



Minutes of Parochial Church Council Meeting
Monday 30th June 2025 – 7.15 pm at Rothley Primary School

Present:

Rob Gladstone (chair), Liz Barker, Lisa Cook, Richard Croker, Chris Garnett, Helen Jones, Alison Parkinson, Linda Poole, Ray Prince, Margaret Rouse, Nigel Willey, David Wilson, Sue Wilson (minutes)

1. Opening Prayers/Reading

Rob read 1 Timothy 3:8, a verse which is found in the Book of Common Prayer service for The Ordering of Deacons. He then prayed for our newly-ordained Curate, Sneha, and for the PCC meeting.

2.

Declarations of Interest: none

Apologies: Susie Clark, Margaret Leverment, Sneha Ninan, Susan Pinkus

Accuracy/approval of minutes of meeting 12th May: agreed as an accurate record

Matters arising: none

3. Finance

A report and the latest accounts had been circulated prior to the meeting.

A verbal finance report is planned at all three church services on 13th July; Rob and Sue Wilson will present. A written report will appear in the Fellowship Post on 11th July.

Paperwork from the Diocese regarding Parish Contributions for 2026 had been circulated to PCC members for information. This is background reading for the discussion of our Contribution at the September PCC meeting.

4. Evangelism group

A report was circulated prior to the meeting.

A second coffee morning to support Macmillan Cancer Support charity is planned in church on 20th September.

Saltmine Theatre Company has been booked to present the Christmas pantomime Red Riding Hood in church on Saturday 20th December. The timing close to Christmas will present some logistical challenges, but it was the only option available at the time of booking.

The Evangelism group still needs to recruit more members.

5. Discipleship Group

The group's report had not been sent out to members, but Liz Barker gave an update of the most pertinent points. The report was sent out with these minutes, but it was pointed out that the date on the report was incorrectly shown as 21st October 2024 when, in fact, it should have been 19th May 2025.

6. Operations

Reports had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Linda Poole reported that a simple repair had been made to the hole in the OSR passageway floor near the toilets and she hoped that this would solve the problem.

Ray Prince reported that the Quinquennial Inspection is now planned for September/October 2025 and Nigel Willey would arrange for it to take place.

Ray was still waiting for the revised Fire Warden instructions to be completed.

The work in the bell chamber would take place in July 2025.

The application for permission to treat beetle in the rood screen would be presented at the Diocesan Advisory Committee's meeting on 31st July.

The following proposal, circulated to the PCC on 23rd May and agreed unanimously by email, was ratified:

"The PCC of Rothley Parish Church has agreed to accept the Quotation from PCS for £720.00 to carry out Woodworm Treatment to the Rood Screen. The work is to be authorised when we receive the "List B" permission from the DAC and Archdeacon."

7. Safeguarding

Helen Jones reported that she still does not yet have access to the church email address set up for Safeguarding. This means that she is unable to access the diocesan dashboard for Safeguarding and training is, therefore, delayed.

ACTION: Rob to follow this up.

Nigel Willey organised members into groups of two or three to continue the work on Safeguarding Worksheet 1A by identifying some specific actions that will better promote a safe, compassionate and healthy culture within the church by considering the weaknesses recorded at the last PCC meeting. The following ideas were recorded:

Is the Contact List safe?

Yes, this is maintained for legitimate interest. Members opt in. Named printed copies are given only to members.

Age demographic has an increasing number of older and vulnerable people.

Car insurance and DBS should be required for those transporting vulnerable people - Helen Jones is dealing with this and is awaiting a reply from Peter Holloway, Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser.

Housegroups could be asked to pray and consider if they can offer practical support - Housegroup leaders to take the initiative in a way that suits the group. This could be done in September following the Housegroup Leaders' meeting.

Safeguarding training has had to be chased, and we should encourage people to report incidents more freely.

The church Safeguarding email needs to be working because this is delaying training – this must be sorted as soon as possible.

If training is not completed by someone within a required timescale, that person should be removed from their role - Do Helen and Ruth need to escalate this?

Face-to-face Safeguarding training should be considered – it is available now through the diocese.

Safeguarding information could be put on the Fellowship Post. (It is already on the church website.) Explanation of what is covered by Safeguarding could help – all of us need to be involved in this, including Safeguarding leads and ministry team; could be discussed in housegroups. This is urgent and important - autumn 2025?

Greater prominence should be given to the Safeguarding team – Safeguarding could be included in the Discipleship prayer pointers and this could start within the next six months.

More communication to the congregation explaining what is happening needs to take place to avoid conspiracy theories.

Use the Fellowship Post, occasional presentation in church; discussion sessions on specific pressing issues – PCC could initiate this, drawing others in where appropriate, as and when required.

Sometimes less confident individuals might feel intimidated by the more confident.

We need to encourage people to speak up and not worry about bothering the Vicar or the leadership team.

Not everyone is listened to

We need to encourage church members to share positive, practical and helpful suggestions and to ask questions of any PCC member so that these can be taken forward as appropriate.

8. CBI Update

Ray circulated notes from a meeting of the group on 24th June.

The Faculty has now been granted, subject to certain conditions, including a timescale of 36 months to complete the work and local authority permission being obtained for the external resurfacing outside the North porch. The work may be done in stages. The architect will commence the tender process in August, to be completed by the end of September, with the hope that initial work can begin before the end of the year.

9. Vicar's Report

Rob had issued his report in advance of the meeting. There was an opportunity to ask questions. Rob recommended the Church of England Evangelical Council website for further updates on national issues: <https://ceec.info>.

10. Feedback on meeting

Comments included: efficient; stuck to time; positive; received a lot of information; discussion session good instead of just listening for two hours; well-balanced.

It was announced that the next PCC meeting would take place on Monday 22nd September, instead of 15th September, when Rob will be on holiday.

Rob then closed the meeting with prayer.

NEXT MEETINGS:

Business Committee: Wednesday 3rd September 2025, 7pm, 56 Grangefields Drive, Rothley

PCC: Monday 22nd September, 7.15pm, Rothley Primary School Academy. PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE.

Papers and requests for agenda items/time for the 22nd September meeting to Susan Pinkus by Sunday 31st August please.