



Haslemere PCC

**Minutes of the meeting held
on Monday 15 September at St Christopher's Church**

Present

Rector Chris Bessant	Rector (Chair)
Howard Body	Churchwarden
Andrew Culshaw	Treasurer
Gareth David	Churchwarden
Simon Ingram	
Katie Morgan	PCC Secretary
Richard Parker	
Andrew Silk	
David Sewell	
David Simmons	Deputy Churchwarden
Marion Thomas	
Stephen Vaughan	

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

	Agenda item	Action
1.	Apologies for Absence: Geraldine Lambrechts, Linda Felati, Noel Cullen, Justin Manley-Cooper, Alistair Morgan, Debbie Peet	
2.	Minutes of meetings and Matters Arising from July 2025 Approved as correct record of meeting.	
3.	Rector's Report and Updates a. Worship and Events for Autumn – AC might run a community hub stall at the Christmas fair. b. Vocations – start of programme for Victoria. Bit of background work for Chris on this. Caleb programme is up and running for Marion, who shared a verbal update with those present. c. Choral Matters – continue to look at future proofing the choir as our existing choir is representative of the older age range. Considering options for the future with Clive. d. WhatsApp Group in the Parish – limiting the use of these to information only, not discussion groups. e. The Place of Politics in the Parish – careful to consider the part of politics in our community, rather than emphasising an individual party-political group. HB – should we include on our website the Church/Diocese position on some areas of politics? Bishops look at this position, but it is not necessary something that filters down to parish level but is more overarching. f. Harvest Lunch – haven't got the facilities to run a bring and share lunch this year so will suggest a coffee/cake session instead.	

4.	<p>Mission and Parish Vision</p> <p>a. The Link Community Hub: AC / DP For Noting: Contractor only quotes for the things we can see, not those we can't. When the walls/roof were peeled back, it became apparent there was additional works required, coming in at about £100k above our initial estimates. There are two contingency pots – fundraising and parish building fund. £200k in Parish Building Fund. Starting to dip into that, it should only increase by a small amount more as we now know what the unseen items are and they've been fully costed out. Would prefer not to use building fund, if possible, to secure funding elsewhere through grant making bodies/ community funding.</p> <p>b. Parish Needs Process and Vision Day: 22nd November Request PCC members to keep date free. Will be discussing our three-year vision. Emma Coy will facilitate. Her specialty is Families and Children work.</p> <p>c. Carpenters & Women of Worth HB – meeting last Saturday, breakfast with Philip Riddell-Smith who spoke to the ten year plan for NHS and local implementation. Plan to run every six weeks. If anyone can think of anybody suitable to come and talk Howard, Chris or Robert will contact them. Linda Felati has requested to Chris to suspend Women of Worth as she is unable to commit to running this at present.</p>	
5.	<p>Gardening Calendar - Policy Reviews and Planned Items</p> <p>a. Financial Exposure Authority – list of who can spend what. Not changed from last year. Approved unanimously by all present.</p>	
6.	<p>Regular Reports:</p> <p>a. <u>St Christopher's</u> : CB Nothing further to report.</p> <p>b. <u>Safeguarding</u>: Service Agreement – Kari is required to sign to grant the Diocese access. Worth noting that new wording within the Service Agreement states Church Officers must comply rather than having due regard. If we fail to comply, we can be criminally prosecuted. Chances of that happening would only occur if we were to try to hide something. We have an excellent safeguarding officer. Constantly in conversation on this topic. It also mentions the data breach we had. Chris gave a short update.</p>	
	<p>c. <u>Children and Families</u> Nothing to add Noted that Karen's area of work is progressing. One of the areas that will come up in the vision day is the linkage between baptism, schools etc. Not so strong at present and have some work to do to encourage parents of young children to become more involved in the wider church community.</p>	
	<p>a. <u>Budget & Finance</u> Over the past three years we have lost an annualized amount of £22k simply through losing older members of our congregation. As we look beyond the work of the Link Community Hub, we need to consider our parish giving group and strategies for funding the parish in the medium term.</p>	
	<p>b. <u>Fabric Activity JMC</u> Nothing to add</p>	

	c. <u>Schools Update</u> CB Secured a new school governor, Claire Martin.	
7.	AOB	
	a. Eco Church Training Day Not done much on this area. Should we look to engage with our younger community on this subject, as this could be an area they feel an interest in. (MT)	CB will share the email round to the PCC
8.	Dates of 2025/26 meetings PCC 17 th November, 19 th January 2026, 16 th March 2026. SC: to be determined as required	
9.	Closing Grace, Meeting closed at 9.00pm	

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](#).