

Otley Parish Church.

Minutes of Parochial Church Council Meeting held on Monday 23rd June 2025

The meeting was preceded by a service of Holy Communion

Present: Allan Boddy, Barry Milner, Glynis Milner, Norman Barr, John Simkins, Reverend Aaron Kennedy, Martín Hird, Maggie Lolashvili, Kevin Keefe, Jonathan Joslin.

In Attendance: Jenny Liston (up to item 3)

1. Apologies: Eric Cairns, Tony Pike, Rosemary Ellen, Tom Raper, Jackie Hird

2. Membership matters:

2.1 Allan welcomed returning members and thanked Reverend Stewart Hartley for his previous service.

2.2 Allan welcomed our two new members, Kevin and Jonathan.

2.3 Appointment of PCC Officers:

Tony Pike was proposed by Ken Dale, seconded by Martin Hird, for the post of Treasurer. Passed unanimously.

Barry Milner was proposed by John Simkins, seconded by Maggie Lolashvili, for the post of PCC Secretary, passed unanimously.

Allan Boddy was proposed by Aaron Kennedy, seconded by Norman Barr for the post of Vice Chair of PCC, passed unanimously.

Members of the Standing Committee were confirmed as: Tony Pike, Allan Boddy, Tom Raper, Barry Milner, Martin Hird and Aaron Kennedy

2.4 Team of Assistant Church Wardens. In the absence of a second warden Kevin arranges a rota of volunteers who will assist Tom at services. The team are: Kevin Keefe, Barry Milner, Martin Hird, Barbara Nicholls and Kate Hobson.

2.5 New members will be supplied with further Trusteeship information.

3. Declaration of interests – none

4. Safeguarding.

4.1 Jenny will undertake the 'Restored' training in September.

4.2 Safeguarding questionnaires have been circulated to Open House, Rascals and Sunday Club, all responses positive. After the summer holidays, Jenny will approach the Youth Groups.

4.3 Lone working – Jenny has looked at a policy from York Diocese which we could adapt. First we will assess how much lone working is happening in the parish.

4.4 The agency which carries out our DBS checks has said they can offer a service of reviewing the social media posts of volunteers. It was felt that this needed careful consideration.

- 4.5** Any other matters – Jenny informed the PCC that she has had to make a report to the police about someone who attended church.
- 5.** Minutes of the meeting held on May 12th 2025. After two minor amendments (Maggie was reported as present **and** absent, and John's surname was misspelt) approval of the minutes was proposed by Martin Hird, seconded by Aaron Kennedy, passed unanimously.
- 6.** Matters arising not on the agenda:
- 6.1 New Logo** - Des O'Hara has made some suggestions, to be discussed at the next Communications meeting. If any members had any clear thoughts on the logo they were asked to pass these to the team.
- 7. Events**
- 7.1 Annual General Meeting:** Went well, minutes to be posted on website.
- 7.2 Timing of Sunday Services:** to progress (Aaron)
- 7.3 Events in general:** Kevin felt we have a duty of care to ensure that Tom is not the single point of contact for all external events. It was proposed that the Standing Committee would be more involved in the decision-making process
- 8. Finances**
- 8.1** Finance Update – see Tony's e mail of 21st June for full details. For the period to the end of May 2025 income was £69,000 compared to spending of £80,000, a deficit of £11, 000 (£2,000 less than forecast) Donations to the Roof Fund stand at £60,000
- 8.2** Parish Share – Total Diocesan Parish Share in 2019 was £13.6M, in 2024 it had fallen to £11.7M. If it had kept pace with inflation, it would be £18M. The Diocese has decided to increase engagement between the Diocese and PCCs with a view to setting a three-year share commitment with each parish. Parishes in the Northwest Deanery are scheduled for face-to-face meetings in Q1 2028.
- 8.3** Leeds Faith in Schools is again facing a financial challenge to continue their work at Prince Henry's and local churches have been asked to consider what support they can give. Issue to be raised with congregation during services. Standing Committee will decide on final level of donation from church.
- 9. Properties**
- 9.1 Carbon Net Zero**
- 9.1.1 The Roof Fund** – current total £60,000
- 9.1.2 Fundraising** – Trevor and others have a number of ideas for suitable events – details to follow. The consultants, IPC, have produced a first draft of the 'Expression of Interest' document, to be reviewed by CNZ group at next meeting. (Thursday)
- 9.1.3 Energy Audit**- the first audit was unsatisfactory, a second audit by another company has been arranged for 17th July. No progress with control system, all quotes are very expensive. The group are seeking quotes for an air source

heat pump. It has been confirmed by the architect that ideally the clerestory windows need to function correctly, suitable repair work is being sourced.

9.1.4 Community Consultation – Group has met with Otley Museum and the Town Council, a monthly ‘Heritage Trail’ is envisaged, ending in the church for refreshments and a church tour.

9.1.5 Footfall count – Currently registering around 7000 since installation. Will be able to give a report on footfall by time and date.

9.2 Environmental sustainability report – Martin has started to put the policy into action; he is sourcing more suitable cleaning products which we can purchase in refillable containers. He is meeting with Tom to look at climate resilience for the church building (risk of flooding etc)

9.3 Long term plan for use of church buildings – discussion deferred.

10. Youth and Children’s Ministry

10.1 Year 6 Intervention – no response from proposal from Westgate. All Saints pupils are coming to the Silent Disco.

10.2 Appointment of Foundation Governor for All Saints – two people have expressed an interest. Notice to be placed in notice sheet.

10.3 Social Media account – Maria has proposed to set up a social media account for youth on Tik Tok and Instagram. Concerns were expressed about security arrangements and monitoring. Further details to be provided.

11. Reports and Correspondence.

11.1 Planning permission for scrapyard – church comments on the application were posted on the council website by the PCC Secretary, outcome of the application will be monitored.

11.2 Otley Community Network – see Norman’s report on the meeting

12. Community / Churches Together

12.1 Thy Kingdom Come - The prayer vigil was successful with many of the ‘slots’ being filled by church members and members from other churches. As the vigil was for a longer period, none of the overnight sessions were used. It is planned to hold further vigils at suitable times throughout the year.

12.2 Churches Together meeting of May 15th – John will circulate the minutes.

13. Any Other Business

13.1 Lay Pastoral Care Working Agreement – Aaron reported that this required a few alterations, sign-off deferred.

13.2 Change of format to one service per month – under consideration.

14. Prayers at next meeting – Glynis

15. Date of next meeting – Monday July 21st 2025

John closed the meeting with prayers.