

St. Michael & All Angels Church Sandhurst PCC

Minutes

11th February 2026

8.00 pm in person

Upper room -Pastoral Centre

1. Opening Prayer:

Rev John Castle led a session of dwelling in the word and prayers. The text used was Matthew 17:1-9.

2. Apologies: Brendan Watson, s, Di Taylor, Denise Yeomans, Alun Grafton & Karen Allen

Present: James Mason, Rev. John Castle (The Rector), Abby Coleman, Jeanette Ash (Co-opted Member), Clare Hardy, Catherine Wilkins, Steph Martin, John Martin Jon Toohey, Sue Campbell and Rupert Cremer-Evans

3. Minutes & Matters Arising

- a. Conflict of Interests
- b. Minutes of the Rector's Council 3rd December inc. part 2 were received
- c. Minutes of the PCC 14th January 2025 were Accepted
- d. **Matters Arising** -covered in the agenda

4. CCLA investments -Review

Jon reported that there had been a disappointing loss this year of £6,000 over the year. He has asked our financial advisor, Willie Hartley (CCLA Investments to attend a forthcoming meeting to explain what has happened when generally the markets have been reasonably buoyant. It was felt that the written explanation we had received was not particularly clear. In previous years, we have done very well from our investments, paying for several major expenditure from the mission fund, including our donation to Reaching Rwanda, with the St Mary's fund only have been reduced by £5,000 overall.

Action: Sue to invite PCC to the Rector's Council Zoom meeting of the 25th Match which willie will attend.

5. Update on Spire, Bells & Clock Repair progress

a. Update

Miranda held a site meeting with the Spire and clock contractors on Tuesday 3rd February. The spire work is underway, but Hughes have struggled because of the extremely wet weather. However, they are hoping to have the work complete by May. At the meeting, Smiths of Derby agreed that Hughes will remove the clock face and hands once the scaffolding has moved up to do the next stage. They also promised that they will provide the necessary scaffolding to put the clock back, which is very helpful.

The bells are due to be returned by the 20th March. The new bell floor has been put in place by Nicholsons, with the help of Martin Johnson and Mike Sherren from the bell team, which has meant a saving in our costs. Miranda, as project manager, would sign off the work with advice and support from the Bell Captain and our architect.

b. Fundraising/ Grant progress

Sue has been in contact with the National Churches Trust wanted more information about our request for VAT repayment from the listed places of Worship Scheme. She has also sent them some photographs of the work. The meet in March to decide our request for grant funding. Sue has heard nothing from the Church Buildings Council for a grant towards the clock repair. Martin Thomas has grants waiting photographic evidence of completion. Both Sue and Martin will keep an eye on the grants that they have won.

The Rector told the PCC that there are events organised for the coming year, including the Valentine's concert featuring Sandhurst Community Band. There is also a generous offer to double donations up to a value of £10,000, which it was felt needed more publicity.

Action: Catherine to publish on the public Facebook Page.

6. Finance

a. 2025 accounts for approval (Attached)

Jon had circulated the accounts in advance and felt that they were, on the whole, good number, although we still cannot afford all our activities with withdrawing from the mission fund on occasion. It was pleasing to see that there was a saving of approximately £200 on our heating bills for the Pastoral centre this year as result of the double glazing installed last February. Rupert noted that there were a few place where dates needed to be adjusted. Jon also explained that we are now a third of the way into the spire project, but the cost of it is not fully through the accounts yet. He explained that we are a going concern, but we must not be complaisant. We need to generate income and put money into the repairs fund.

Resolution: That the PCC of St Michael's Church Accept the Accounts for 2025.

Proposer: Jon Toohey

Seconded: John Castle

Passed: unanimously

b. Stewardship Review

Catherine gave an overview in terms of our current position. At present there are 62 people on the Parish Giving Scheme. Two new people joined in January, but others have left. The numbers have remained steady. Catherine hoped that more people could be encouraged to sign up for the automatic rate of inflation increase. At present only 16 people are registered for this. Our major risk is that of the 62 people who regularly give, nine givers give half the total amount.

Stewardship Sunday was held in June last year and all regular givers received a thankyou letter. It is the intention that another will be held in June this year. It is difficult to see who taps out on the Give a Little machine at the church on a regular basis, but moving those people to the Parish Giving Machine should be a priority. Catherine originally agreed to serve as Stewardship Officer for two years, but she is happy to remain for another year. The PCC thanked Catherine for all her work.

