



**Minutes of PCC Meeting
11th September 2025
Lady Chapel**

PRESENT Stephen Webster (SJW), Annabel Copeland (ASMC), Pam Weatherington (PW) Sally Saunders (SS), Kim Treverton (KT), Claire Weston (CW), Louise Foote (LF), Louisa Baker (LB), Fiona Fraser (FF), Sarah Vogt (SV), **Youth Representative** Dan Saunders (DS)

APOLOGIES Rob Dillarstone, John Grubb, Sian Fytche. **Youth Representative** Kerenza Treverton

OPENING PRAYER

SJW read from *Luke* 15 verses 1-7 and the parable of the lost sheep. SJW continued to lead the meeting in prayer.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None reported.

MINUTES OF MEETING 21st May 2025

Unanimously accepted as a true reflection of the meeting.

MATTERS ARISING

None. DBS safeguarding training was on 5 July. All have a DBS certificate, and nearly all the PCC members have completed the safeguarding training.

GROWING FAITH ADVENTURE

Dan Saunders was asked to report on his experience of Chattabox+. 51 young people had attended Chattabox+ with 80 children at Chattabox. He reported that the eagerness to keep the momentum going beyond the Chattabox+ week was very striking. Many young people had made significant steps during the week. Chattabox++ would provide a means of continuing that momentum. A really positive development this year at Chattabox+ was the partnership with Abbott House. Young people and residents had both got so much from the experience.

ASMC added that Dan, Kerenza, Lydia and Elsa were the four leading upfront team, with Nadine steering them. All four grew in confidence in leading. This included leading the worship band. In the week 20 young people stood to make a commitment to faith, following Alpha course videos.

It was reported from Emma Kirby (Youth Minister) that the discipleship group *Rooted* would now move to a Thursday evening enabling some new people from Chattabox+ to attend. Chattabox++ evenings would seek to follow up the momentum from Chattabox+.

Likewise following Chattabox ASMC reported new people connecting with Messy Café Church. There are also plans for a Light Party.

CW applauded the model of having Chattabox and Chattabox+ run together with young people helping with the holiday club. Likewise it was very good that the event was run within the local community. The

relationships built during this significant week can be continued throughout the year. A vicar from Burton Latimer had joined the team as part of a course he was studying. He had taken lots away from seeing the model.

LF said it was special for an Abbott House resident who used to help at Chattabox.

DS left the meeting

BUILDING MATTERS

Provisional faculties had been granted for both kitchen and heating projects. A notice will be put up for a month. There will be a meeting to work out the next steps for a plan, and we have funding for these items. (SJW added that the Friends had said they would fund the kitchen and the heating if it was done by November).

The heating was being completed in two parts, the first being new fans and a re-worked control panel. There was a gift from Country Court care homes for part of the heating costs, and this covers the new electric heaters at the back of Church.

KT said we should see plans before the kitchen was installed - and FF added that the project manager Neil Fraser has seen three potential kitchen suppliers.

SJW went on to say that one of the projectors had been replaced – a gift had been received to cover the cost.

Noting these answers to prayer – as well as reflecting more widely the answers to prayer regarding the financial challenges in 2024 – the meeting stopped to pray and to give thanks after SJW reminded the gathering that we are in a Year of Prayer. When we pray He answers.

SJW reflected on the twin responsibilities of the PCC: to be people of faith and to be wise stewards. We trust God for His provision. We don't make reckless presumption. It's a tension we always hold: trust God. Do not be reckless. Be wise.

KT asked about the old organ. This is still on the Church agenda, but a faculty will be needed to move it, and removing the organ will not be without significant cost.

TREASURER'S REPORT

RD was not present, but had sent a report. RD had indicated that if there were any queries, they could be sent direct to him. The figures were looking better than budget, but we would make our usual approach in November. ASMC said this was encouraging. LB said the finances vary during the year with different expenses at different times.

DIOCESAN YEAR OF PRAYER

LB reported that following on from June's successful joint Churches prayer meeting we were working with Oundle Baptist Church on another one at which we also hoped to include Oundle Methodist Church and the Catholic church. The event was provisionally planned for 16th October. There was possible action in January 2026 for a 24 hour prayer during the week of prayer for Christian unity.

SAFEGUARDING

No issues were raised. ASMC expressed thanks to LF for being on hand during that week and responding so well and effectively to any safeguarding issues that were raised. In a week involving 80 children and 51 teenagers there were some safeguarding issues that arose. All have been responded to within our policy.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

No issues raised.

PCC MORNING UPDATE

SJW invited the PCC to dinner at the vicarage on Wednesday 22 October at 7pm with a theme of hospitality and hosting. This to explore the issues we weren't able to explore at the cancelled PCC morning in June

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Ordinand

Georgina Jeffrey (GSJ), having been recommended for ordination training, has now been placed back in the Oundle benefice as an 'Ordinand on Placement'. This benefice will be the context in which Georgina receives some of her training. It is very unusual for a sending Church (Georgina is from our congregation) also to be a placement Church. However, this fits GSJ's current family situation well. It means that she will look for new and different involvement in benefice life from previously. GSJ is a part time student at Ridley Hall; combining this with her employment and her placement in the benefice. Her training will last 3 years (in her final year she may go to a different benefice on placement). At the end of her training she would then be ordained and become a curate in a benefice somewhere in the Diocese.

PROPOSAL

'That the PCC welcomes Georgina Jeffrey to be our new ordinand on placement for the next two years. The PCC authorises her to conduct ministry in the parish under the supervision of the incumbent and Ridley Hall Cambridge. She will be treated as an authorised volunteer for the purposes of St Peter's public liability insurance.

Proposed Annabel Copeland; **Seconded** Pam Weatherington. **All in agreement.**

Curate

We may also possibly have a curate appointed to us next summer. As an aside KT asked who pays for the house the former curate lives in. We were informed that the diocese pays as they own the house and there is no direct cost to us.

Attendance

FF asked if after the Covid dip in congregation numbers whether numbers had now gone up. It was reported that since Covid numbers had recovered a little but not to pre-Covid levels. It's usual to have between 60 and 90 adults at 10:30 on a Sunday. It's not so much that people have left Church altogether. It's more that attendance patterns have changed. If everyone came on the same Sunday the Church would be pretty full. However, rather than weekly attendance monthly or bi-monthly attendance is happening. This is a particular challenge for children and young people. If a family only attends once a month then on any given Sunday there are fewer children in Kids groups. We have a number of Year 6 children for instance. However, sometimes on a given Sunday there might be just one in Church. It can become a negative cycle. It's a disincentive to attend if you do not expect your friends to be there. If they could be expected to be there it's an incentive to come. So SJW encouraged committed regular attendance at worship! It was also noted that worship patterns have changed in other ways. We have more opportunities to worship: 8:30 on Sunday, Messy Café Church (monthly) Choral Evensong (monthly) Encounter (monthly) Hymns of Praise (monthly) 10:30 Thursday (weekly). Some of the dip at 10:30 is picked up in other places.

Jazz Concert

PROPOSAL

'That the PCC adopts the Friends of Oundle Parish Church (FOPC) Jazz concert on 6 February 2026 as a St Peter's Church event for insurance purposes.'

Proposed Louisa Baker; **Seconded** Claire Weston. **All in agreement.**

The meeting then closed in prayer at 21:00.

Signed.....

Date.....