



**Minutes of PCC Meeting
12th November 2025
Lady Chapel**

PRESENT Stephen Webster (SJW), Pam Weatherington (PW), Kim Treverton (KT), Louisa Baker (LB), Fiona Fraser (FF), Sian Fytche (SF), John Grubb (JG),

APOLOGIES Rob Dillarstone, Annabel Copeland, Sally Saunders, Claire Weston, Louise Foote, Sarah Vogt.

OPENING PRAYER

SJW read from *Psalms* 34 and led reflections on v18, "The Lord is close to those whose hearts are breaking." SJW led prayers for members of the Church community recently bereaved – some suddenly and unexpectedly. .

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None reported.

MINUTES OF MEETING 11th September 2025

Unanimously accepted as a true reflection of the meeting. (Proposed KT; seconded PW).

MATTERS ARISING

None.

YOUTH MINISTER

It was reported that Emma Kirby would be on compassionate leave for the foreseeable future following the sudden death of her daughter Sophie. Meals are being provided for her and her son Joey by members of the Church community and it was reported that they are much appreciated. ERK is not in a place to receive lots of visitors or text or phone messages. However, cards can be left in the Church office and will be delivered to her. Anyone else who is wishing to help with providing meals would be welcome to join the rota. Sophie's funeral service will be held at Weldon on 21st November at noon.

Quite unrelated to this event is the news that ERK is moving away from Oundle to Oxfordshire and so will not be able to continue as our Youth Minister. Her last Sunday will be 21st December. We will say a proper goodbye to her as a Church on Sunday 14th December – celebrating the ministry she has had among us.

We are beginning the process of looking for a new Youth Minister. We will be able to work quite fast, alongside the Souster Youth Trust, on getting to the point of advertising the role. However, it is recognised that finding the right candidate may take some time and so there may well be a vacancy of some months.

KT asked if, as previously, young people might be involved in the process, and whether some aspects of that involvement could be improved from last time. It was agreed that this should happen – and that our experience last time has helped us recognise ways that we could do this better this time. It was recognised that we have more young people than last time who are mature in both age and faith and whose contributions would be really valuable.

It was also recognised that it was important to ensure that those young people, and any others, involved in the process should understand their role. Those on an interview panel, who have completed Safer Recruitment Training, would have a much fuller insight into candidates (including supporting paperwork) than others involved in the process. It's important that all involved understand that decisions will be made based upon all evidence available. Insight gained from activities undertaken by candidates on the day will be extremely useful – but only one part of the picture.

The PCC wished to minute its thanks to Emma for her ministry at St Peter's. And to thank God for the significant impact on young people through this time – not least those who have come to faith and begun coming to Church as a result of Emma's work.

TREASURER'S REPORT and BUDGET

Report sent in advance. Q3 – doing better than budgeted for in Jan '25. Utility costs had been reduced (by £12720) thanks to a new contract agreed via the Facilities Manager, and the deficit had been reduced from 60K to 30K this year. We had received some generous one-off gifts, and there was a wider engagement in giving.

The summary sheet noted that through people dying and moving away we might expect a fall in giving of c.£14,500. A 10% increase in Parish Share was budgeted for, though the exact request is as yet unknown. The proposed budget included the assumption of 12 months of a Youth Minister in poster. The reality is that we are likely to have at least 6 months without a Youth Minister. However, the purpose of including this in the budget is because we need to keep this as an expected annual area of expenditure.

JG requested that the underspend in budgeted Q1 work be rolled over into 2026. IE that there be added to the budget for 2026 Q1 works the amount of underspend in 2025. Some of the necessary work is now happening in 2026 (eg an upcoming including steeple inspection and exploration of roof leaks).

It was pointed out that the budget for building maintenance had increased in the proposed budget from previous years. JG wished to make a distinction between Q1 related works and maintenance. It was agreed that there was a need to develop a clear roughly budgeted plan (both for maintenance and Q1) looking ahead 3-4 years of what work was expected in each year.

Proposal

That the draft budget be adopted as the budget for 2026 after adjustment had been made to roll over the 2025 Q1 underspend into 2026. That further unrelated adjustments could be considered when the outcome of the Thanksgiving Campaign is known

Proposed: Siân Fytche

Seconded: John Grubb

All In Favour

BUILDING UPDATE

For the ongoing faculty requests, the Chancellor is on holiday this week, but they should be signed off next week. JG said Neil Fraser had done a lot of good work on the kitchen - expected cost 12K plus 5K on white goods.

We have £6.5K in the restricted fund and the Friends have agreed to pay the balance. JG will approach the Friends for help using a new process they propose to introduce in 2026 concerning how St Peter's makes requests for grants.

Heating – faculty sign – off awaited. Like for like works already completed: new fans are in 4 radiators. Control system updated. Faculty permission awaited on the 4 electric radiators at the back of Church.

The Friends have paid for the like-for-like works. County Courts Care homes have offered to fund the placement of new radiators at the back of Church.

Chancel

It was agreed to use the Chancel fund to repair damaged plasterwork in the Chancel.

Proposal

That contractors be engaged to repair the fallen plaster by the Chancel door. That the cost of these works be paid from the Chancel fund.

Proposed: Louisa Baker

Seconded: Fiona Fraser

All In Favour

Tower

JG informed the PCC that the crenel gaps in the tower are just slightly too low for current health and safety regulations. This in turn means that insurance will not cover visitors going up to the tower. This is very important with regards to our plans for Tower Tours. We therefore need to investigate installing a system to mitigate this. The architect has given guidance concerning contractors and systems. An estimated cost for the recommended wire system is £1K plus labour of £1K. The Friends are very keen on raising money from tower tours. JG proposed (subject to FoPC funding) that we apply for a faculty, order materials and get system installed. If the FoPC are unable to assist we could use the QI fund and refund when money is raised from tower tours.

Proposal

That the PCC give permission for a Faculty application to be made regarding a safety system on the Tower crenels; that funding be sought from the Friends of the Parish Church for this work.

Proposed: Pam Weatherington

Seconded: John Grubb

All In Favour

CURATE

SJW reported that Jessica Newlove - an ordinand currently training at St John's Durham – will join us as our new curate next summer. Her ordination will be at the end of June.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS PLANS

SJW reported on the planned services and events over Advent and Christmas:

Christingle 30th November

Rotary concert 5th December

Christmas Market 6th December

All-In Christmas Service 14th December

Remembering Service 18th December

Carols by Candlelight 21st December

Carols in the Market Place 24th December

Crib Service 24th December

Holy Communion 8:30am 25th December

Christmas Celebration 0:30am 25th December

SAFEGUARDING

No issues were raised.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

No issues raised.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

The meeting then closed in prayer at 21:00.

Signed.....

Date.....

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