



Minutes of Parochial Church Council Meeting
Monday May 12th 2025 – 7.15 pm at Rothley Primary School

Present:

Rob Gladstone (chair), Fred Sleath, Margaret Rouse, David Wilson, Sue Wilson, Ray Prince, Nigel Willey, Lisa Cook, Liz Barker, Alison Parkinson, Susie Clark, Linda Poole, Helen Jones, Richard Croker, Chris Garnett, Susan Pinkus (secretary)

1. Opening Prayers/Reading

Rob read from Psalm 112: 'Blessed are those who fear the Lord and who find delight in his commands'.

2. Declarations of Interest

Lisa Cook re an item in Send pertaining to her daughter.

Welcome to new members: Lisa Cook, Richard Croker, Helen Jones

Apologies: Margaret Leverment

Accuracy and approval of minutes from PCC January 10th, 2025 - Agreed as an accurate record.

No minutes taken at Informal PCC on April 10th, but new appointments agreed (Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Wardens and Safeguarding Co-ordinators).

Matters Arising:

Sneha finishes her ordination training with us on May 25th and will then complete college assignments and attend a pre-ordination retreat. Her ordination takes place on 29th June at 10:30 am at the Cathedral. There will be a 10:00am service at Rothley Church that day. The following Sunday, July 6th, there will be a welcome barbecue at the vicarage.

Plans for workspace for Sneha: Margaret Rouse has kindly offered a room in her house. Rob reported that the Diocese will cover Sneha's travel and other expenses as curate.

3. Send

A report was circulated prior to the meeting and Sue Wilson flagged up that there will be a Tearfund speaker in church on 21st September and a representative from Triangle homeless project in the autumn.

Lisa Cook left the room for the following item.

From August Serena Cook will be employed as a full-time UCCF staff worker assigned to Aberystwyth and Bangor universities. This role will last for between three and five years. Rob has received a letter informing us of this and asking us to consider supporting UCCF financially. Serena's church in Aberystwyth is her primary support, and she is on the PCC there.

The PCC agreed, in principle, to make a donation to UCCF from the 2025 Discretionary Tithe when this is apportioned in January 2026 and also to give members of the congregation the opportunity to support as individuals. The matter was referred to Send for detailed discussion at their next meeting.

Action: Rob to reply to Serena to inform her of our decision. Send to bring a proposal to the PCC in due course.

4. Evangelism group

A report was circulated prior to the meeting. This is a relatively new group, and they are still anxious to recruit people, although it was emphasised that evangelism is the responsibility of everyone. Developments are encouraging, with contacts at Little Fishes and Rothley School. Contact with Broadnook is also ongoing. Susie Clark asked for support helping at the forthcoming summer picnic. Broadnook Community Trust is organising a picnic for new residents this summer and is appreciative of the support of RPC. All ideas are welcome. Other community contacts include Freedom Active, who now use the OSR for their dance sessions.

5. Discipleship Group

Meeting May 19th - report to follow at next PCC.

6. Safeguarding

Helen Jones does not yet have access to the safeguarding dashboard. New members of the PCC need to make sure that they have done their safeguarding training. There is now a dedicated telephone number for our safeguarding issues: **07858 034705**

SAFEGUARDING WORKSHEET A

PROMOTING A HEALTHY AND SAFE CULTURE

This worksheet was distributed prior to the meeting. At the meeting, members were asked to respond on post-it notes to the questions 'What are some of the strengths of our church culture? What are the main weaknesses of our church culture?' using the characteristics of healthy and safe church culture detailed on the worksheet. The responses will be discussed at the next PCC meeting.

7. Finance

Accounts documents

For the benefit of new PCC members, Sue briefly explained the three finance documents which are issued for each meeting:

- **General Fund Income & Expenditure compared to budget**, which includes values for tax which **will be** recovered via Gift Aid on existing donations and gifts which **will be** given to mission organisations via our tithing of donations income. So, the document indicates whether we are under- or overspent. There is considerable work involved in producing this set of figures, hence only the latest figures available are issued each time.
- **Statement of Financial Activities**, which shows only actual income and expenditure at a given date but does include all the pots of money that the church holds.
- **Finance Group Report**, which is an explanation of the figures and information about any broader finance issues.

Finance reporting to congregation

Because we recorded a deficit of £10,700 at the end of 2024, Sue had promised at the APCM that she would update the congregation on the current year's situation as we progress through 2025. This could be done verbally, or it could be done via the Fellowship Post. The PCC were asked which they would prefer. It was agreed that Sue would do both.

Action: Rob G and Sue W to arrange a verbal update in church and agree a date for an article in the Fellowship Post.

8. Operations

The annual spring clean is still outstanding. 31 people have now completed fire warden training. This must be done every three years. 10 people have completed First Aid training, which also lasts for three years, and we now have 21 First Aiders available. Ray will finish his role as Church Building Manager on 31st May. Nigel Willey and Lisa Cook are going to take over most of Ray's duties and share the load. The handover will take place in the first week of June. An overseer for the audio-visual system is still required.

The PCC thanked Ray for the enormous contribution he has made to the church over his time as Church Building Manager.

9. CBI Update

Charnwood Borough Council Planning Department has now decided that we need planning permission for alterations to the tarmac level outside the church door. Fred Sleath is hopeful that the faculty will be granted to enable us to proceed with the rest of the work.

10. Vicar's Report

A report was circulated prior to the meeting. Lynne Bragg will be running a prayer spaces session at Rothley School during the year 6 transition day. The minister at Ratcliffe, Rearsby and Thruslington will be retiring soon and this will even further increase Rob's responsibilities. Our reduced summer service pattern will initially ease the situation.

Minster Community Update

The first draft outline document had been circulated to the PCC for information and submitted to the Diocesan Joint Archdeaconry Mission Committee (JAMC). Further work is to be done before a final draft is submitted for consideration by all PCCs in the group and by the JAMC.

Meeting closed with prayer at 21.10.

NEXT MEETINGS:

Business Committee: Wednesday June 18th 2025, 56 Grangefields Drive, Rothley

PCC: Monday June 30th 7.15pm, Rothley Primary School Academy

Papers and requests for agenda items/time for the June 30th meeting to Susan Pinkus by Sunday June 15th please