

The Parish Church of St Margaret, Rainham
Parochial Church Council

Full meeting of the PCC on Thursday 24th April 2025
19:30 in Church



Present: Lorna Dyer (LD); Janet Garnons-Williams (JGW); Nick Grief (NG); Simon Hall (SH); Felicity Holton (FH); Emi Inetianbor (EI); Revd Jonathan Jennings (JPJ); David Ormiston (DO); Jean Penney (JP); Linda Randall (LR); Revd Nathan Ward (NW); Terry Whittaker (TW)

In Attendance: Jo Whittaker (JW) – Secretary; Davina O’Brien (DOB) – Treasurer

PCC MINUTES

Item	Details	Action
1.	Welcome and Opening Act of Worship:	
	The meeting opened with the first part of Evening Prayer, led by NW.	
2.	Apologies:	
	These were received from Heather Baker (HB); Charley Holden (CH); and Philip Holdcroft (PH). It was also reported that PH had resigned from PCC with immediate effect.	
3.	Minutes of the Meeting on 27th March 2025:	
a.	<u>Approval</u> – with an amendment to the launch date for the Parish Giving Scheme (8.ii) (11 th May, not 10 th May), EI proposed and LD seconded that the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. All in favour.	
b.	<u>Matters Arising (not included elsewhere):</u>	
i.	Class set of bibles for Mierscourt School – NW had contacted the head teacher just before the Easter Holidays, a response was awaited.	
ii.	Acts Six Lease – JGW had been in contact with the new property manager at the Diocese, however this was still being worked on. It was agreed that PCC should formally write to the Diocesan secretary to move this on.	JGW/JW
iii.	Email to the Diocese re. contact point for St Margaret’s net zero advice – NW had done this and confirmed Cat Jamieson would be our contact.	
iv.	Accident in the churchyard – SH was working on a response to this, and a letter was to be sent.	SH
v.	VE Day 80 – Path for Peace – NG and FH had met, and solar lights had been purchased for the pathway from the tower area to the church entrance. The chapel would be open from 9am-12pm for quiet reflection followed by an hour of guided prayer and a school service in the afternoon. The bellringers were due to ring between 8.20pm and 8.40pm when the lights would be lit. a local photographer would be taking photos.	
vi.	APCM Annual Report & Accounts – the draft report had been circulated prior to the meeting, and this was also with the Independent Examiner. DOB ran through the financial statements and thanks were given to her and the finance committee for everything they had done over the year to ensure good stewardship of funds, which had culminated with a much smaller deficit than originally budgeted. With a minor amendment to some wording in notes, TW proposed and JJ seconded that: ‘the PCC accept the financial statements as presented to the Independent Examiner, and subject to there being no material changes to be ready to go APCM.’ FOR: 12 AGAINST: 0 ABSTENTION: 0 Unanimously agreed. NW then took PCC through the rest of the report focusing on the Achievements and Performance section. 60% of objectives had been achieved last year and looking at the proposed plan for 2025 there was a lot on there – was this too much? There was a good, robust discussion involving all PCC members, noting that the plan was only viable if others stepped up to help and not leave the burden to NW who already had an increased workload with JJ’s retirement. It was important to	

