

The Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Marcham with Garford

Wednesday 24 June 2026 – 7.45pm start, at All Saints Church

Minutes

	Present Nick Weldon (NW) - Chair, Sue Lawton (SL), Alison Lyndon (AL), Bryan Eccles (BE), Catherine Mentzel (CMe), James Allan (JA) 8:17, John Scoble (JS), Hugh Lawton (HL), Mike Worthing (MW), Ruth Atkins (RA) 8:15, Julia Newman (JN), Neil Rowe (NR), Vicki Tinkler (VT), Caroline Manders (CMA) 8:50
1.	Welcome, Bible reading and prayer: NW Col 2:6-10 NW commented on how our values fit in with this passage, for us as a church to be: • Christ-focused • Bible-based • Gospel-hearted • Kingdom-building • Spirit-filled We are there for all ages, young and old. Today the Church celebrates John the Baptist – his message is for us to produce fruit in keeping with repentance, and to be changed. There was a time of prayer.
2.	Apologies for absence Phil Rowlandson (PR), Tamsin Gilbert (TG)
3.	Conflicts of interest None were declared
4.	Minutes of the meeting of 27 May 2026 Action: JS mentioned that he needed to add Caroline Manders to the attendees of the last meeting
5.	Matters arising not already included in this agenda None
6.	Children and Families Worker Recruitment: NW The vacancy has also been advertised to theological/bible colleges, and we have paid for 1 month at ChristianJobs.co.uk 1 application has come in, and another is expected. Closing date 30 June, Interviews 13 July. There is a slim chance we might extend. NW has been on a diocesan hiring and staff training workshop – really helpful, especially regarding details of any Probation period. Action: NW/TG - Add to Notices for prayer.
7.	Financial Update: HL had produced a summary comparing the last quarter (appropriately projected) with the previous 3 quarters Total regular giving is static. Whilst there appears to be some movement from GA to non GA, this is caused by a mixed bag, including: • one dramatic reduction in giving • new receipts, where we have not yet been able to ask about Gift Aid. If Gift Aid can be claimed, we should be able to back-date that.

	NW said that the average age of congregation was going down, so there was a greater representation of younger people in the congregation, who probably therefore have higher expenses, and (AL) less disposable income. For those, it would be harder to give. SL Newly retired have less income now than those who retired 10+ years ago NW There was a newcomer's event some months ago, which included mention of regular giving. Another newcomer's event would be held, which helps people to feel they belong. This will include giving out a leaflet regarding finance. JS said the Gift Aid form (including details of how to give) had been updated recently Action: NW/TG Please check that any forms given out at the Newcomer's events include the up-to-date Gift Aid Forms It was felt that there is a need to pray about this – speak from the front? JS asked if we could consider giving thanks for the giving received at the end of each service, even though time is sometimes tight. Action: All Please include this in your regular prayers. NW to encourage Prayers and Ministry Team to include this. MW wondered if the increased costs caused by the war in Iran had affected people's ability to give. HL felt that because this was relatively short term, it might not have done so – giving levels were down to each individual. JN wondered if there was a place for teaching on giving for new Christians. NW said that we do this from time to time, but the Ministry Team would consider this. It was suggested that our Giving Leaflet be placed more conspicuously by the SumUp machine. Action: TG Arrange for Giving Leaflets and up to date Gift Aid forms to be available near the SumUp machine. NR said that some time before NW arrived, there had been talk about a push on legacy giving. HL said that with expenditure, Parish Share and Staff Costs were the main items – the latter will be up by £2,200 pa wef 1/7, following the rise agreed at the last PCC. JS mentioned that in the report, a notional figure accruing Mission Giving was now entered monthly, so that the likely outcome can be seen. HL mentioned that we have the Quinquennial expenditure to come (not a vast amount) and also the Tower expenses at St Luke's (see Fabric Update below). It is not critical at the moment, as we do have money in the bank; however, we cannot ignore the situation.
8.	Fabric Update: Incl. any health and safety matters Matters arising last meeting: 1. Electric Enclosure Box. NW had spoken to Jane Haslam (the Assoc Archdeacon). They discovered that because of a clerical error by the Diocese, the box was not included in the Faculty documentation, but we have got to have what we've got. She spoke to the Buildings Team, and it was decided that no further action was needed – all is ok as is. 2. Two CCTV cameras not working. NR has now tracked down who originally installed them. They have a minimum call-out charge of £400. Also, it is likely that the cameras have a code encrypted to prevent others tampering with them.

