**Parish of Deddington with Clifton and Hempton**

Minutes of the PCC meeting held on **Thursday, 13th November 2025**
Deddington Church

**Present:** Rev. Nick Fielden (Chair), Sarah Banes, David Clements, Caroline Condon, Jane Maharry (also acting as Secretary), Stan Nelson
**In attendance:** Andrew Crawley, Janet Watts

| Item | Notes | Action |
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| 1 | **Apologies**<br>Apologies were received from Olivia | |
| 2 | **Opening prayer and welcome**<br>Nick opened the meeting in prayer<br>Caroline was warmly welcomed back on the team. | |
| 3 | **Minutes of previous meeting – September and action log**<br><br>The minutes for the previous meeting were confirmed as a true record.<br><br>**Action log/Matters arising**<br><br>See separate action log for items. Key updates other than those separately on the agenda were:<br><br>• Thanks were expressed to Stan for updating the general risk assessment. All were asked to review and provide feedback by no later than the next meeting<br><br>• Christmas meal – Four names had been added to the sign-up sheet for a lunch in church. It was agreed to canvas any further demand via church newssheet and local Facebook page. The aim would be to confirm nos. with Alex by end of November *(subsequently agreed there would need to be a minimum of 10)* Janet mentioned that in previous years, the Hempton team had provided some meals for those in the village but would not be available to do so this year. She would contact those and ask if they wished to attend.<br><br>• The dogs' mess notice had been posted on Facebook. It was reported that the person who usually empties the waste bins in the church grounds is unwell. He has arranged for someone to cover (and is paying him to do so). The Parish Council will not empty as the churchyard is classed as private grounds. It was suggested that church pay for the emptying instead. Stan agreed to liaise and come up with a solution.<br><br>• Olivia to confirm church safeguarding training is complete – this is still outstanding | All to review<br><br>Sarah<br><br>Stan<br><br>Olivia |

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| **4** | **Safeguarding**<br><br>Jane M reported that we were now using 31:8 to undertake DBS checks and all were complete as required.<br><br>Safeguarding Scenario 3 was discussed with the group. A wide-ranging discussion followed and included the following points:<br><br>• Any new proposal suggested by Christopher needs to be considered by the Vicar and Safeguarding Officer. Thereafter, taken to PCC for approval.<br>• PCC could then discuss the proposal carefully taking account of safeguarding considerations, staffing and other checks that would need to take place<br>• If church had contact details for the parents/carers of the young people, discussions could take place on their thoughts on the proposal. The young people should also be given a safe space to offer their views<br>• (If the proposal was agreed, one suggestion was that we do a check with the Bible College where Christopher was based to see if they have any feedback on how this worked, alongside the standard safeguarding actions) | |
| **5** | **Hempton**<br><br>Quotes have been sought from both Alcocks and Everest for roofing works. The Alcocks quote is around £11,000. The Everest quote has not been received, despite follow up. Caroline suggested a possible alternative contractor to secure a comparison quote and will liaise with Janet.<br><br>The Hempton team had spoken with Jennie from the DAC Team to ask for advice on permission required and it was hoped this would be List B rather than a full faculty. All present expressed keenness for Hempton church to be back in full use.<br><br>The following updates on activity were shared:<br><br>• The Christmas Fair will be held on 13th December, 11.30am-2.30pm. It will include an auction of promises and will be used as a fundraiser for the roofing works. The church will also be open in the evening for the Tractor Run<br>• The choir will be singing at the carol service on 19th December. It will be full choir so could be a tight fit in the school room!<br>• Rev Alan Doig will cover the Christmas Day communion service<br>• The triennial inspection is due to take place by Assistant Archdeacon Jane Haslam next week.<br>• The quinquennial inspection is due shortly. Stan has contacted Henry to arrange a date.<br><br>(Janet and Andrew left the meeting at 7.57pm) | |
| **6** | **Living Faith**<br><br>Nick shared a photo of him wearing the new cope, which had been recently received.<br><br>The new hymnbooks have arrived and will be used by the congregation from January. We secured a £150 grant from the Farmers' Market committee which was greatly appreciated. In terms of paying for the hymn books, David is keeping a log on excel of those who wish to make donations in memory of a loved one. Agreed wording is 'This hymnbook is dedicated in memory of [name]'. As a PCC we have either £193 or £693 from general funds to pay the balance (the £500 difference being around the need to | |

