



**Minutes of PCC Meeting
21st May 2025
Lady Chapel**

PRESENT Stephen Webster (SJW), Annabel Copeland (AC), Pam Weatherington (PW) Sally Saunders (SS), Kim Treverton (KT), John Grubb (JG), Louise Foote (LF), Louisa Baker (LB), Fiona Fraser (FF), Sarah Vogt (SV).

APOLOGIES Rob Dillarstone, Claire Weston, Sian Fytche.

OPENING PRAYER

SJW read from *Acts* 1. As Church approached Ascension Day it was good to look back to the first Ascension Day. Jesus commissioned 11 disciples to take the gospel to the ends of the earth and the disappeared from their sight. It was an impossibly daunting task. Their response? "They joined together constantly in prayer." (1:14) They hit their knees. They waited as instructed. And on the Day of Pentecost God filled them with the Spirit. And they did indeed then become Jesus' witnesses to the edges of their known world. We are commissioned to be Jesus witnesses here in Oundle, in East Northamptonshire, in the UK and to the ends of the earth. How on earth will we be able to fulfil this? By starting with prayer and waiting expectantly for God's empowering. SJW then led the meeting in prayer.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None reported.

MINUTES OF MEETING 1st April 2025

Unanimously accepted as a true reflection of the meeting.

MATTERS ARISING

None.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following were elected as PCC Officers:

Treasurer : **Rob Dillarstone**
Proposed by Pam Weatherington; seconded by Sarah Vogt
All in favour.

Honorary Secretary: **Andrew Hawkins**
Proposed by Louise Foote; seconded by Pam Weatherington
All in favour

Standing Committee Representative: **Sally Saunders**
Proposed by Kim Treverton; seconded by Pam Weatherington
All in favour.

PCC MEMBERSHIP and TRUSTEESHIP

LB led a presentation on Trustee responsibilities. PCC members were reminded that everyone needs both a DBS (because as trustees we have oversight of ministry among children, young people and vulnerable adults) and to have completed Church of England Safeguarding Training. Safeguarding training can be accessed online (any questions speak with Louise Foote). In addition for any preferring in-person training there will be a session in St Peter's on Saturday 5th July. PCC members who do not have a current DBS or who have not completed the relevant training will not be able to be voting members of PCC until both are in place.

TREASURER'S REPORT

RD was not present, but had presented a report at the APCM the previous Sunday. RD had indicated that if there were any queries, they could be sent direct to him. SJW said that in the bigger picture, the first quarter had been encouraging. With regard to the deficit budget, we were in a much better position than anticipated due to the income pledged from Church members.

FUTURE OF OCYA

A paper had been circulated prior to the meeting. OCYA is ceasing to be a charity. The charitable work undertaken in the past by OCYA is now very effectively and professionally undertaken by The Souster Trust. OCYA trustees feel that there is no longer a need for OCYA to be a Charity – with all the administrative and trustee responsibilities that accompany being a Charity. The OCYA trustees continue to see the significant value to continue to meet as a body to ensure that as Churches in Oundle we continue to work *together* to witness to children and young people.

The OCYA trustees wish to disperse the OCYA funds to the Churches for the purposes of continuing to fund the ongoing work among children and young people. Approximately 66% of this will come to St Peter's (c.£25-30k) the remaining 33% to Oundle Baptist church (c.£8-10k). This proposal has been met with approval from the Charity Commission. The Churches would need to note that in recent years OCYA has been the main funder of Chattabox and Chattabox+ summer events (c.£2k per year). In addition OCYA has funded bibles for all Year 6 children. OCYA funds will not be available for such expenditure in future and the Churches would need to fund this out of the funds dispersed from OCYA – or find new funding models.

