



Minutes of Parochial Church Council Meeting
Monday September 22nd 2025 – 7.15 pm at Rothley Primary School

Present:

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

1. Opening Prayers/Reading

Rob read from Matthew 4 from v 12, reminding us that it is through spreading the good news of Jesus Christ that we 'punch holes in the darkness', as we heard in church on Sunday.

2. Declarations of Interest: none

Apologies: Susie Clark

Accuracy and approval of minutes from PCC June 30th, 2025 - Agreed as an accurate record.

Matters Arising:

We still have no response from the Diocese regarding a contribution/financial support towards office accommodation for our new Curate, Sneha.

3. Finance

Sue Wilson said that there were two decisions that needed to be made this evening.

Little Fishes bank account

In order to avoid bank charges, Sue proposed that Little Fishes' funds are absorbed into the church accounts, and all their future income and expenditure is handled through the Children & Families Fund.

Following discussion, this was formally proposed by Chris Garnett, seconded by Helen Jones, and agreed by the PCC.

Parish Contribution offer for 2026

Sue had provided details of our current financial position, which showed that, since last year, we have been spending far more than our income. We committed to pay £96,430 in Parish Contribution this year, and we will honour that pledge. However, we cannot commit to the same sum for 2026. Sue, therefore, proposed that we offer £85,755 as a minimum, with the proviso that, if the outcome of the General Fund allows at the end of 2026, we will give more, up to a maximum of £100,000. Any payment above the £66,000 required by the Diocese to cover the shared costs of having one full-time ordained minister is to be allocated to our proposed Minster Community to those least able to afford their full share of costs.

Nigel Willey had suggested a second option, where we continue to pay £96,430 by using some of the money we have put aside in designated funds for other purposes to provide the £10,675 shortfall.

Sue pointed out that the Parish Contribution is part of our regular general expenditure, so it needs to be sustainable year on year. Sue, in her role as Treasurer, considered the second option, therefore, a potentially slippery slope, which is why Nigel had stressed that his proposal was a one-off suggestion for 2026 only.

Following questions and discussion it was put to the vote and Sue's suggestion was adopted by a vote of 9 to 5 with 2 abstentions.

Our Parish Contribution for 2026 will, therefore, be a minimum of £85,755 with the proviso that, if the outcome of the General Fund allows at the end of 2026, we will give more, up to a maximum of £100,000. Any payment

above the £66,000 required by the Diocese to cover the shared costs of having one full-time ordained minister is to be allocated to our proposed Minster Community to those least able to afford their full share of costs.

4. Evangelism Group

Two reports were circulated prior to the meeting from the group's meetings in July and September.

It was confirmed that the Saltmine pantomime this year will be held in church.

The Broadnook welcome leaflet is not suitable to be adapted for Rothley church use.

The PCC agreed that a Women Alive activity in 2026 could be financed from the Parish Evangelism Fund.

A Hope Explored course is planned for 2026.

It was suggested that the CPAS Leading Evangelism Learning Hub course requires attendees to commit to fixed dates, which may prove difficult for some. CPAS has also produced a version for churches to run themselves, which might be easier to arrange. This could also be used as targeted preparation for particular events.

5. Discipleship Group

The Group has not met since last PCC and there were no further questions.

6. Send

A report was circulated prior to the meeting. Margaret Leverment drew attention to the request to support Serena Cook in her new role with UCCF.

7. Operations

Three reports were circulated prior to the meeting, one each from Ray Prince, Linda Poole and Nigel Willey.

- In addition to his report Ray confirmed that the recommended three new emergency lights would be installed after the Church building improvements are completed. The PCC agreed to finance this.

As requested by the DAC, a conservator accredited by the Institute of Conservation is coming to inspect the rood screen.

Ray had also prepared a document outlining when policies needed PCC approval throughout the year. This was circulated prior to the meeting. Ray stressed that is the responsibility of the named officers to ensure everything is in place for the deadlines.

- Linda Poole added that the dishwasher in the Old School Rooms is now 10 years old and needs attention.

The OSR is being used a lot now and we have picked up more bookings since the closure of the Rothley Centre.

- Nigel Willey added to his report:

Quinquennial Inspection taking place on Wednesday 8th October.

Church Clock is still not working, and Charles Poole has produced a detailed report for Churchwardens to consider.

Church Bells Due to the age of the bells, work needs to be carried out on their bearings.

The estimate for the work on the bells is £10,000 and on the clock is £17,000

The PCC agreed to proceed in principle and commissioned Charles Poole to apply for appropriate grant funding.

8. Safeguarding Update

Helen has been in post as Safeguarding Coordinator now for six months, along with Ruth Whalen.

Helen reported that they are aware that there are still some areas where Safeguarding processes need to be clarified. Lisa Cook has met with Helen and assured her that all the DBS documentation she has is up to date and she will pass the list to Helen imminently.

Helen is also looking at roles which may potentially require DBS checks, but she is waiting to hear back from Peter Holloway at Leicester Diocese for an updated list. Helen still cannot access the Safeguarding dashboard and is meeting a brick wall at the Diocese to be able to do so.

At the current time we still do not have an e-mail address for safeguarding, but Helen has been assured by Liz Sleath that hopefully it will be up and running this week.

Helen has had to get a new Safeguarding phone number because the WhatsApp account was hacked.

The new mobile number for safeguarding is 07598 989053.

Helen is hoping to organise a Saturday drop-in session to provide technical help with Safeguarding training for people who need this support. She also requested that Ruth attends the next PCC meeting when a plan for training will be presented. The PCC agreed to this.

9. CBI Update

At the present time it is estimated that the cost of the new church build could amount to £450,000. Fred Sleath, Ray Prince, Linda Poole and Ken Arkley are taking this forward.

10. Minster Community Update

Rob brought us up to date on developments. The desire is that ministers should be embedded locally rather than being peripatetic.

David Wilson reported back on the recent meeting of the Joint Archdeaconry Mission Committee (JAMC) he had attended. The JAMC requested clarification on some points from our Minster Community Writing Group. The aim is for the final draft proposal to be circulated for consideration by the PCC in November.

11. Vicar's Report

A report was circulated before the meeting. The main discussion concerned the use of the chalice instead of small cups in the Holy Communion service. The PCC wanted to make sure that the congregation's individual needs are catered for.

The meeting closed with review and comments followed by prayers and The Grace at 21.15.

(It was felt that the meeting was very constructive with good discussions in a non-threatening environment. I was also asked to record that several people found the room too cold.)

NEXT MEETINGS:

Business Committee: Monday OCTOBER 27th 2025, 5pm, 56 Grangefields Drive, Rothley
PCC: Monday November 10th 7.15pm, Rothley Primary School Academy

Papers and requests for agenda items/time for the 10th November meeting to Susan Pinkus by Thursday October 23rd please

SusanPinkus September 30th 2025