Actions to Catherine:

- **To register for the new two step process on the Parish Giving Scheme.**
- **To explore the possibility of automatic, thank-you letters from the Parish Giving Scheme.**

c. Giving and Fundraising policy (Policy Attached)

Proposal That the PCC accepts the updated Parish Giving Policy

Proposed: Catherine Wilkins

Seconded Sue Campbell

Passed Unanimously.

7. Estates:

a. Refurbishment of the Pastoral Centre

i) Toilets: A rethink

Sue has been unable to find a builder willing to provide plans for the redevelopment of the toilet area. It is not a straightforward job, and they are not willing to commit to drawing plans, if they do not know, if they will do the work. James has a CAD 3D model of the Pastoral Centre and will help Sue investigate the issue.

ii) Pressure relief valve for the PC

There have been issues caused to the Pastoral centre water system caused by extremely high, water pressure. John Campbell has asked the PCC for permission to install a pressure relief valve at a cost of £220 including VAT to relieve the problem.

Resolution: That the PCC approves the spending of £220 on fitting a pressure relief valve in the Pastoral Centre.

Proposed: Clare Hardy

Seconded: James Mason

Passed unanimously

b. Church and churchyard

i) Preparing for the quinquennial inspection

James has been in contact with Nye Saunders for a quotation on the cost of the next Quinquennial Inspection, which is due in October this year. At Present, Nye Saunders do not have a heritage credited architect but are in the process of getting one of their staff suitably qualified.

We have managed to cover nearly all the points on the current Quinquennial Report. James has organised that the down pipes and external metal work will be re-painted by prison service probationers in early summer. James and John Campbell have fixed a leak from the small Rose Window by the organ. He has also inspected the area behind the organ and found it to be dry and free from leaks.

ii) Projector Service

Rupert asked for a budget of £300 to cover the yearly service of the projector. Rupert noted that the current main projector is showing signs of wear and there is a deterioration in the quality of the image. It may last another year. Replacement will cost approximately £5,000.

Resolution: That the PCC approves a budget of £300 for the annual projector service.

Proposed: Rupert Cremer-Evans

Seconded: Steph Martin

Passed: unanimously

8. The Way Forward – Vacancy and Recruitment of a new Rector

The steering group, consisting of James Mason, John Martin, Emma Hodge, Brendan Watson Nick Allen & Sue Campbell met for the first time and has produced a list of areas which will need managing. There will then be appeals to the congregation for support in some areas. There will be another meeting on 26th February at 5.30 at the Pastoral Centre.

Sue has arranged for The Archdeacon and the Diocesan Development Officer to meet with the Rector's Council and PCC in March to Explain the process of vacancy. This will be on Thursday 26th March at 7.00pm in the upper room

9. Preparing for the APCM

i) Vacancies for next year

Nick Allen will be elected as our second Churchwarden at an extraordinary Parish Meeting on Sunday, which will mean that we will start the Vacancy with two Churchwardens in Place. We are likely to have a full PCC.

ii) PCC meeting dates (Paper attached)

Sue circulated next year's PCC dates. There will be a meeting in April this year as the APCM is not until May. It was agreed to move the April PCC meeting to the 15th of April to avoid Spring Harvest and the school holidays.

10. Regulatory Requirement

a. Safeguarding- No Issues

b. Health and Safety

There is currently Fire Officer training available through a local charity, but we have yet to recruit a new fire officer. James ask for volunteers amongst the family service.

c. GDPR

11. Date of next meeting: 11th March 2025

2 minutes

12. AOB:

5 minutes

• TPO for veteran Yew

Asked for support in getting a Tree Preservation Order on one of the yews in the churchyard, which is classed as a veteran, that is at least 500 years old.

Resolution: That the PCC supports the request for a TPO on the churchyard's veteran Yew.

Proposed: Catherine Wilkins

Seconded: Sue Campbell

Passed: Unanimously

• Request for new Chasuble covers

PCC are happy for Emma to go ahead and order these as they are under the financial limit.

• E-Mail to the PCC from Dave Percival, Chair of Sandhurst Youth

The PCC noted that they received and read Dave's e-mail and thanked him for it.

• House to House Collection

The Rector asked the PCC to approve the signing off of the house-to-house collection for the Children's Society which took place in December and for which we were licensed by Bracknell Forest Council.

Resolution: That the PCC approves the signing off of the House-to-House Collection for the Children's society.

Proposed: John Castle

Seconded: Sue Campbell
Passed Unanimously

13. Closing Prayer

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer at 9.50pm