

Otley Parish Church.

Minutes of Parochial Church Council Meeting held on Monday 16th March 2026

The meeting was preceded by prayers from Martin

Present: Allan Boddy, Barry Milner, Glynis Milner, Martin Hird, Ken Dale, Norman Barr, Rosemary Ellen, Tom Raper, Kevin Keefe, Rev Aaron Kennedy, Jonathan Joslin, John Simkins, Tony Pike, Maggie Lolashvili

In Attendance: Jenny Liston for item 3.

- 1. Apologies:** Jackie Hird; Eric Cairns
- 2. Declaration of interests** – None
- 3. Safeguarding.**

3.1 Response to questionnaires

The questionnaires have now been circulated to all church groups, next step is to widen to all congregation. This will be available on line and there will be paper copies available in church. Jenny is writing a piece for 'In Touch' about the topic. Thus far all the responses have been positive.

3.2 Lockable cupboards for volunteers.

These have arrived, awaiting final positioning and fastening to wall.

3.3 Security cameras in church.

Tom has been provided with the necessary technical documents. CCTV policy document is in process.

3.4 Domestic Abuse Training

Jenny is proposing that we use the Diocese online training material. This can be done individually, and Jenny is also proposing to hold a group course, possibly in June, date to be confirmed.

3.5 Promoting a Healthy and Safe Culture

The aim is for promoting a proper safeguarding culture should become part of our DNA and the PCC should be exemplars. Unfortunately, Jenny has received several communications raising concerns about the current difficulties. Tom is in contact with the Archdeacon and the Bishop and mediation is awaited.

It was agreed that this topic of a Healthy and Safe culture would warrant a separate meeting.

3.6 Any other safeguarding matters: None

4. Minutes of the meeting held on February 23rd 2026.

After several communications from members of the PCC to the Lay Chair and the Secretary it became clear that agreement on the item concerning the 'way OPC is managed' was difficult and this Appendix to the minutes would be redrafted. It was

agreed that the Lay Chair should contact the Bishop to back Tom's request for swift mediation in our current difficulties.

The Chair proposed that the PCC consider Items 1 to 14 of the minutes, excluding the Appendix.

Agreement that these sections were a correct record was proposed by Martin Hird, seconded by Jonathan Joslin, passed unanimously.

5. Matters arising not on the agenda.

5.1 Comments on the proposed ministry team structure: Aaron had received two comments from PCC members. All members were asked to feedback any further comments they had.

5.2 Any other matters: Aaron had contacted a professional mediator. He had advised that training in handling difficult disagreements would be useful. The issue of mediation is now with the Bishop.

6.0 Annual Report :

6.1 Tony has circulated version 5 of the Annual Report and Financial Statements, incorporating all the changes and additions suggested after the last PCC meeting. Report is now with the Independent Examiner

6.2 Date of Annual Meeting confirmed as May 17th 2026

7.0 Events

7.1 Recent Events: Leeds Guild of Singers Concert on 7th March – went well, they will probably use the venue again. 'Elijah' concert by Otley Choral Society on 14th March – well attended as usual, included a collection for the Roof Fund.

7.2 Easter Services- They are detailed on the website and Stephen Hey has created an A5 flyer to go in church next week.

7.3 Forthcoming events.

Allan went through a list of the events from the church diary to ensure someone was covering each event.

Our Architect will be carrying out the Quinquennial (5 yearly) inspection of the church fabric on 24th May.

7.4 Local to Global – Group met at John's house on Friday 27th February to discuss future plans. Considering moving funding from Leeds Faith in Schools to the Otley Youth and Community after school club.

8.0 Finance

8.1 Update Tony gave a brief oral update for the year to date. Heating costs have been high, as anticipated for the time of year and we had the unbudgeted cost of the emergency drainage work. The last payment to Missional Generation will go through this month. Currently deficit is of the order of £7,000.

9. Properties

9.1 Carbon Net Zero

9.1.1 See Norman's comprehensive notes of the meeting held on 5th March 2026. Possible date for visitor from National Lottery Heritage Fund – April 14th. Norman met with Richard Hughes from Otley Town Council on 18th April. Letter from Council supportive of the project will be drafted.

9.1.2 The employment of a Heritage Officer was discussed. This could be one full time or two part time posts, initially paid for from the Roof Fund. The role would be to produce suitable literature, plan school events, heritage walks, church tours- developing links with the community. A job specification would be obtained from Hemsley church who have such a person in post. This would strengthen the bid to the NLHF.

Norman proposed the appointment of such a Heritage Officer, initially funded from the Roof Fund. Seconded by Ken Dale, passed unanimously.

9.1.3 Any other matters relating to CNZ: The group are to source an A2 size A board to be displayed on Kirkgate advertising that the church is open.

9.2 Water pressure to upper floor – still under consideration

9.3 The Log Book and Terrier have been updated in preparation for the Quinquennial Inspection and for the Annual meeting.

9.4 Any Other Property Matters: Areas of loose plaster/paint are evident in several areas, these will be dealt with in the coming weeks.

10. Youth and Children's Ministry

10.1 Expression of interest in having a Diocesan youth worker. Aaron has contacted the relevant parties, and our interest has been acknowledged. May be 12 to 18 months before any decision.

10.2 PCC Sub Group : The new group has met, see report circulated by Allan. Aaron said we needed to pray about the next steps, is God on board, come up with a big vision. Maria leaving may act as a catalyst. Need to liaise with other churches, not duplicate effort.

11. Reports and correspondence received – none

12. Community / Churches Together in Otley/ OPC Prayer Team

12.1 OPC Prayer Team – Prayer Gathering on March 15th went well, but poorly attended. Prayer Vigils at Easter and as part of the Thy Kingdom Come initiative, details to follow.

12.2 Churches Together Prayer Breakfasts as scheduled. Lent Lunch series continuing.

13. Any other business - None

14. Prayers at next meeting – Barry

14. Date of next meeting- April 20th 2026

Martin closed the meeting with prayers.

Proposed dates for future meetings:

2026	2027
	January 11th
	February 8th
April 20th	March 15th
May 17th – ANNUAL MEETING	May 10th
June 8th	June 21st
July 20th	July 19th
September 14th	September 6th
October 12th	October 11th
November 23rd	November 22nd
	Away Day - January 16th