

St Peters Church PCC Minutes
25th November 2025
7pm – 8:30pm The Gallery, St Peter's Church

Chair: Karin Shaw

Present: Karin Shaw, Chris Clayton (minutes), David Hipkin, Steve Gibbin, Helen Camm, Judith Simpson, Hilary Paxton, Richard Jackson, Alan Garrow.

1. Welcome and prayer

KS opened with LYCIG prayer

2. Bible Reflection AG

Jn 6:25-27 – Jesus started with physical bread. From there he developed spiritual ideas (which his audience didn't always understand).

3. Apologies

Sian Lockwood, Paul Harris, Catherine Medforth, Kate Blake, Mike Davies, Jan Edwards, Tim Robinson.

4. Co-opting Diane Davenham

AG introduced Diane. She has also met with the churchwardens.

The PCC voted unanimously to co-opt Diane to the PCC and appoint her as interim Secretary.

5. Acceptance of Minutes – the minutes were accepted.

6. Matters Arising from September's Meeting

Apologies from Judith Simpson needs adding to last month's meeting.

Fabric Fan issues – Money dispute has now been settled at £8.5k – We thanked Tim Robinson for his valuable assistance.

7. Vision and Values

Working from the notes generated at the PCC morning in October, consultation with randomly selected members of the congregation and volunteers, the Standing Committee, Staff and Wardens Meeting, Bishop Anna – and now back to the PCC.

Features that appear strong are: Feeding Hungry People and the image of a table. The idea of a place of connection and the removal of barriers. Values of openness and generosity carry over from the previous formula. Bishop Anna observed that 'generous' is a word that could be used to include ideas about social justice, environmental impact and engagement with the town (this was in response to concerns about the vision being too cosy and inward-looking). We discussed the range of ideas that could also be held by open – physically open, spiritually open, receiving people without precondition or judgement, open to God's leading – which is fundamental to discipleship.

The discussion ranged around some other ideas: Is there a place for the word 'love'? Giving out of what we receive. Could we use some of the phrases from version 1 in text that might follow (in some contexts) the use of Version 2?

The overall feeling of the meeting was that a simple, memorable vision – against which we can measure our decisions and actions – and which we can use to communicate our vision quickly and effectively to people outside the organisation – is the outcome we need. Version 2 comes close to that outcome.

Roofing Project

One major item here was the wording of the proposed consultation questionnaires – and the timing of that consultation.

Congregation consultation: it was suggested that some examples should be included, e.g. seating, and heating.

Town consultation: it was suggested that some 'demographic' questions and 'experience of St Peter's' questions could be included to help interpret answers – also an opportunity to talk with people, outside St Peter's, about who we are and what we are about.

There was some discussion around specific phrases.

The congregation consultation could be conducted from 7th December.

The second question overlaps with the Fabric Report – and the proposal to spend around £15K on improvements to the efficiency of the heating in worship space and meeting rooms. See fabric item below.

We also noted that it may be necessary to hold online meetings in those months when the PCC does not meet in person – to help the progress of decision-making for the roof project.

8. Fabric

We received Carole's Fabric Report.

Some decisions were made in relation to Dumphy's quotation for improvements to the efficiency of our heating systems (£15K + VAT).

a) Carole Raw to research whether building regulations prevent the use of low radiators in front of windows (in the Bramall Gallery).

b) Carole Raw to contact Warren and Dumphy's to say that (contingent upon the above) – we would like to progress with these upgrades ... once we are confident of the necessary funds.

c) Richard Jackson and the Grants Group were asked to apply for grant funding – while ensuring that this project is understood as part of the wider building project that includes the roof and any other changes to the building. This could be significant when it comes to seeking match funding from other donors later in the project. Question to the PCC – we would like to press on with these improvements, if we can get grants / or funding for this work?

We need to commission the architect as soon as possible to help combat the rising costs of materials. Mike Davies and Sian Lockwood to be requested to engage the architect as soon as possible.

The PCC agreed to the above.

9. Breakfast Club – Energy Cost

On the basis of Charles Stones' calculations of the electricity typically consumed for the activities of Breakfast Club, the PCC agreed to attribute costs of £27/week to the Breakfast Club line of the accounts.

10. Finance Update – report included in PCC papers.

In addition to that report, David Hipkin reported that Geoff Parks (Diocese Financial Officer) has now explained the origin of the 'Endowment Fund'. The capital comes from the sale of land to allow road widening in 1935. The income from that fund now stands at £14,456. The latter is available for use by the PCC for building repairs. This is ear-marked for initial costs associated with the roof project.

David Hipkin asked us to express our attitude to risk in relation to the Titan (previously Cardale) investments. The PCC agreed to keep this investment in its existing low risk portfolio.

11. Safeguarding Report

No incidents

Successful St Peter's Players production of Beauty and the Beast – with lots of Safeguarding responsibilities covered by a generous and cheerful team of Chaperones. Wendy Lewis (PSO) will be seeking assistance from Leeds Diocese in rationalising the duplication of requirements for North Yorks Council and the Church of England.

12. Health and Safety Report

This will be a new item on our agenda – from Ecclesiastical.

Good progress has been made with the Bells and Tower Risk Assessment.

Sian Lockwood is working with Gill Payne – to meet Martyn's Law.

Wendy Lewis notes the need to include Safeguarding considerations, e.g. opportunities for grooming to take place, in all our Risk Assessments.

The PCC also noted the need to protect volunteers against the possibility of false allegations.

13. Eco-Church update – reported included in PCC papers.

Team now includes Cathy Richards, Charles Stones, Nick Anderson, Heather Swarbrick and Helen Harrison. Good progress from a much-strengthened team.

14. Inclusive Church update

No Update

A champion for inclusion still needed.

15. Communion Adminstrant Louise Emery

The PCC unanimously agreed to seek a Communion Adminstrant's licence for Louise Emery, our Intern, from the acting Bishop of Leeds.

16. Change of date of APCM to 19th May 2026

Moved because of it falling into the half term holidays

17. AOB received in advance

We noted that 2026 is our 150th Anniversary and the Centenary of the building of the tower. We plan to focus celebrations in the week 21-28 June – while also taking other opportunities to celebrate these anniversaries. We also noted the fundraising potential of these landmarks.

Ideas for giving an anniversary dimension to our regular activities, as well as additional activities, are welcome.

18. Review of meeting

We reviewed the meeting as a group and noted the value of our discussion around this open, generous table – as well as all the other ways in which, starting with these small encounters and activities, we contribute to something enduringly worthwhile.

Steve Gibbin: Closed in prayer.

Next meeting: 27th January 2026