



Haslemere PCC
Minutes of the meeting held
on Monday 19 January 2026 at St Christopher’s Church

Present

Rector Chris Bessant	Rector (Chair)
Howard Body	Churchwarden
Andrew Cullshaw	
Gareth David	Churchwarden
Geraldine Lambrechts	
Linda Feliati	
Simon Ingram	
Justin Manley-Cooper	Associate Minister
Katie Morgan	PCC Secretary
Richard Parker	
Andrew Silk	
David Simmons	Deputy Churchwarden
Marion Thomas	

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

	Agenda item	Action
1.	Apologies for Absence: Alistair Morgan, David Sewell, Debbie Peet, Stephen Vaughan, Noel Cullen.	
2.	<p>Minutes of meetings and Matters Arising from November 2025</p> <p>a. Approved as correct record of meeting. Update on the Lone Working Policy – JMC reviewed it and tightened up to being more like a policy rather than a list of things that could happen. Met with those affected and has been well received. Charity Champion – no one came forward.</p> <p>b. PCC & Churchwardens Deanery Synod – looking to move Stephen Vaughan across to join DS as he has served his time on the PCC. Younger members. Net Zero conference attended by three young members of the Summit Coming around to the idea of having younger members of the congregation involved with the PCC in some capacity. Perhaps have them come along to one or two meetings in the year and give them the opportunity to present a topic relevant for discussion by the PCC.</p> <p>Hopeful of finding someone to take the place of Gareth David who will be stepping down as churchwarden this year.</p> <p>c. APCM – Monday 27th April. Semi social event.</p>	
3.	<p>Rector’s Report and Updates</p> <p>a. Advent & Christmas Attendance Seen an uplift once again. Midnight had a strong turnout. Need to look at increasing the number of carol sheets/orders of service. The Christmas</p>	Action: JMC to buy more carol

	<p>Windows initiative continues to be well attended/involved by the community. Possibly seeing some fatigue setting in with some of the school participation.</p> <p>b. Lent Course – in process of finalising, with the topic The Gifts of Christ. Series of evening worship focused on four gifts Christ gives to us.</p> <p>c. Parish Safeguarding Officer – looking to secure someone to take this on. It is not an onerous job (more administrative) but has the perception of being hard. Difficult to find someone to take it on. Kari compiling a list of her duties and time spent to hopefully find someone to take it on.</p> <p>d. Verity - Working Hours Change – changed from 15 hours to 16 hours to incorporate the extra work of Senior Summit group.</p> <p>e. Deanery Synod Elections – CB & KM to meet and progress.</p>	<p>sheets for next year.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Mission and Parish Vision</p> <p>a. The Link Community Hub: AC On schedule. Bit of a cost creep which is inevitable. Opening on 14th June with the Bishop attending; a bring-and-share lunch is planned and requires an organiser. Have an open day before school finishes with school and youth groups also attending, which will need someone to run it. Request the PCC's support on this. Need to do some research on other providers to ensure we don't undercut other local providers.</p> <p>Operations Management Group have met. Consists of Justin Manley-Cooper, Jennifer Rosen, Kari Hayden and Bryon Atkinson as well as Chris.</p> <p>Something for consideration for the PCC/Congregation is the North aisle pews. Have found the space very useful whilst the pews have been removed and worth consideration of whether we look to return them once the Link has reopened, or if the space is kept empty, using chairs for occasions when we need additional seating, but will also give flexibility at times when the Link might not be available, or when it feels appropriate to keep events within the church.</p> <p>There is a faculty process we would need to follow on this before a decision is made, which would involve a consultation made by the Diocese with the parish. There is no rush on this which will allow plenty of opportunity for discussion within both the PCC and wider congregation. There was a mixed set of views recorded, which were later shared in a paper by Chris, ahead of further discussion at a later meeting.</p> <p>b. Parish Needs Process and Vision Day: Chris has been giving further thought to what came out of the day in terms of vision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Finish Link - Welcome and Baptism Families - Ministry and worship <p>Distilled it all down into a new vision document.</p>	<p>Action: CB will review further and share back at next PCC with more details.</p> <p>Action: JMC, CB, LF & GL get together in February to run through.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Parish Funding Group</p> <p>Had their first meeting in January. Purpose is focus on high level strategy on how we are going to fund ourselves. Reviewed where we are initially:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Link – how it will be run and managed to ensure we get to appoint where it is financially supporting itself (likely an 18 month process). 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stewardship and regular giving. Few elder members have died recently which affects this, so looking at how we overcome this issue with an aging congregation. - Church cottage – views on what we do with that as a church asset (sell or rent), taking into consideration maintenance and landlord responsibilities. <p>Aiming to report at the APCM on proposals.</p>	
6.	<p>Gardening Calendar - Policy Reviews and Planned Items</p> <p>a. Annual Return – annual figures that we have to put into the church statistical programme has been actioned.</p>	
7.	<p><u>Regular Reports:</u></p>	
	<p>a. <u>Risk & Issues</u> A chance to review areas where we might have risks to ensure we are not caught out and following good practice. CB will develop further for this to be run as part of a regular reporting.</p>	
	<p>b. <u>St Christopher's: JMC</u> The boiler recently broke down at St Christophers, emphasizing the significance of the net zero programme, as if we were to replace it with an appropriate net zero model this could be very costly (c. £97K). There is a possibility the Diocese might consider allowing the purchase of a replacement gas boiler, taking into consideration the architecture of the building. For now the boiler has been repaired and a significant amount of replacement parts purchased to ensure the longevity of the existing boiler for as long as possible.</p> <p>Identified the need for an additional shed to be purchased. Will use it for First Steps as there is a risk associated with older people using a cluttered shed but will come back to PCC for approval once costs received.</p>	
	<p>c. <u>Safeguarding:</u> Safeguarding Health check New DBS provider – Matrix. Checks will work in the same way as before. We are the data controller and we are required to enter into a data processing agreement with this new company. AC advised that on the version he had seen we are asked to indemnify the Matrix,, AC seeing clarification on this and will follow up with more details and for approval via email.</p> <p>Identified that some members of the PCC have training outstanding on their safeguarding training. Various suggestions on how we can encourage members to keep up to date on their training was discussed.</p>	<p>Action: KM to share details of indemnity once received to see PCC approval.</p>
	<p>d. <u>Children and Families</u> Nothing further to add.</p>	
	<p>e. <u>Budget & Finance</u> Aim that day-to-day income covers expenditure. There was a deficit of £12k at end of year. £17k income from church cottage covers the shortfall on expenditure for this year only.</p> <p>Confirmed David Sewell will take over the role of Treasurer from AC at the APCM.</p>	

	We normally have an independent examiner with no need for an audit; however we may need to have an audit for one year only given the funds received for the Link project. Waiting on Charity Commission to advise.	
	f. <u>Fabric Activity HB/GD</u> Nothing further to add.	
	g. <u>Schools Update CB</u> Spiritual Garden & School Altar	
10.	AOB	
	Outward Giving Champions for 2026 – CB doesn't have capacity to pick this up but doesn't know how to progress it. This is the last year of running it this way. PCC needs to review this during the year to determine how we progress. Racial Justice Covenant was raised as a reminder to be reviewed. Due to be covered in March 2027, as part of the bi-annual review process.	
10.	Dates of 2025/26 meetings PCC 19 th January 2026, 16 th March 2026. SC: to be determined as required	
11.	Closing Grace, Meeting closed at 9.45pm.	

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.](#)