	<p>build capacity to keep on top of what is happening, disciple those coming in and growing faith.</p> <p>It was agreed that the order of priorities should change for the 2025 Objectives and measurable time frames be included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Staffing – December 2025 2. Read More, Pray More, Love More – December 2025 3. PRF – April 2026 4. Social Media - April 2027 <p>NW proposed and TW seconded that the PCC agree these amendments and that the Annual Report be submitted to the APCM as is.</p> <p>FOR: 12 AGAINST: 0 ABSTENTION: 0 Unanimously agreed</p> <p>It was further agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that unachieved Tafara targets be included in the Read, Pray, Love More section • Under staffing, to include that there were plans for safer recruitment of sessional youth workers, a full-time Children and Families worker, as well as the recommended positions of an Operations Manager and Fundraiser (taken from the PRF feasibility study). <p>All were in favour.</p> <p>JW agreed to edit, update and format the document that evening to enable the timely printing and publication prior to the APCM.</p>	JW
4.	Safeguarding Dashboard:	
	<p>JP reported that the dashboard had been updated in line with previous PCC recommendations and role descriptions had been drafted for NW to review. There was a list of people whose safer recruitment was complete and required PCC approval: Hiromi Gera (choir); Margaret McNair (chalice); Michael Penney (maintenance team); Paul Jackson (server); and Tracy Walshe (JSH food project).</p> <p>All were approved.</p>	
5.	Church Overview:	
	This had been covered under the Annual Report.	
6.	PRF Update:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DAC meeting had taken place which included representatives with the national church buildings committee. It had been a positive meeting and useful advice received. A written report was awaited. • The feasibility study had been carried out (using funding provided) • The case for support had been completed • The consultation with the church was ongoing, and due to close on 4th May • Kent Messenger had been in touch with NW and would produce a feature article in approx. 2 weeks' time. • Meeting to take place with the RoSS consultant next week • Once the APCM business meeting was complete, Rob & Vicky Schulz and the architect, Martin Steel, would present on PRF. A vote was required to address the church's support of the project in general, so that ideas could continue to be explored and developed. 	
7.	Mission Strategy:	
i.	<p>Review Objective Love More – Stage 3:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Run the Everybody Welcome Course so that the congregation can understand the part they play in welcoming new people 2. Pastoral Group to develop ways of keeping in contact with those who are unwell or going through a major life event 	
ii.	<p>Review Objective 10:30 Service:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthen the Choir both in confidence and numbers 2. Continue to develop the use of modern music within the service 3. Involve more people within services to do readings, lead prayers, and assist at communion 5. Increase the number of people to run the sound and audio-visual system 	

iii.	Review Objective Children, Youth & Families – Stage 3: 1. Develop a strategic document that outlines the current status of children’s, youth and family work, its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats 2. Present the document to PCC, who will consider resourcing the plan	
iv.	Review Objective PRF – Stage 3: 1. Complete funding feasibility study 2. Complete case for support	
	These reviews were all covered within the Annual Report.	
8.	Finance:	
	The monthly report had been circulated prior to the meeting. TW reported that there were still some costs to be identified, but the PRF costs and provision for the gas bill had now been added in. Income was currently down, but this was balanced by expenditure also being down on budget.	
a.	See Confidential Minute	
9.	Health and Safety:	
i.	Action Plan – this had been drafted and was due to come to PCC once Martin Helmore had reviewed it.	Martin
	TW, DOB, NW and JW had recently renewed their First Aid qualification.	
10.	Maintenance:	
i.	Meeting with Gary Williams and Mick Penney – SH was in in the process of organising a meeting.	SH
11.	Correspondence (if any):	
a.	A complaint had been received that the St George’s flag had not been flown on St George’s Day.	
b.	Gary Williams (churchyard team) had written about a new mower being bought – it was agreed that this would be passed to the Finance Committee to deal with.	Finance Cttee
c.	An email had been received today confirming we had been awarded £9k from the Arts Council towards the Piano Festival.	
12.	AOB (to be notified to the Chair prior to the meeting):	
	It was JJ’s last meeting before he retired that weekend. NW thanked JJ for the ministry exercised in Rainham parish and for all his support to NW which started even before NW’s appointment. NW iterated that JJ would always have a place in St Margaret’s, would always be in our prayers and always welcome. JJ advised that St Margaret’s had been both the longest stay out of all his postings and the most fun. He encouraged the PCC that St Margaret’s was a growing place at the centre of a community rediscovering itself. Terms of office had also come to an end for CH, FH, HB and DO who were thanked for journeying with the PCC and it was hoped they would continue those journeys in other ways. The last three years had been hard but had set a path for the next 10 years.	
13.	Dates of Next Meeting:	
	APCM – Tuesday 29 th April, 19:00 in church 19:30 in Church: Thursday 22 nd May, 19:30 in Church Wednesday 25 th June, 19:30 in the Millennium Centre (*Note: change of date and location*) Thursday 24 th July, 19:30 in Church	
13.	Closing Act of Worship:	
	The meeting closed at 21:47 with JJ leading the final part of Evening Prayer.	