

TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL



"where the river flows everything will live"

Minutes of Tidenham PCC Meeting held in St Luke's church at 19:30 on Tuesday 10th February 2026

ITEM		ACTION
1.	<p>Attendance: Chair: Brian Duerden (BD); Robin Riordan (RR), Revd Nicki Bullivant (NB), Paul Coombs (PC), Angela Fryer (AF), Iain Gardiner (IG), Molly Mayo (MM), James Parsons (JP), Emma Phillips (EP), Susan Riordan (SR), Marilyn Turner (MT) and Tanya White (TW) and our Pastoral Visit Co-ordinator, Julia Parsons for item 4.</p>	
2.	<p>Welcome. BD welcomed Julia Parsons to the meeting. NB read Matt 18:20 "Where 2 or 3 are gathered together...." Christ is here with us this evening. NB opened in prayer.</p>	
	<p>Apologies for absence: Nicholette Flatman (NF), and Andy Palmer (AP).</p>	
3.	<p>Declarations of Interest: NB and JP: item 5.3</p>	
4.	<p>PRESENTATION ON PASTORAL VISITING in Tidenham Parish (see Appendix 1 Report) Julia's wide ranging report on the current situation and how things could be taken forward was much appreciated. All volunteers have received necessary training and keep personal records of all visits undertaken in the event of subsequent queries. The oversight team meets every 6 months. As this is a parish activity pastoral visiting is covered by our Church insurance policy. Julia agreed to advise the wardens how many people were visited each month. ACTION Julia. Post Meeting Note: Julia provided summary data for 2025, which IG has included in the revised Draft Trustees' report for 2025. Additional visitors are needed to meet the parish needs. Members were requested to consider who could be approached. ACTION PCC Pastoral visiting is separate from Home communions, which NB co-ordinates for 3 people and residents of Castleford Care Home. Holy Communion services are held each month in Sedbury Space authorised by Bishop Rachel. NB will keep numbers of people attending. RR thanked Julia for leading the team and asked that she pass on the PCC's thanks for all they do. Julia asked PCC to remember the volunteers in their prayers as visiting can be draining. TW prayed for Julia and the Pastoral visiting team.</p>	PCC
	<p>ITEMS FOR DECISION [information had been distributed to members in advance]</p>	
5.	<p>Items from the Finance Committee (FC) meeting held on 19 January (See Minutes)</p>	
5.1	<p>Church collection bag trial at Tutshill. The FC's proposal to continue the trial came after a long debate. PC's paper showed that in 2025 a collection bag was financially beneficial at large traditional services such as Nine Lessons and Midnight Mass, provided the collection is well organised and the congregation advised in advance when the collection will take place. Members were divided about the benefit of a collection bag at Tutshill's regular Sunday services as younger members tend not to carry cash and are embarrassed. After an extensive discussion, PCC decided to see the impact of the 2026 Lent course, with its theme of offering all our talents, before coming to a final decision. Post Meeting Note. Revd Miri Keen has created an Offertory Collect to be used before/after the offertory hymn, when all our gifts are symbolically offered to God. ACTION RR to add to Weekly Bulletin.</p>	RR

