



Haslemere PCC
Minutes of the meeting held
on Monday 17 November at St Christopher's Church

Present

Rector Chris Bessant	Rector (Chair)
Howard Body	Churchwarden
Gareth David	Churchwarden
Geraldine Lambrechts	
Linda Feliati	
Justin Manley-Cooper	Associate Priest
Katie Morgan	PCC Secretary
Alistair Morgan	
Debbie Peet	
Andrew Silk	
David Sewell	
David Simmons	Deputy Churchwarden

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

	Agenda item	Action
1.	Apologies for Absence: Andrew Culshaw, Marion Thomas, Stephan Vaughan, Richard Parker, Simon Ingram, Noel Cullen.	
2.	Minutes of meetings and Matters Arising from September 2025 Approved as correct record of meeting. PCC Membership & Churchwardens Reminder that you can serve a maximum 6 year term, currently identifying those that are coming to end of their first or second term. GD will be stepping down as churchwarden.	
3.	Rector's Report and Updates a. Haslemere Local Organisation Meeting Twice annual meeting in Jan/July. Need some focus on what is required of that. CB will attend. b. Worship & Events for Autumn & Advent Shape of Christmas is much the same as in previous years. Town carols will be held at the Museum on 4 December, due to costs associated with closing the High St. Sleep out challenge might move dates into January, Verity to confirm. c. Christmas Market Churches together on the stall as of last year. d. Churchyards & Faculties	

	<p>Donation of a bench to the churchyard, CB unaware about it until it arrived. Issue with matters such as this is that we need faculties to put things in churchyards so need to ensure due process is followed. Churchyards can be a source of angst so need to ensure that we abide by faculty rules.</p> <p>e. Parish Quiz Night We raised just under £1500 which is a record amount.</p> <p>f. South East in Bloom Gold Award Great work done over last few years on the verge. Keen to build up the St Barts churchyard so that it's a nice environment for people to use when they come to counselling or other such services.</p> <p>g. Attendance and the October count Numbers of attendance was a bit higher than the previous year, so we are on an even keel etc. A little concerned about numbers attending on the basic Sunday numbers – will be a focus at our strategic away day.</p> <p>h. Area Dean CB stepping down as Area Dean in March (3 years rather than 6 years). Reason is we have a lot on at present, the Link, people in training, and want to work on vision and church growth, so need to allow time to complete this important work.</p> <p>I. The Link Magazine – Jane Slevin stepping down as editor early next year, so will be looking for her successor. Difficult to find someone to take on the publisher element of the role.</p>	
4.	<p>Mission and Parish Vision</p> <p>a. The Link Community Hub: DP The steel is all in, timber arrived, building oak framed walkway with pitch roof between the link and church, and once that's done, the cladding will come off. Already lime plastering inside which is time consuming. Paint colours all been selected, chairs have been ordered, which will allow us to fit more people into church whilst we await completion of the Link. We have an Operations Group looking at policies and procedures etc. Town Council has visited.</p> <p>Tile campaign – second highest fund raiser in the parish we've had. Great work. Cathy and Debbie meeting the town council on Friday to see how we can get some more money! Nibbling away at the funding gap but looking at ways to overcome it. Prayers needed for all those working on the project.</p> <p>Projected handover date – wait to see but not expecting a delay so mid May. Launch June 14th with the Bishop.</p> <p>b. Parish Needs Process and Vision Day: 22nd November Lots of work has been undertaken to make it a productive and prayerful day.</p>	
5.	<p>Parish Funding Group CB talked to the paper shared with the PCC. Looking at this from a vision perspective. PFG will report to the PCC. If all happy with this group, CB will progress. Noted there were no objections to CB progressing with this.</p>	

6.	<p>Gardening Calendar - Policy Reviews and Planned Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Constitution of Standing Committee (November 2020). Only thing we really talk about is the agenda ahead of the PCC meeting. Agreed to keep policy as it stands. b. Lone Working Policy – pastoral get together in January and may make a summary version of this for them to review / ensure they follow. Safeguarding element to this that we need to be aware of. c. Data Disclosure Policy – is on the parish website how we record and maintain our data. All produced by Andrew, who is a professional in this area. Nothing needs to change from Andrew's perspective, so we are happy to keep this with no amendments. 	
10.	<p>Regular Reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <u>St Christopher's: JMC</u> We're doing a bit of work to amend the light fittings in the central altar area at the request of HHH who put on concerts. Note putting in new light fittings rather than actual new lights. Arts & crafts peasant altar frontal – been repaired / worked on to be used again. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. <u>Safeguarding:</u> Safeguarding Health check Requires us to review and approve our safeguarding action plan as shared by Kari Hayden. 	KM to circulate and seek approval by EOW.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. <u>Children and Families</u> Nothing to add. Junior choir has expanded to other schools rather than just St Barts which is good. Considering the Link project and how Children's groups can be involved in an event focused on them. Looking to replacing Lara for now as she has some family matters she needs to attend to. Paid role for 3 hours a week – reaching out to school parents. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> d. <u>Budget & Finance</u> Budget for 2026: £15k deficit will be run next year due to decrease in regular giving. PFG will review. We have to accept the budget at this stage as last PCC mtg of the financial year, not ideal to take it with the deficit but confident we can overcome this. For this year, we are looking to only be £1k below our projected budget for 2025. Unanimous agreement to accept the budget. Outward giving support & representation There are certain points of the year when we have to be concerned whether the congregation have heard about our monthly beneficiaries. Sometimes the notices can be swallowed within the sheer volume of other events/notices. Should we put the notices up on the screen before the service? CB feels he wants to step back from constantly asking for money. AC suggesting we have some champions to speak to the charity in question rather than it falling to Justin or Chris. Can we draw on a member of the PCC or congregation with a link/affiliation to the charity in question who can talk to it? Asking PCC members for suggestions of names of those Chris can reach out to. 	PCC members to suggest anyone they feel would be a suitable charity champion.

	<p>e. <u>Fabric Activity</u> JMC Nothing to add Stonework required but want to get nearer to the end of the Link Hub project before we embark on it.</p>	
	<p>f. <u>Schools Update</u> CB As per the report.</p>	
10.	AOB	
	<p>a. Eco Church Training Day – Chris failed to share details. Let him know if interested. b. Parish Share Consultation – report has been shared with PCC. From AC/CB perspective, nothing to be concerned about. If anyone wants to respond to the questionnaire, please feel free to do so.</p>	
10.	<p>Dates of 2025/26 meetings PCC 19th January 2026, 16th March 2026. SC: to be determined as required</p>	
11.	Closing Grace, Meeting closed at 21:15.	

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](#).