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| | confirm an anonymous donation).<br><br>Fourth Sunday – At a recent worship committee, a discussion took place about the congregation find the singing of the service 'mass' elements a bit tricky. It was agreed that moving forward this would be a mostly 'said' service moving forward but with sung Gloria.<br><br>It was reported that a high-profile service of thanksgiving had taken place at church this autumn and generous donation received.<br><br>The Primary School Harvest service had been particularly joyful. School assemblies had recently focused on the 'Big Frieze', charting the Christian story from creation onwards through an engaging visual.<br><br>A great advent carols service is planned for 30th November, with all encouraged to attend.<br><br>There will be an Iona Eucharist to celebrate Christopher Hall's 90th birthday on 6th December followed by lunch.<br><br>School Christmas concerts will take place w/c 8th December. It was felt that it would therefore be difficult to run the Thursday pantry. Eagles should be advised.<br><br>Sarah shared that she needs to think about scheduling a Christmas church clean. She will put a note in the news sheet once this has been confirmed<br><br>Looking ahead, Nick had shared dates of his leave/absences during 2026. Caroline agreed to organize clergy cover.<br><br>It was noted that Bishop Gavin was booked for a confirmation service in Barford on 26th April 26 and this would also include a blessing of the sanctus bell. | Sarah<br><br>Caroline |
| **7** | **General Buildings Projects update**<br><br>Caroline shared an update on projects.<br><br>The vestry work was awaiting a decision to proceed from the Archdeacon. It was hoped this would be received soon. The proposals for the south and north window repairs and the lower churchyard wall are awaiting review by the Diocese.<br><br>Caroline discussed the challenges around the clearance of the drainage gulley on the roof. An alternative approach is now being considered.<br><br>PCC were reminded that FODC remain keen to support building fabric improvements.<br><br>**Quinquennial Report**<br><br>Jane reported that a subgroup had met to discuss which items from the 2022 report had been completed, those in the plan and those outstanding.<br><br>Overall, most of those defined as requiring attention within the quinquennial period had either been addressed or were in the project log. The exception to this was the tower. There are a series of items in the report relating to this area, including repointing of walls, removal of vegetation along with the need to renew the clock faces. It could be that the tower becomes the focus of the next FODC funding | |

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| | campaign.<br><br>It was proposed that steps to the boiler house be added to the project list.<br><br>It was additionally noted that we need to schedule regular maintenance items – clearing gutters, gullies, drains etc. – so they don't get overlooked. Caroline was thanked for coordinating the 'gulley team' morning. | Caroline |
| **8** | **Churchyard**<br><br>Thanks were given to the gardening team for their clearing of paths and tidying for the Remembrance Service. | |
| **9** | **Finance - Treasurers Report**<br><br><u>Monthly Accounts</u><br><br>David shared the latest accounts for the year.<br><br>Additionally, he put forward a proposal for the 2026 budget. Many assumptions have been made in building this around planned giving increases, gift aid and recovered tax (3%) along with expected income from events and the feed-in tariff. Overall, the budget suggests a £185.64 deficit.<br><br>As the budget has been planned using a 'worse case' than 'best case' lens, this is felt manageable. All present formally agreed the budget for 2026.<br><br>With respect to signing accounts for 2025, David reminded members that these should come to PCC prior to APCM. We need to bear this in mind when scheduling meetings in spring.<br><br>David agreed to share the information we hold on whether funds are truly 'restricted' (and cannot be used for any other purpose) or simply designated in principle for a particular activity. | David |
| **11** | **Deanery Synod**<br><br>There had been no Deanery Synod since the previous PCC. The next meeting will be held on 25th November where the main discussion item is Parish Share. | |
| **12** | **H&S Report**<br><br>There had been a minor incident at Squiggles and Wriggles where very warm water had accidentally spilled on a young child's arm. Appropriate treatment was given and by the end of the session there was no visible sign of injury.<br><br>To mitigate future risk, all hot drinks at Squiggles and Wriggles will be served in thermos containers although adults will be able to drink from mugs in the kitchen.<br><br>It was reported that there was ongoing concern about the external steps to the west door. Mortar has come away and is starting to move. A previous quote for work had been received and Caroline agreed get this project moving again. | Caroline |
| **15** | **AOBs and close** | |

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| | Parking on Market Day<br><br>Sarah had previously shared an email to the standing committee on this matter.<br><br>In short, there had been upset following the October market around parking. This is always a difficult matter but has been compounded by the part-closure of Earls Lane. The Parish Council has received complaints, and all involved in the market are asked to discuss and respond.<br><br>It was agreed that Sarah and Jane would attend a meeting of the Farmers' Market Committee to listen and try and work with them on solutions given that the Craft Market in church is separately managed. They agreed to report back to PCC following the meeting.<br><br>Coffee for November Market<br><br>Pat continues to be unable to cover due to Derek's poor health. PCC agreed to cover November (and December if required). If this was to be a longer-term requirement, it would need a new discussion and possibly others involved as part of a rota.<br><br>Fundraising<br><br>Caroline suggested two events for next year:<br><br>1) Open Gardens with afternoon tea (14th June)<br>2) Christmas craft market (November – date tbc)<br><br>All agreed in principle. FODC are keen for a relaunch of the Advent/Christmas week lighting event if possible. This was so positive in previous years, and all agreed it would be good if this could be organized for 2026.<br><br>Hassocks (kneelers)<br><br>There are currently too many in various states of condition and it was agreed that a group of volunteers could sort and take the opportunity to organize. Around 30 would be maintained for occasional use.<br><br>**Next meeting**<br><br>The next PCC meeting will take place on **Thursday 22nd January** at 7pm<br>The meeting closed at 9.25pm with The Grace. | Sarah/Jane |