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5.2	<p>Revised Delegated financial authorities, SR proposed, JP seconded and all agreed revised authorities to take account of inflation, which will be added to the Finance Policy: -</p> <p>6.5 The PCC has agreed to delegate financial authority to the following individuals or groups to commit expenditure on the PCC's behalf:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Church Wardens and Vicar acting individually: £300 • The Church Wardens and Vicar acting together (providing 2 out of 3 agree): £750 • The Finance Committee (providing 5 out of 7 agree): £1500 • The Health & Safety Advisor: £100 • The Treasurer is not authorised to commit the PCC to expenditure without the prior written approval of the people or groups listed above • No individual can commit the PCC to pay for any expenditure exceeding £300. 	
5.3	<p>Local Fee for a service taken at a crematorium by an NSM (Non-stipendiary minister)</p> <p>In our parish this issue affects NB, those with PTO, and potentially our Readers, though JP doesn't conduct funerals. NB and JP declared an interest. It has no impact on stipendiary clergy as their stipend already covers conducting funeral services at a crematorium.</p> <p>Background. Church of England (CoE) HQ decided in 2025 that PCCs should receive £35 of the £234 fee for a funeral service conducted at a crematorium. Gloucester DBF had received £228 fee in 2024, but under the revised policy received only £199 in 2025. Gloucester DBF partly offset their £35 loss by reducing the local fee due to an NSM. The fee in 2024 (£152) was reduced by £19 to £133 from 01 January 2025.</p> <p>On 4 February 2025 Tidenham PCC decided this was unfair and that the NSMs' 2025 local fee would be £154; i.e. the DBF mandated £133 fee plus an additional £21 to come from the PCC's £35 share of the national £234 fee.</p> <p>2026 rates. CoE HQ announced that PCCs will receive £37 of the new £244 national fee for a funeral service at a crematorium, and every DBF will receive £207.</p> <p>As Gloucester DBF's casual duty rates for 2026 show £138 local fee to be paid to NSMs, FC recommends that PCC continue its existing policy by increasing the 2025 local fee £154 to £163. I.e. £25 will come from the £37 that PCC now receives from Gloucester DBF.</p> <p>SR proposed, MM seconded and all agreed ACTION PC</p>	PC
5.4	<p>Application for a Faculty for a new bench in Tutshill churchyard (RR update)</p> <p>Further to the previous PCC meeting at which RR had provided details of the size and style of the proposed new bench to be located overlooking the area set aside for cremated remains, and adjacent to the one in memory of Beryl Norfolk. The following words to be engraved in Times New Roman CAPITAL LETTERS on the new bench slats.</p> <p>"IN LOVING MEMORY OF / ALICE AND JACK ARMOUR / SHEILA AND LAURIE KILLMARTIN BELOVED PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS / LOVED ONES DEARLY MISSED EVERYDAY"</p> <p>RR confirmed that the Area Dean does not need to be involved while we are in vacancy. NF has advised that there are no other applications for new benches. RR proposed, NB seconded and by a majority of 11 to 0 with one abstention of those present, the PCC resolved to apply for a List B faculty. ACTION RR. As the PCC is responsible for bench maintenance the intention is to engage someone to treat all our benches this summer.</p>	RR
5.5	<p>Proposed Reduction of our 4 x CCLA Bank Accounts to 3</p> <p>Following PCC's agreement in principle on 10 December to reduce the number of our CCLA accounts to 3, JP proposed, TW seconded and all agreed to close No 20 account and transfer the monies to our No.19 CCLA account. ACTION PC</p>	PC

