

The Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Marcham with Garford

Wednesday 27 May 2026 – 7.45pm start, at All Saints Church

Minutes

No.	Present Nick Weldon (NW) - Chair, Phil Rowlandson (PR), Sue Lawton (SL), Alison Lyndon (AL), James Allan (JA) 8:17, John Scoble (JS), Hugh Lawton (HL), Ruth Atkins (RA), Julia Newman (JN), Tamsin Gilbert (TG) Neil Rowe (NR)
1.	Welcome, Bible reading and prayer: NW NW welcomed Julia Newman and Ruth Atkins as new members of the PCC Mat 12:28-34 Love God with heart, understanding (mind/soul), strength. Prayers
2.	Apologies for absence Bryan Eccles (BE), Catherine Mentzel (CMe), Mike Worthing (MW) and Vicki Tinkler (VT), who was congratulated on her 25th Wedding anniversary.
3.	Conflicts of interest Neil Rowe, Tamsin Gilbert (Pay Review)
4.	Minutes of the meeting of 22 April 2026 There were two minor corrections to be made. Action: JS to make corrections, and arrange for NW to sign the corrected version.
5.	Matters arising not already included in this agenda Church hire and events – NW, AL, SL had discussed this. NW presented a brief policy document which was approved – copy attached. Children & Families Minister – NW The job advert is now live with the Diocese, with South Central Gospel Partnership (who cover training colleges, and it will be available to all students), and on the church Facebook page. It has not been placed anywhere, which needs payment. Action: NW will send to other colleges not covered by South Central Gospel Partnership AL will continue investigating apprenticeship possibilities.
6.	Welcome to new PCC members: NW welcomed new members JN and RA. He then ran briefly through the main points in the paper “An Introduction to new members” which is on the PCC Members Web Page. The paper was approved by the PCC. Action: JS to add a line at bottom – approved 27 May 2026 JS then explained to the PCC members the updates he had made to the members’ web page
7.	Financial Update: HL had produced a report highlighting a few indicators – big items, regular items. He explained the trend in giving variance, Staff Costs, and the Grant received to cover re the housing costs for PR; he mentioned that there would be an increase in the housing rent, based on CPIH from June. NW clarified that we pay 75% of the accommodation costs for PR, the Diocese pays 25%, and the Diocese also pays his stipend.

	Payroll increases – at this point, NR & TG left because of conflict of interest. HL introduced the paper he had put together, and explained the details from the Diocese as to how they calculate pay and allowance increases. It was agreed unanimously that we should pay a 5.1% from 1 July, which would balance the pay rate to the increase in CPIH over the last 4 years. Action JS to calculate individual increases. NR & TG then returned to the meeting HL explained that the costs for the church were increasing, and he felt that we should share this with the church members. Action: HL to put together a brief item for the notices, detailing that costs were increasing by approximately £200 per month.
8.	Fabric Update Incl. any health and safety matters: NR 3 phase electricity. The cabinet by the bike racks is bigger than was anticipated, and has also had to be placed further away from the wall, because the telegraph pole has had to be left in position for the time being, as the original plan/timing received an objection from the Duffield family. Also, the wrong size was advised to NW and NR by SSE. Action: NW/NR consider whether we need to apply for a retrospective faculty. CCTV Cameras Only 2 of the 4 are working. 1 was broken when installing the new kitchen, and 1 when the phase 3 cable was put into the tower. It was considered that it would probably be cheaper to replace these with wireless cameras. Action: NR investigate this. Spring inspection: NR has completed this, and only found 1 cracked slate after the winter (in previous winters, there have been 6 – 10). NO action needed at present. Tower roof – NR found no infestations of wildlife as against many beetles last year. Kitchen: NR is to meet Alan Dix of Classic Builders meeting re snags in kitchen, and electrical safety sticker for whole church. NR advised that there are 6 broken diamonds in windows - £100 each? Also, at some time, the West end office window needs replacing ((mentioned in the quinquennial) at a cost of approximately £3k? No action required at present.
9.	All Saints East End Reordering Update (Phases 2 & 3): Incl. Oxford Heritage Partnership analysis of font/altar/pulpit NW advised that a date has been booked for them to come to see these, with a view to undertaking research work (site assessment, archive work, report) on these – if we may move/remove them. They have already completed our Statement of Need. The extra cost will be £1,150.85 (no VAT). This was approved.

10.	St Luke's Update: AL reported on the following: Tower – waiting for faculty to replace all lead,. Once this is removed, it will be obvious whether the oak beams need re-furbishing or replacing. This is expected in July Service NW led an evensong, which went well. NW & AL are to meet the advisory group at St Luke. Gas There are 3 pipes leaking, so gas has been turned off. Some cylinders are empty Action: NR to investigate after his holiday, as the heating should not be needed at present.. AL to advise St Lukes. Neil Walker asked if we can we consider removing a tree , which is dangerous to his horses. By this tree there are 2 memorial plaques – 2003 & 2007. Action NW to contact family, to see what course of action should be taken. It may be that the tree can be replaced. Neil Walker would also like to replace the dead hedge with metal fencing. This will be discussed at a further PCC meeting. No other obvious expenditure is needed.
11.	Safeguarding update: RA advised that there are 2 safety plans in place – 1 signed, 1 unsigned (they don't have to be signed) She will issue a full quarterly report in the June meeting, and at the same time our Safeguarding police will be reviewed. Her priority has been completing the vulnerable adult DBS registration for Sweetbriar lifts Then, the DBS checks and training for the Holiday Club will receive her attention. Action RA: prepare quarterly Safeguarding Report, and review Safeguarding policy for discussion at the June PCC meeting.
12.	A.O.B. None
13.	Closing prayer 9:40
	Actions Minutes of last meeting: JS make corrections, and arrange for NW to sign the corrected version Families & Children's Minister Job Advert: NW forward to colleges not covered by the South Central Gospel Partnership. AL to continue investigating apprenticeship possibilities. Paper "An Introduction to new members" JS add a line at bottom – approved 27 May 2026

	Payroll increases JS calculate individual increases. Anticipated Financial Shortfall HL put together a brief item for the notices, detailing that costs were increasing by approximately £200 per month. 3 phase electricity. NW/NR consider whether we need to apply for a retrospective faculty. CCTV Cameras NR investigate the possible purchase of wireless CCTV cameras to replace the 2 faulty ones. St Luke – Gas Leak NR investigate the gas leak - the heating should not be needed at present.. AL to advise St Lukes. St Luke – Tree Removal NW contact family, to see what course of action should be taken. It may be that the tree can be replaced. Safeguarding RA: prepare quarterly Safeguarding Report, and review Safeguarding policy for discussion at the June PCC meeting.
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Next PCC meeting: Wednesday 24 June 7.45pm in church