

TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL



Minutes of Tidenham PCC Meeting held in St Luke at 19:30 on Tuesday 10th June 2025

ITEM		ACTION
1.	Attendance: Chair: Brian Duerden (BD), Robin Riordan (RR); Nicholette Flatman (NF), Iain Gardiner (IG), Susan Riordan (SR), Marilyn Turner (MT), Tanya White (TW), plus Emma Durbin (ED), CYF Missioner, who attends PCC as an observer.	
	Apologies for absence: Revd Nicki Bullivant (NB), Paul Coombs (PC), Molly Mayo (MM), Andy Palmer (AP), Emma Phillips (EP) and James Parsons (JP).	
2.	Welcome to all. BD read from 2 Cor. 1.18ff and ED opened in prayer.	
3.	Declarations of Interest: ED item 5.1.2,	
4.	Children, Youth & Families (CYF) Ministry Presentation by ED, CYF Missioner	
4.1	ED's report on CYF) Ministry over the past 12 months ED spoke about her report which had previously been distributed to all members and is attached as Appendix 1. Highlights include youth camps, assistance from Eve this year, networking with local churches, Salvation Army and Chepstow Boys Brigade (BB). The BB grew up out of <i>the Chapel</i>, and their camps have a Christian ethos rather than being overtly worship events. In 2026 the BB plans to go to 'Satellites', a camp like 'Limitless' and run by <i>Youthscape</i>, a Christian charity founded in 1993 by 45 x Luton churches and still based there. See website Our Story Youthscape . <i>Sedbury Stay and Play</i> is still viable after numbers increased recently. This group, plus <i>Tutshill Toddlers</i>, is very important to the wellbeing of the local community. Tutshill Crib service at 4pm on Christmas Eve is always very popular. Organising 2 crib services would be very challenging for the team running them! Schools work is essential. ED has provided a transitions pack for children moving to secondary school. The new CYF Minister can develop work with both Offa's Mead and St Johns on the Hill. MT to contact Bible Society to see what is available for schools. ED is creating rotas for the volunteers post 31 August.	
4.2	RECOGNISE (7-13 July 2025), Part of the CoE's 30k project. The PCC has signed up to RECOGNISE, a national week of recognition for everyone involved in ministry with children, young people, and their families. Sunday 13 July is a day for churches nationwide to celebrate and thank those involved in this ministry. Due to PCC policy on filming children's faces we're not going to be involved with the CoE video which is going on their website. Our children and youth will however say the blessing in Tutshill church on 13 July. ACTION ED to speak to Revd Tom Clammer.	ED
4.3	Proposed Youth Activities updates Breathe Visit to Beechenhurst - 22 June. We will not now participate as our youth have just had a visit to Cardiff shops and BBC. Youth Picnic on 29 June cancelled as we have the parish picnic on Sunday 6 July.	
4.4	Hiring Bouncy Castle for our Toddler Groups. ED suggested that a Bouncy Castle be hired from, and operated by, Megabounce as on previous occasions. NF proposed, RR seconded and all agreed. ACTION ED	ED

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4.5	Joint Parish Outdoor Picnic: Sunday 6 July on Tutshill school playing field Wardens and ED proposed that Aled Jones of 'A&S Animal Encounters' provide the entertainment at our Parish picnic. Aled holds public liability insurance and has provided his risk assessment. ED has cleared this event with the school. Cost is £220. There will be a suggested donation of £1. Members stressed the picnic must be open to everyone at Toddlers Groups as well as our three church congregations, as it is an opportunity for everyone to say thank you to ED. PCC concluded that RSVP is not needed as the field is large enough to cater for large numbers and if adverse weather is forecast families will probably choose not to come. ACTION IG to discuss the risk assessment with ED. TW proposed, NF seconded the above arrangements. All agreed. ACTION ED to advise Annabelle so that the event can be publicised.	IG / ED ED
4.6	Summary. PCC recognised that a 3 days a week CYFM post is not enough to do all that could be done, even with our loyal volunteers, but our funds don't stretch to that. BD thanked ED for her comprehensive CYFM report, and for all her work over the last 4 years and joined PCC members in wishing her well for the future.	
	ITEMS FOR DECISION [information had been distributed to members in advance]	
5.	Matters arising from PCC Finance Committee (FC) meeting held on 06 June. The 3-page draft minutes had been circulated and were commended to PCC members	
5.1	Comments on the draft FC Minutes. NF asked for clarification on two items on the draft minutes.	
5.1.1	Clarification re item 4.3.1 Funding the CYF Minister. JP had written to IG seeking clarification on the funding situation. The FC minutes stated that although there were sufficient financial guarantees to enable the PCC to advertise the post of CYF Minister, the church community was being asked to fund the post. Elsewhere in the parish Link magazine, however, it was stated that the project was <i>fully funded</i>. NF agreed there were mixed messages. BD, RR and IG confirmed that the situation is complex in that three people have undertaken to guarantee gift aided donations up to £15k to enable the PCC to pay the new CYF Minister until 31 August 2027. A written document is being prepared that will be lodged with the PCC treasurer. In addition, the church community will soon be asked to sign a pledge to enable them to contribute to this vital project. The pledge document will be carefully worded to state that if money is donated and no-one is appointed to the CYFM post, the money will be placed in the CYFM Restricted Fund and used for CYF ministry in Tidenham Parish. ACTION RR	RR
5.1.2	Clarification re item 4.3.3 Letters to staff. This section should include Annabelle Stephens, who is also finishing her contract on 31 August. RR confirmed that all three staff had received letters, and ED and Annabelle had responded. ACTION IG to alter the draft FC Minutes.	IG
5.2	Confirmation of banking signatories FC has recommended that PCC approve the existing members of the Finance Committee be reconfirmed as the persons who are authorised to operate the church bank accounts with dual authorisation. After discussion, TW proposed and SR seconded that PCC accept the FC's proposal. All agreed.	