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5.6	<p>Tutshill Scarecrow Trail 2026: Proposed arrangements</p> <p>SR proposed, MT seconded and all agreed with the Scarecrow Trail Committee’s plans:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dates: Midday 28th March to 7pm on 19th April, • theme: Animal characters from films, <i>and</i> • two local charities to be supported: <i>Breathe Youth</i> and <i>Guide Dogs for the Blind</i> <p>ACTION SR to provide PC with the charities’ bank account details.</p>	SR
6.	ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION	
6.1	<p>St Luke’s display screen options (JP)</p> <p>JP has not received feedback following the discussion on 10 December. As DAC will want to see a mock-up of our proposals, JP will attempt to obtain one for a screen above the pulpit, which seems to be the preferred affordable option. ACTION JP</p>	JP
6.2	<p>Draft Trustees’ Report and Annual Accounts for 2025 (PC & IG)</p> <p>PCC members to contact PC, EP or IG should they have any comments or questions, prior to signing it off on 10 March. ACTION PCC</p> <p>Our independent examiner Andy Royle will then review it and IG will make it available to all church members for at least 7 days before the APCM on 17 May, when members are able to ask questions. A copy is then given to Gloucester Diocese DBF and it is submitted, as part of our Annual Return, to the Charity Commission who publish it on their website.</p> <p>On behalf of the PCC, MM expressed thanks to everyone involved in compiling this very important document.</p>	PCC
6.3	<p>Current Financial Situation 31 January (PC) – usual documents had been circulated.</p> <p>Lloyds bank balances today: No1 £21,522; No 3: £5,223, plus £142K in CCLA on deposit.</p> <p>The Listed Places of Worship (LPOW) Scheme ceases on 31 March 2026, but details of the proposed replacement scheme have not yet been announced.</p> <p>The agreed monthly parish share (£4,703.75) has been paid in January and February.</p> <p>Lloyds bank has returned the unauthorised Direct debit that PC spotted on 21 January. Members were encouraged to check their own bank accounts as it is very easy for scammers to set up a direct debit. Some banks do advise account holders before a new direct debit is actioned. Unfortunately Lloyds don’t do that.</p> <p>We have received the second annual £14k donation to the restricted Wellbeing Chaplain fund from Tony James’ legacy. RR has written to the trustee Paul Snowden to express our thanks. NB has personally thanked Paul Snowden.</p>	
6.4	<p>Utilities update.</p> <p>PC took final readings on 31 December when the 4 x SSE contracts for gas and electricity all finished. We have received the final SSE invoice for Tutshill, and PC has cancelled that Direct Debit. We await final bills for gas at Tutshill and electricity at Chase, where we have received no invoices since 12 April 2025. SSE changed the smart meter on 6 March. At Tidenham we paid the Q3 bill in September, but have just received a credit note for the same amount £820.47. Our 2025 annual accounts show the anticipated payments as liabilities. The above shambles confirms PCC were right to cease using SSE for electricity.</p> <p>BG Lite have already supplied us with our first invoices for 3 x electricity supplies.</p> <p>SSE Gas still supply Tutshill church but under a new contract. PC will continue to monitor SSE activities until we have managed to cancel all 3 direct debits for electricity.</p>	

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12.	<p>Update on Actions / Significant Matters arising from 2025 PCC minutes (paper circulated) The document was very useful, but some items are still outstanding. Members were asked to review IG's paper and where possible provide an update. ACTION All</p>	ALL
13.	<p>Let's share some Great News! RR has received an offer from someone who wants to do more in the church, but he needs to go onto the church electoral roll for 6 months before he can be co-opted onto the PCC. ACTION RR to check and IG to send out forms if necessary.</p> <p>Tidenham Church Christmas tree festival feedback. A parishioner has thanked everyone for the festival this year as a member of their family with dementia was able to recite all the nursery rhymes, bringing much joy to everyone.</p>	RR / IG
14.	AOB	
14.1	<p>Chase Churchyard – safety of gravestones inspection: proposed topple testing has had to be postponed until the spring. ACTION RR</p>	RR
14.2	<p>Tony James memorial building is almost ready to be used. Tidenham Friends wish to use the same fire equipment contractor. ACTION PC to give details to BD.</p>	PC
15.	ITEMS FOR INFORMATION	
15.1	<p>Safeguarding Update (RR). There has been one safeguarding concern and one new incident, both of which have been advised to the Diocesan safeguarding team and to the relevant authorities. ACTION RR to check if the Charity Commission needs to be advised. BD thanked RR for undertaking the parish safeguarding duties.</p>	RR
15.2	GDPR: No issues reported.	
15.3	Changes to Church Electoral Roll since the last PCC meeting on 09 December: NIL	
15.4	Statistics for Mission returns completed on time – copies available from PCC Secretary	
15.5	February Parish Share (£4,703.75) paid on time on 9 th February	

Meeting closed at 22:15 with closing prayer from NB and The Grace.

Next PCC meeting: Tuesday 10 March 2026 in Tutshill church at 19:30.