

St Mary the Virgin Church, Bletchingley

Minutes of PCC Meeting held on 10th February 2026 In Church House, Bletchingley

Present:

Fr. Paul Fitzpatrick (Chair)
 Vicki Gillespie (Churchwarden)
 Trevor Dawson (Churchwarden)
 Leanna Quevedo (PCC Secretary)
 Geoff Stone (Treasurer)
 Jennifer Hyde (Deanery Synod Rep)
 Richard Fowler (Deanery Synod Rep)
 April Alexander (Diocesan Synod Rep)
 Chrissie Markham
 Clemmie Selick
 Robin Idle
 Gill Black
 Ian McMillan

The meeting was opened with a welcome and prayer led by Fr. Paul.

Apologies :

Kate Doody

<u>Conflicts of Interest</u> None.	
<u>Minutes of PCC meeting held on 10th December 2025</u> The minutes of this meeting had been circulated in advance. They were signed as a record of this meeting. <u>Minutes of PCC Extraordinary meeting held on 14th January 2026</u>	Fr. Paul

The minutes of this meeting had been circulated in advance. They were signed as a record of this meeting.	
<u>Matters Arising</u> We have agreed to change the next PCC meeting to Tuesday 5th May 2026 at 7.30pm. This will be the first meeting after the APCM and a welcome for new PCC members.	
<u>Correspondence</u> - A letter was received regarding the parish boundary, this was discussed at a previous meeting in January 2025, where the PCC agreed with the changes. Fr Paul has replied by email giving consent to the order in the letter. - The timescale of the change was mentioned but this it is not known. - The right for burial was also mentioned; however, this is a civil boundary matter.	
<u>Churchwardens Report</u> - The Church Wardens report was submitted and circulated in advance. - Articles of Enquiry were completed	
<u>Treasurers Report</u> - Geoff talked all attendees through the report, that was submitted and circulated in advance. <u>Key Points taken</u> - Overall improved income. - The Choir donated £500 from two weddings to the Piano Fund. - Restricted funds have grown by £10,000. - Hungry Hermit income has increased, as have the other groups. - All end of year results showed growth and stability in a high inflation year. - We are in a better cashflow situation. - The new contactless donation terminal is getting paid off a lot quicker, a second device has been purchased where smaller values can be donated. These are linked directly to HMRC which means an automatic uplift of 20% is added. These also have a longer battery life of a least 8 hours. - We have changed energy supplier to Valda Energy, this is a 3-year contract, saving 8% in years 1 and 2.	

9. We saw a large drop in fuel costs, which was put down to the under-pew heating. 10. Cost of the new piano is £9,000. The Keyed-Up Appeal will cover the cost. £3,000 has already been donated. 11. Tristian has contacts as Caterham school and hopefully will bring concerts to the Church. 12. Geoff envisages the cost of the PSF to change between churches in the benefice, and he and Fr. Paul will discuss the treasurer at Nutfield. 13. Note 3 on page 3 to be changed to No donations received in 2025. 14. April expressed concern that the comments made could imply the accounts had not previously been done correctly. However, Fr. Paul made it clear that this was not the case and that they are just done differently, coding has been changed to make things much clearer on how things are recorded. 15. Gill expressed the good job people have done/are doing but things in the way in which we do them change. 16. Fr Paul said it had been a wonderful team effort by all and that the reserves are much better than when he arrived.	
<u>Deanery Synod Report</u> None	
<u>Substantive Matter(s)</u> <u>A. Pastoral Statement</u> • Fr Paul submitted the Pastoral Statement, and this was circulated in advance. • It's time to put a line under the past and focus on rebuilding our church for the future. <u>B. Pastoral Statement – Resolution Vice Chair</u> • Resolution 2/2026 to adopt the recommendations in Fr Paul's Pastoral Statement was voted upon. There were 12 PCC members present, the vote was unanimous. Certified by the Vice-Chair Vicky Gillespie. <u>C. Bullying, Harassment and Discrimination Policy.</u> • Resolution 3/2026 to adopt the Bullying, Harassment and Discrimination Policy was voted upon. There were 12 PCC members Present, the vote was unanimous. Certified by the Vice-Chair Vicky Gillespie. • Ian suggested that Sub-committees be put in place to investigate all our polices and make them more personal to St Mary the Virgin. The desire is that persons know exactly who to turn to should an issue arise. This will take time, there is not much of before July, but an initial briefing with Ian will be possible. Fr Paul happy to delegate with a plan on how to	VG VG

equip PCC members to take on a policy development. Fr Paul directed a brief to Ian in two weeks. D. <u>Consultation re Rector – Resolution 4/2026 presented by Vice Chair</u> • To support the extension of the Interim Priest in charge by one year to allow sufficient time to undertake necessary procedures. • To lift the Suspension early to create a vacancy in the Benefice. • To request the Diocesan Bishop to suggest the current Interim Priest in charge as a single candidate for interview. • This resolution was voted upon. There were 12 PCC members present the vote was Unanimous.	VG
<u>Safeguarding</u> • Training is going well, but there are some people outstanding and this needs to be completed as soon as possible. It is very important the PCC members complete their training as it is a legal requirement under the Charity Act. • PCC members are required to complete 3 items of training. Members that do not complete the training will be asked to step down until such time it is complete. • New PCC members are to be told about the training that needs to be completed within a month of becoming a member.	Fr. P
<u>Sub-committee Reports</u> None	
<u>Any Other Business</u> • Gill mentioned she thought that the 9.30 service had a much better atmosphere. • PCC meeting to be changed from 16th April 2026 to the 5th May 2026 this will be the first meeting after the APCM and a welcome for new PCC members. • Fr Paul thanked Vallarie Muller for all her dedication and hard work on the PCC • April suggested a screening of the ABC installation. She paid tribute to the new Archbishop. • The Being With meetings are going well with 4 members, 3 of whom are external.	
<u>Dates of next meetings.</u>	

APCM PCC	Sunday 26th April 2026 Tuesday 5th May 2026
The meeting finished with thanks and prayer at 9.30pm Approved at PCC meeting held on 5th May 2026 Signed. Reverend Captain Paul Fitzpatrick, Interim Priest-In-Charge	