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5.3	Donations to nominated Charities The PCC's policy for donations to charities led to the FC's proposal to donate a total of £2,343 this year, based on the annual accounts for 2024. See attached Appendix 2. - Sheet 2 shows how we arrived at the total of £2343, and sheet 1 shows a proposed distribution between the various charities; the FC calculated an individual charity amount of £239.13. - This year is different to 2024 in that the Scarecrow Committee (SC) decided to support one of the PCC's 8 nominated charities – SARA - as well as Greenway. FC didn't think SARA should be paid the full amount from PCC in addition to the SC's donation, but In order to ensure SARA didn't lose out the FC recommended that PCC give £109.13 to supplement the SC's £130 donation. NF proposed and MT seconded that PCC accept the FC's proposal. All agreed. ACTION PC to pay the agreed amounts to the nominated charities.	PC
	ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION	
6.	Tidenham Parish Priest - Vacancy Archdeacon Hilary (ADH) emailed NB, BD and RR to say that by 09:00 on 4 June, the closing date for the second round of advertising, no applications had been received. BD gave the disappointing news to all our congregations on Sunday 8 June, noting that there is a national shortage of applications for rural parishes. Our church services will continue with the team of capable people authorised to conduct them. The ongoing vacancy gives us time to pause and reflect on why no-one has applied, and to consider what we need to do to make the offer more attractive. BD and RR will review the situation with ADH, who has confirmed that if someone now expresses an interest they will be considered. BD encouraged all PCC members to take time over the next few weeks to consider how they would feel if they were an applicant for this position. BD believes our parish profile may have overstated that everything here is fine and dandy; rather we need someone to challenge us and lead us into the future, and not simply a person to help us carry on with <i>business as usual</i>. ACTION ALL MT and SR asked to see a copy of the parish profile ACTION RR The earliest we can readvertise the post is 3 months, but RR, BD and PCC members agreed there is little point in doing that without reviewing our offering. We will need to have a fresh election to appoint a Vacancy Interview Panel. As the diocese owns the vicarage, the PCC has no input into its future.	ALL RR
7.	Feedback from Deanery Synod (DS). There has been no DS meeting, so there is nothing to report. PCC members were unaware of a well-attended <i>Thriving Church</i> seminar on 31 May that had been advised to Deanery Synod. ACTION IG to write to Area Dean querying why we had not been invited and to ask for reports or information from the meeting.	IG
8.	Current Financial Situation.	
8.1	Outturn. PCC thanked PC for his very helpful monthly reports, noting that the Outturn is now achievable as we have reduced our 2025 parish share to £55k.	

