Alistair Morgan, Linda Feliati, Stephen Vaughan	
2.	Minutes of meetings and Matters Arising from January 2025 Approved. Electoral roll – reminder to all to register.	
3.	Rector's Report and Updates a. Vocations – blessed that we have several within our congregation with a calling to join the licensed ministry. Asking for prayers for them to be successful. b. VE Day 8 May at St Christophers – Chris will be leading a smaller service on St C's green. Saturday 10 th May will be Lion Green festival – 8.30pm Chris will lead another small event on stage. VJ day on 16 August will follow same pattern. c. Rector's Summer Holiday Away from 20 May to 8 June. Looking forward to a break as work levels are very high at present, supporting 3 vacancies in the diocese during APCMs and no Arch Deacon at present, plus work on the Link getting underway.	

4.	<p>Churchyard Management</p> <p>Generally, isn't something discussed at PCC. Looking at ways we can enhance the three areas we have (Weycombe Road cementary, Derby Road, and St Barts). Asked Philip Hunt to prepare a report on how we can enhance these areas (beautification, bio-diversification etc). Keen to formalise plans to ensure we have a clear agenda for how we progress this work.</p> <p>Met with Church Wardens and Philip Hunt to decide what green initiatives we want to include to help pre-determine what we want to do and give people the ability to do those things on the list.</p> <p>Could look at grants for green initiatives and perhaps organise a 'make a difference day' for members of the congregation/community to come together to help with some of the work.</p>	<p>Churchyard Maintenance Policy – update to the gardening calendar for annual review.</p>
5.	<p>Mission and Parish Vision</p> <p>a. The Link Community Hub: AC / DP</p> <p>All four tenders came back, three within a close mark of each other with different time scales etc. Difficult balancing act for QS to marry these all up to find a comparison, they'll then make a recommendation. Team have visited three contractors.</p> <p>Through the leveling up exercise, there's an expectation that figures may rise a bit, and we may not necessarily go with the lowest tender, although keen to point out that we are in good place with all numbers so far within our funding window.</p> <p>Hoping to make a start in mid-May.</p> <p>Will need PCC approval to move to next step.</p> <p>Quite a lot of work to be done prior to work commencing – moving everything out of the Link, making space in St Barts for storage and hosting, parish office etc.</p> <p>Action: Churchwardens, Robert Fox, Debbie Peet, Chris Bessant and Andrew Culshaw will meet to make some decisions on next steps so it can be taken forward.</p> <p>b. Welcome Project – Marion Thomas is going to take this forward. She'll be joining the PCC next month.</p> <p>c. Parish Planning Document</p> <p>We are a time of stability and continuity. Need to ensure we look at where our risks lie within our parish/ministry as a PCC. Chris to review this over the summer to bring some thoughts to the PCC.</p>	
5.	<p>Children and Families Ministry</p> <p>a. General Report contains information on work being done. Karen has made some good progress with the school and family special services at Oak Hall. Junior choir performing well and good attendance levels in the Den and Summit groups.</p>	

	<p>b. Duke of Edinburgh Awards – have two students volunteering within the church as part of their DofE course. Ensuring that we have the proper safeguarding agreements in place.</p> <p>c. Church / School Link - six of Karen's 18 hours a week focus on the link between the Church and the School. Diocese has been working with churches on how they can support schools with their Christian distinctiveness. Karen has been reviewing Christian books, RE, prayer spaces and spiritual garden etc.</p>	
6.	<p>Gardening Calendar - Policy Reviews and Planned Items</p> <p>a. Annual Accounts – this year our accounts will be over £1m so we will need a full audit but we can ask the Charity Commission for a waiver. Accounts approved by all present.</p> <p>b. Recruitment of Ex-Offenders Policy – approved unanimously.</p> <p>c. Procedure for Reporting Safeguarding Allegations - only change is to replace Cathy's name with Kari's. We hold it as a policy, and use it a few times a year. Generally we work on the basis of concerns rather than allegations so an active document. Approved by all present.</p>	
10.	<u>Regular Reports:</u>	
	<p>a. <u>Safeguarding:</u> NC Check the safeguarding report. Get in touch with Kari if you don't know if you need training, and advise her when you complete it.</p>	
	<p>b. <u>Finance & Outward Giving</u> Slow start, February was CAB - £260 (£500 was the benchmark figure we had in mind). People weren't using the donor button, finding it does help if we mention it in the service.</p>	
	<p>c. <u>St Christophers Team</u> JMC Whilst work was being done on the altar frontal, discovered a piece of art (silk). Chris Lemar would like us to make a request to the Friends to assist with the cost of repair. CB to go back to CL in favour in allowing us to make an approach. Agreed unanimously by all present.</p>	CB to report back to CL that PCC in favour of the Friends funding the cost of repair.
	<p>d. <u>Fabric Activity</u> HB/GD Nothing to report.</p>	
	<p>e. <u>Schools Update</u> CB Nothing to report.</p>	
10.	AOB	
	Side persons team for Sunday 10am at St Bartholomew's. CB has approached 13 people to see if they would be willing to participate.	
10.	Dates of 2024 meetings	

