

The Parish Church of St Margaret, Rainham
Parochial Church Council

Full meeting of the PCC on Thursday 22nd May 2025
19:30 in Church



Present: Lorna Dyer (LD); Janet Garnons-Williams (JGW); Nick Grief (NG); Simon Hall (SH); Davina O'Brien (DOB) – Treasurer; David Ormiston (DO); Jean Penney (JP); Revd Nathan Ward (NW); Terry Whittaker (TW)

In Attendance: Jo Whittaker (JW) – Secretary

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 Linda Randall (LR); Barbara Strachan (BS); Emi Inetianbor (EI).	
3.	Minutes of the Meeting on 24th April 2025:	
a.	<u>Approval</u> – with an amendment to 3.v to read VE Day – Path for Peace, not Lights of Peace, SH then proposed and JP seconded that the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. All in favour.	
b.	<u>Matters Arising</u> (<i>not included elsewhere</i>):	
i.	Acts Six Lease – JGW had written to the Diocesan Secretary and the new Diocesan property manager with a response being received today suggesting that they were still waiting for a response to a previously sent email about PCC indemnity. This had been agreed by PCC at a prior meeting so JGW would revert asap. Given that this delay was having a material impact on Acts Six and the lease with the PCN, there was a discussion as to whether PCC should consider other options. It was agreed that a letter should go from the PCC to the Diocesan Secretary, with a further copy of the PCC minute, outlining our concern and disappointment and requesting that the Diocese resolve the matter expeditiously or advise how PCC could move the trust elsewhere.	JGW/ NW
ii.	Accident in the churchyard – SH and Gary W had made best efforts to find the pothole and remedy the situation but had been unable to identify the hole. SH had written to the lady concerned asking for her help in identifying the exact location and a response was awaited. No further action to be taken at this stage pending a response.	SH
iii.	APCM Annual Report & Accounts – these had been signed off by the Independent Examiner with a slight change to the credentials of the accountant. The PCC question regarding the valuation of Childscroft Road had been answered. Thanks were given to DOB and the team for their hard work in finalising these.	
iv.	Complaint re. St George's flag – NW to respond.	NW
4.	Appointment of Officers following the APCM, to include signing of declarations	
	PCC Member Trustee Eligibility Declarations and HMRC Fit and Proper Persons Declarations were signed by all members present. Officers were appointed and approved as follows: PCC Chair – NW Vice-Chair – JGW PCC Treasurer – DOB PCC Secretary – JW Electoral Roll Officer – JW Parish Safeguarding Officer – Lianne Falkingham DBS Administrator (Lead Recruiter) – Ray Holton	

	<p>Children and Young Person Advocate – Felicity Holton Adult Advocate – Heather Baker Children’s Officer – Felicity Holton Gift Aid Secretary – DOB GDPR Officer – JP Health & Safety Officer - to be confirmed at next meeting Sidespeople – all PCC members Sub-Committees: Standing Committee – NW (chair), LR, SH, NG, JGW Finance Committee – TW (chair), DOB, DO Maintenance Committee – SH (chair), Mick Penney, Gary Williams Safeguarding Committee – JP (chair), Lianne Falkingham, Ray Holton, Felicity Holton, Heather Baker, JW PRF – Rob & Vicky Schulz (chair), LD, Lance Hanning, DOB, LR, Kayleigh Ward, NW, TW Eco Church – Felicity Holton (chair), BS, JGW, DOB, Kayleigh Ward</p> <p>It was noted that Standing Committee was appointed at a short meeting immediately after the APCM.</p> <p>There was some discussion about Tafara and whether this should be considered as a sub-committee of the PCC. Thought would be given to this but in the interim it was formally noted that NG, JGW and DOB were our lead people for Tafara and attended the Harare Companionship Group meetings (led by the Diocese) on behalf of the PCC, with the expectation that they would feed back any necessary information.</p>	
5.	Safeguarding Dashboard:	
	<p>JP reported that the dashboard had not changed from last month. Some role profiles were still to be agreed and these would be brought to the next meeting. The PCC agreed unanimously to adopt the Diocesan ‘Promoting a safer church’ policy. Unanimously agreed.</p>	
6.	Church Overview:	
a.	Attendance (services & groups) - NW reported that we were in a good position, church was growing, new people were coming to faith and over half of the deanery confirmation candidates were from St Margaret’s. There were also lots of baptisms and weddings going on.	
i.	In the light of the increased workload within the Parish and potentially within the Deanery due to the reduced number of clergy, PCC expressed concern for NW’s wellbeing and how best to support him, as well as the need for more intentional, corporate, and organised prayer time both for the church and the diocese. NG and TW volunteered to look into putting something together before the end of the month.	NG/TW
7.	PRF Update:	
	<p>Following the meeting with Heritage Lottery, it was confirmed that we would need to phase the project. Four phases were proposed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Roof and rainwater systems (including the wood rot) – this would make the building stable, provide insulation to reduce heat loss, with possible solar panels on the south facing roof. 2. Inside area from chancel steps backwards 3. Chancel and chapel 4. Outside <p>There had been conflicting reports and concerns since 2020 by different architects, structural engineers, and the Quinquennial architect, particularly regarding the roof, wood infestation and the walls. Heritage Lottery would require proof that roof work was needed and as there was no question of pulling the 2026 Quinquennial inspection forward, it was Martin Steel’s (the PRF architect),</p>	

	NW proposed and DO seconded the proposal that Mick Penney be asked to replace the flagpole on a like for like basis and seek quotes for a new door up to £2.5k. FOR: 9 AGAINST: 0 ABSTENTION:0 Unanimously agreed	Mick P
12.	Correspondence:	
	None received.	
13.	AOB:	
i.	It was noted that DOB and JGW were visiting Harare next month. NW proposed and TW seconded the proposal that the parish bless DOB and JGW on their visit to Harare; they were going with our love, and it was asked that they pass on our blessings to those that they meet. PCC noted that this was not an activity of the parish.	
ii.	NW advised that he needed a new cassock. A donor had offered to gift £1.2k to church for this; it was unanimously agreed that this then be donated to NW for his cassock.	
14.	Dates of Next Meeting:	
	Wednesday 25 th June, 19.30 in the Millennium Centre All other meetings at 19:30 in Church: Thursday 24 th July Thursday 25 th September Thursday 23 rd October Thursday 27 th November	
13.	Closing Act of Worship:	
	The meeting closed at 22:19 with NW leading the final part of Evening Prayer.	