Proposal

- **St Peter's PCC accept the funds dispersed from OCYA as outlined above**
- **St Peter's PCC use those funds for work amongst children and young people**
- **St Peter's PCC seek to ensure that outreach previously undertaken by OCYA, such as Chattabox and Chattabox+, continues.**
- **St Peter's PCC will be mindful of the funds received from OCYA in seeking to ensure such outreach continues.**

Proposed by: John Grubb

Seconded by: Louisa Baker

All in Favour

GROWING FAITH ADVENTURE

SS and ASMC updated PCC members on 'The Happiness Club' which together they will be running in Oundle CE Primary School. The school has warmly embraced this initiative. So important does the headteacher believe this to be that she has ensured that it will take place in curriculum time – rather than as a lunch time or after school club. It will run for a series of 5 weeks. Each week children who have been identified as needing some emotional support will meet with SS and ASMC. The first session has already happened and was received very positively. If it goes well there may be another cohort in the autumn.

Chattabox + and ++ are both fully booked, and more adult volunteers are needed.

DIOCESAN YEAR OF PRAYER

LB outlined the plans for the 'Thy Kingdom Come' initiative beginning on Ascension Day and running until Pentecost. This was an opportunity to encourage the Church in prayer. Ascension Day itself falls in Half-term, but the second full week of TKC falls in term time. The following events are planned:

A map of Oundle will be produced with the route of a prayer walk (or walks) on it. It will include potential stops with suggested ideas for prayer. People will be encouraged to do this individually or in pairs or as small groups at any point during TKC. The Prayer board will be revamped in Church and publicity placed outside the Church building encouraging people to come in and pray. On Thursday 5th June the idea of people being available in the Market Place asking people if they wish to be prayed for is being explored.

Tuesday 3rd June: Prayer Meeting in Church for our community together with the other Churches of Oundle.

Saturday 7th June. A short prayer walk for all ages beginning at Church and encompassing the middle of the town.

In the Autumn it is intended that there be further joint prayer meetings with other Churches and the idea of a 24 hour prayer event is also being explored.

Building Matters

Heating – Electric Radiators

Funds have been promised (c.£13k) from Country Court Care for works to replace the radiators at the back of Church. This amount matches the costings of the proposals Dunphy put in for the works to fix the heating there.

Proposal

To go ahead with Dunphy's proposals for electric heaters at the rear of Church (to replace the broken radiators). To seek a Faculty (if required) for these works.

Proposed by: Louisa Baker

Seconded by: Sally Saunders

All in Favour

Heating – Fan Heaters

It is also recommended that where there are broken fans in the current Aisle wall heaters these be fixed and that Dunphy looks at the current heating control system to ensure that it is working optimally. There is an approximate amount of £10k estimated for this work.

Proposal

To approach the Friends of the Parish Church for funding for this work. If secured to go ahead with fixing the broken fans and any work recommended on the current heating control system.

Proposed by: Sally Saunders

Seconded by: Fiona Fraser

All in Favour

Kitchenette/Servery

John Grubb and Neil Fraser have been consulting with Siân Fytche, Pam Weatherington and Angie Newell about the long-discussed refurbishment of our Kitchenette/Servery. Further consultation will be required throughout the process. It was recommended that the Friends be approached for funding. If this is forthcoming then it was recommended that a faculty be sought for the refurbishment of the current galley kitchenette to make it fit for purpose.

Proposal

To approach the Friends of the Parish Church for funding for the refurbishment of the current galley kitchenette. If funding is secured to seek faculty permission for this refurbishment. To give John Grubb and Neil Fraser and the Facilities Co-ordinator authority to bring proposals to the DAC for approval in line with those already brought to PCC. To continue to consult throughout the process as indicated above.

Proposed by: Sally Saunders

Seconded by: Louisa Baker

All in Favour

Glass

Works to repair broken glass panes (identified in the QI) has now been completed at a much lower cost than expected.

Fundraising

JG said research work was needed on funding opportunities- we need a volunteer to do this work. JG has a list of possible donors, and the work involves analysing web sites offering a range of funds, looking at the criteria, and what they will fund.

JG needs volunteers to work through the funding available and then another team to do an actual written approach.

LB suggested paying someone to do this work (£200?)-and SV said she might be able to find someone suitable. In addition, JG said the architect might know someone who could do the second stage work. SV will ask a friend if they can assist. JG did say he had a list of possible people from the architect, but SV will ask a friend first.

Safeguarding

No issues were raised.

Health and Safety

No items raised.

Any Other Business

None

The meeting then closed in prayer at 21:05.

Signed.....

Date.....