	PCC: 19 th May, 20 th July APCM: 28 th April	
11.	Closing Grace, Meeting closed at 9.12pm	

Attachment: Annual Calendar for PCC Review

(Each annually unless otherwise stated)

<u>Month</u>	<u>Required</u>	<u>Administration</u>
May	Charity Commission Safeguarding Policy	Health, Safety & Risk Policy - next review 2025 (2yrs)
July		Review List of Church Activities Review List of Non-Church Activities
September		Financial Exposure Authorities – next review 2025
November	Budget Constitution of Standing Committee	Data Disclosure – next review 2025 (2yrs) Lone Working – next review 2025 (2yrs)
January	Annual Return	Building Hire Agreements – next review 2027 (2yrs) Churchyard Maintenance Policy – next review 2026 (1 yr)
March	Annual Accounts Recruitment of Ex-Offenders Policy – next review 2025 (3yrs) Procedure for Reporting Safeguarding Allegations – next review 2025	Outward Giving Policy – next review 2027 (2yrs)

Future Vision and Development in Main Areas of Church Life

Updated January 2025

Significant Achievements for 2024

Relaunch of the Carpenters Men's Group
Launch of the Women of Worth Group
Securing of funding for the Link Community Hub Project
Continued rise in attendance figures
Installation of a Lightweight Altar for StC
Implementation of a Legacies Awareness Programme

Significant Achievements for 2023

Launch of new Parish Website
Engagement of an Organ Scholar
Launch of a new Older Children's Group (13+)
Launch of Sunday Families (morning Sunday School)
Employment of a new Parish Administrator
Establishment of a new Parish Vision
Completion of curacy for Justin
Appeal fundraising for outward giving
Continued rise in attendance figures

Worship and Occasional Office

All-age services \ morning worship accessibility for young children. [Completed.](#)
Establishment of an acolytes team. [Completed.](#)
Establishment of First Communions. [Completed](#)

Children and Families

Families@4 to move to twice monthly. [Completed.](#)
Establish a regular meeting Families@4 team. [Completed.](#)
Establish better branding, communications and cross-over with other areas of church life. [Completed.](#)
Greater integration of First Steps into the wider Children and Families ministry. [Completed.](#)
Launching of a new older children's mid-week group. [Completed.](#)
Launching of a new Parish Junior Choir. [Completed.](#)
Launching of a new 13+ youth group. [Completed](#)

Pastoral

Re-establishment of the pastoral team to operate under Covid-19 restrictions. [Completed.](#)

Create a strong link with The Hunters Centre. [Completed.](#)

Mid-week ministry to the elderly – drop in café possibility? [Completed.](#)

Re-establishment of nursing home ministry. [Completed.](#)

Re-establishment of Haslemere Hospital ministry.

Schools

Integration of new Children and Families Worker into St Bart's School. [Completed.](#)

Education and Spirituality

Increasing spiritual breadth with the arrival in Grayswood of Revd Elaine Collins. [Completed.](#)

Aims towards quiet days, healing, rules of life and spiritual direction ministry.

Establishment of Lent and autumn courses. [Completed.](#)

Increasing network of home group support and learning.

Finance, Fabric and Administration

2022 Stewardship campaign to increase regular giving in spring/early summer. [Completed.](#)

Completion of Flemish Glass. [Completed.](#)

Completion of St Christopher's Organ repair. [Completed.](#)

Review of Churchwarden's role. [Completed.](#)

Long term consideration for use of The Link, with planning for possible major redevelopment. [Current.](#)

Establishment of a fundraising hospitality group. [Completed.](#)

Redecoration of the StC upstairs room. [Completed.](#)

Provision of a lightweight altar for St Christophers. [Completed.](#)

Upgrade of audio/visual infrastructure at St Christophers. [Completed.](#)

Review of donations and legacies strategy. [Completed.](#)

Communities Engagement

Building upon our relationship with the High Street and Wey Hill shops. Establishment of Revd Justin as High Street Chaplain. [Completed.](#)

Research into the establishment of a permanent presence on the High Street.

Vocations and Training

Continue to explore vocations with individuals. [Current.](#)