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8.2	Stewardship Campaign Members agreed that we should delay the stewardship campaign probably until October. It is a difficult sell when people see the state of Church of England leadership, and cannot easily understand why we are still paying a large amount (£55k) to the Diocese when we do not have an incumbent, plus we are about to ask our church community to support a CYF Minister.	
9.	Draft minutes of 13 May PCC Meeting. Following a minor alteration, a revised draft was circulated. SR proposed and NF seconded that the minutes be approved. All agreed. Matters arising: List of outstanding actions from previous PCC meetings to be presented on 8 July. ACTION IG. Tutshill Monitors: Tutshill reordering faculty has expired and the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) were unhappy with the original proposal for monitors. ACTION RR to reconvene the Tutshill Re-Ordering Committee to agree a course of action. Tidenham Church North Aisle Heating: Further to the positive report received from a church in Fareham, Hampshire that has installed this chandelier type <i>Shadows</i> heaters, JP sent a brief to Mann Williams, conservation structural engineer, to obtain a report to satisfy DAC as to the adequacy of the roof truss to carry the heaters. BD hopes to make a proposal to PCC on 8 July, with installation in September / October. ACTION BD.	IG RR BD
10.	Tidenham Chase church – on site review 3 June. JP, BD and IG reviewed Philip Belchere's report, following which JP asked Philip to create a specification document that can be submitted to DAC for a List B faculty as all the items are <i>like for like</i> renewals. ACTION IG to update Angela Fryer and Susanna Jacks. Installation of surge protection is imminent. ACTION RR to agree date with Tim Howells. Members noted that the extent of repairs needed to the south east chancel roof is unknown, but will probably be very costly. NF agreed to contact Diocese property dept to see what advice / financial assistance they could provide. ACTION NF	IG RR NF
11.	Chase churchyard. PCC approved BD's plan to assess the state of the currently unused ground and report back. This could include thermal imaging and boreholes. NF proposed and MT seconded the proposal that BD seek expert advice. All agreed. Conversations have started with the Parish Council and Robert Adams. ACTION BD.	BD
12.	Tidenham Church	
12.1	Chancel ceiling Repairs (BD) At £21k +VAT, the plasterer's quotation was considerably more than anticipated. There is no imminent danger, so the area remains open to the public. BD will consult with Philip Belchere as an application for a List B faculty will be needed. ACTION BD.	BD
12.2	Hours of Opening. Tidenham church is now open to the public on Sundays and Mondays from 9am – 5 pm. This is already publicised on our weekly notice sheet and will be advised via our entry on <i>A Church Near You</i> Website. ACTION IG to so advise Annabelle Stephens. We now meet the conditions laid down by National Churches Trust (NCT) when they awarded their grant. ACTION IG to so advise NCT.	IG IG
13.	Health & Safety: No new reported issues. Tutshill electric piano. RR and Alex White have agreed the default position of piano to be behind pillar line to facilitate funerals. Spare cable kept in the tech cupboard.	

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14.	What's Coming up? - Parish Quiet Day at Ty Mawr – 14 June 'Welcome to Summer' Gala Concert Tidenham church 7.30pm on 14 June - NB is attending Archdeacon Hilary's visitation service at St Mary's Church Lydney on 16 June when RR and BD will be re-admitted to the office of churchwarden - Non van den Braak's admission into The Company of St Kyneburga at a special Evensong service in Gloucester Cathedral on 17 June led by Bishop Robert - Tidenham Flower and Arts Festival: Friday 20 – Monday 23 June - Tidenham Church Wine and Cheese: 7.30pm on Saturday 21 June Five Churches Fellowship on Monday 30 June: 7.30 to 9.00pm in Tidenham Church - Parish Picnic: 12:30 – 15:00 on Sunday 6 July at Tutshill - Prayer Breakfast for Children and Youth: 8.30 – 9.30 on Saturday 12 July at Tutshill	
15.	Let's share some Good News! - Tutshill churchyard water leak fixed on 30 May – thanks to JP and Robert Adams. - Tidenham Church clock restarted successfully on 30 May - Our church is fully functioning despite the vacancy - People have stepped up to volunteer and fill roles	
16.	AOB	
16.1	Tutshill School Robin Howells' Year 6 are planning to walk to / from Tidenham Church on Monday 16 June to participate in MM's Quiz / Trail at Tidenham church – mainly inside! POST MEETING NOTE in the event this visit did not take place.	
16.2	CYFM Job Description and interview arrangements. RR has disseminated documents to PCC members and has incorporated feedback received. NF to chase Gloucester Diocese HR for their comments. ACTION NF	NF
17.	ITEMS FOR INFORMATION	
17.1	Safeguarding Events. RR confirmed there had been no new safeguarding events. RR and Parish Safeguarding Officer Rosalind Seward (RS) are conducting in person safeguarding training in June. A Team from Gloucester Diocese are to hold a session on domestic violence in Tutshill in November. Rosalind has advised she is stepping down in September for personal reasons. PCC expressed its thanks for all she has achieved. RR to check with RS when this can be announced to the church community. ACTION RR	RR
17.2	GDPR: No issues.	
17.3	The electrical work at Tutshill authorised by PCC on 13 May was completed on 6 June.	
17.4	Changes to Church Electoral Roll since the last PCC meeting on 13 May: Four names of people who were on the old roll have been added: John Rosser, Alan and Linda Wilson, and John Woolcock.	
	Meeting closed at 21:35 with our vacancy prayer and the Grace. Next meeting: 8th July at Tutshill church at 19:30.	