



Minutes of Parochial Church Council Meeting

Monday May 18th 2026 – 7.15 pm at Rothley Primary School

Present:

Rob Gladstone (chair), David Wilson, Sue Wilson, Ray Prince, Nigel Willey, Lisa Cook, Linda Poole, Richard Croker, Helen Jones, James Kendrick, Andy Willetts, Liz Sleath, Margaret Leverment, Susan Pinkus (secretary)

1. Opening Prayers/Reading

Rob welcomed our new PCC members James Kendrick, Liz Sleath and Andy Willetts.

Rob read 1 Peter Chapter 1 from v 13 followed by a prayer.

2. Declarations of Interest: None

Apologies: Margaret Rouse, Chris Garnett, Sneha Ninan. Susan Pinkus had to leave at 8.30pm so Sue Wilson acted as minutes secretary for the later agenda items.

Accuracy and approval of minutes from PCC meeting March 9th, 2026: Agreed as an accurate record.

Accuracy and approval of minutes from Informal PCC meeting May 7th, 2026: Agreed as an accurate record.

Matters Arising:

Minster Community: Rob gave an update, including the date of the inauguration of our Minster Community, **Tuesday August 11th**. Ray Prince asked if we could have a map of the parishes in our Minster Community to display in church. David and Sue Wilson undertook to provide this.

Matters arising from the APCM

A request was made to consider spending more of the Children & Families Restricted Fund, possibly by employing a children's worker. This was discussed by the Business Committee, but the feeling was that now was not the right time, given Rob's retirement in October.

3. Finance

For the benefit of new PCC members, Sue Wilson explained the finance documents that are provided at each PCC meeting. In response to a question about financial commitments to the Diocese in 2027, Sue said that she expected to receive the relevant paperwork soon.

4. Working Groups

Send: Margaret Leverment informed the meeting that we hope Sneha would talk in church about her visit to Tanzania. Rob Miles from CPAS is booked to speak on 20th September. The tithe was explained for the benefit of our new members.

Discipleship: Not met since last PCC.

Evangelism: Not met since last PCC.

5. Operations and Health and Safety

Ray Prince reported on repairs to the church clock and the upkeep of the Garden of Remembrance. We are grateful for the anonymous donor paying for a gardener to keep this tidy in future. Ray also explained Facilities for the benefit of our new members. Ray had sent photographs of three unwanted furniture items. **The PCC unanimously agreed to their removal.** Ray will advertise these items to raise funds for the Church Building Improvements.

Nigel had circulated a report prior to the meeting. **The PCC agreed unanimously not to replace the infra-red heater in the tower room, since the creche will no longer use this area when the current building work is finished.** There is a fan heater in the tower room which should be adequate for any other use.

For our new members, Nigel explained the Quinquennial Inspection and reported that the 2025 report stated that the church is in good order, with just a small amount of work required during the next five years. This work would commence once the current building work is completed.

6. Safeguarding

Helen reported that most things are right up to date in terms of safeguarding at the church.

Rob raised awareness of a Church of England safeguarding audit that is taking place in the Diocese somewhere between June and the Autumn.

Questions were raised about domestic abuse training, and these were answered and clarified.

7. Church Building Improvements Update

Ray gave a full recap of the project and the progress to date.

Sue Wilson, referring to the figures already circulated, said that, following a good response to our second appeal, we now have enough money available to proceed to Phase 2 of the project. **The PCC voted unanimously to instruct the architect to proceed with Phase 2.** A new contract will not be required; the architect is able to amend the existing contract.

The Finance and CBI groups agree that now is the right time to take up the interest-free loans, which some members of the congregation have generously offered, in order to ensure that the project can proceed without further costly delay. A report from Charles Poole had already been circulated. **The PCC voted unanimously to approve the borrowing of monies by interest-free loans.** The Treasurer and the Churchwardens would sign the loan agreements on behalf of the PCC, as explained in Charles' paper.

Susan Pinkus left the meeting at 20.35pm and Sue Wilson took over minute-taking for the remainder of the meeting.

8. Vicar's Report

Rob gave a verbal report.

He thought the Easter activities went well, particularly the Holiday Club and Jerusalem Journey.

Rob emphasised the importance of the church's ministry through its link with the village school – assemblies, church governors (where we currently have two vacancies), lunchtime club, support for staff. He urged us to continue to take any opportunities to further this link.

With Rob's retirement approaching, he has set up a group to oversee all areas of church life during the interregnum. The members of the group have been selected in order to cover the widest range of areas of church life: Jean Arkley, Lisa Cook, Nigel Elliott, Liz Sleath, Nigel Willey, David Wilson.

The PCC's role remains the same.

The church's patron, CPAS, will run the appointment process for a new incumbent, working with the Diocese and the church. The PCC will need to write a parish profile, including our theological position. There is a template to help produce this. The PCC will need to appoint two representatives to sit on the interview panel alongside the patron and diocesan representatives. The panel recommends its decision to the Bishop, who appoints to the post. Certain formal meetings concerning the vacancy will need to be held after 31st October.

9. Closing prayer

Rob closed the meeting with prayer at 9.20pm.

NEXT MEETINGS:

Business Committee: Wednesday, June 17th, 2026, 3pm, 56 Grangefields Drive, Rothley

PCC: Monday June 29th, 7.15pm, Rothley Primary School Academy

Papers and requests for agenda items/time for June 29th meeting to Susan Pinkus by Sunday June 14th please, ahead of Business Committee meeting on 17th.