	One camera malfunction was caused when Classic Builders drilled through a wall when installing the kitchen. Classic's previous electrician has been unable to help. Classic are getting a new electrical contractor, who will investigate. The second camera failed after the 3-phase cable was installed. It appears that the walls are too thick for wireless cameras to work. Andy Berry has offered to have a look (no charge) JS wondered if Classic would pay the call-out fee. All Saints Snagging: NR 1. The mechanism to open/close the table outside the accessible toilet needs to be redone. 2. Handwashing taps in the kitchen and Assistance Toilet are below the minimum temperature of 40°, which is what the Environmental Health regulations specify. It was queried as to whether that was too hot for children. Action: NR to ask about the appropriate regulations, when children will use the taps. 3. New toilet roll holder has been installed. Churchyard: NR The Wild flower turf has been very successful, most taken very well. The Parish Council Grass Cutting Contractors (Tactical) had been asked not to strim in certain places, but they did! NR is working with Parish Council to ensure this does not happen in the future. Tactical don't remove the grass. The question has again been raised as to where to get the grass cuttings dumped? (It was felt that a new location was needed, as the Duffield family would be installing a new window, which overlooked the old grass dumping location.) One possible area has been identified, but the Parish Council have asked their contractors for quote to take it off site. NR said that because the present Cemetery arrangements are running out of space, a joint Burial and Cemetery Committee has been set up by local Parish Councils (as required), and he has been co-opted onto this St Luke's Garford NR A start date of the w/c 6 July for the Tower work has been indicated. The builder's original estimate was based on seeing the south side elevation of the tower for the scaffolding; However, the north side elevation is steeper, and the builders have said a new estimate is needed. We know that the lead needs replacing, but the wood underneath may need replacing. That won't be known until the old lead is stripped off. £4/5000? Faculty List B is needed, but NW has been told that this should not be a problem. Gas cylinders – NR said that there were 6 chewed gas pipes, caused by the squirrels. We had lost 2.5 cylinders of gas @ £109 each. Replacement pipes would be £400, to include insulation, as a deterrent to the squirrels. VT asked if they could/should be caged? It was felt that would be expensive, and it was hoped the insulation would be successful.
9.	All Saints East End Reordering Update (Phases 2 & 3): NW Incl. Oxford Heritage Partnership analysis of font/altar/pulpit

	NR – West End – It has been decided not to proceed with the proposed work on the gallery, as it was not considered value for money to move the organ at the present time. The whole situation could be reviewed in a few years' time. East End - Semi-circle movable stage has been researched by Christian, and a Health & Safety issue (trapped fingers) has been raised with a manual movement. Motorised is considered too expensive. A rectangular movable stage could be easier to use, and could also incorporate universal access with a pull out ramp. NW wondered if we then need to move the pulpit? Oxford Heritage Partnership came last week, and took photos and measurements. There are potentially lots of details on provenance of various items, which they will investigate. NW said they know what we are trying to do. – growing the church. The cost of their report will be around £1,100 They asked if we want to and can re-use the glass screen at the East End. They thought it might not be possible to re-use it. Classic say we can re-use the glass – ½ the cost for frameless glass. JS wondered if we could get a grant from a glass manufacturer. The DAC want a video call to update them on both projects. It was mentioned that a replacement for LPW Grant scheme has been published, and that the Diocese are organising a seminar. Action: HL to investigate.
10.	St Luke's Update: On 2nd June, AL met with NW and BE and others, and talked through various matters, including the Oak tree. It is now proposed to take out 2 or 3 key branches, and to get in touch with people who have memorial plaques in village. . Leafleting the village with the service dates was discussed. And will go ahead.. Action: NR to take the oak tree decision forward with Neil Walker. PR is preaching in 10 days, and services have been planned until Christmas. There is also a cremation/funeral coming up.
11.	Safeguarding update: RA presented the Quarterly Safeguarding Report. She reminded all PCC members that there is a requirement for them to do training, and also mentioned: • Her biggest work is to ensure all Church Activities are compliant. • Safer Recruitment refers to volunteers as well as to paid staff. NW It is important that after big events (e.g. Church Weekend) we review how these went, including safeguarding. VT asked how do lessons get shared? NW said this was not needed, it was mainly just operational items to tighten up for next time. RA introduced the new Safeguarding Policy dated June 2026. This is exactly the same as last year except for dates and names of signatories (churchwardens). Our policy is more open than a lot of churches, and is on our web site. This was Unanimously approved for NW & the wardens to sign.

13.	A.O.B. NW has had a discussion with the clerk to the governors at school. She thinks church PCC should not nominate church governors, whereas the Diocesan web site indicates that vicar can nominate, but does not need to consult the PCC. Action: NW to investigate which is correct. Meanwhile, NW asked if the PCC is happy to nominate Jenny Warwick as a new governor? Passed unanimously.
14.	Closing prayer 9:30

Actions	Minutes of the last Meeting JS: Add Caroline Manders
	Children and Families Worker Recruitment NW/TG - Add to Notices for prayer.
	Financial Update- Newcomer's Events NW/TG Please check that any forms given out at the Newcomer's events include the up-to-date Gift Aid Forms
	Financial Update – Giving Levels All Please include Giving in your regular prayers. NW to encourage Prayers and Ministry Team to include this, and to consider further teaching for the congregation. TG to arrange for Giving Leaflets and up to date Gift Aid forms to be available near the SumUp machine.
	Fabric – Handwash Taps Temperature NR to ask about the appropriate regulations, when children will use the taps
	Replacement for LPW Grant scheme Has this been published? Are the Diocese are organising a seminar? HL to investigate.
	St Luke's AL to co-ordinate investigating the possibility of distributing leaflets, and also to monitor progress on the oak tree.
	Safeguarding RA to email all PCC members with details of what training needs to be completed, and where to find it.
	Children and Communion: PR to organise a meeting with JS & CMe
	School Governors NW to investigate whether the PCC or Vicar alone should nominate new governors.

Next PCC meeting: Wednesday 22 July 7.45pm in church


