

Minutes of Hethe PCC

Wednesday 10th June 2026 at Old Montague Barn, The Green

Present: Flora Skinner (FS) Church Warden/Chair
Helen Pritchard (HP) Deanery Synod Representative
Helen Wood (HW)
June Nisbet (JN)
Mike Green (MG) Secretary/Treasurer

Item	Minute	Action
	The meeting opened with prayers.	
1	There were no apologies.	
2	The minutes of the meeting of 21 st January 2026 were accepted as a true record, proposed by FS, seconded by JN, and agreed by all present.	
3	PCC Members a) HW confirmed that she would continue as a PCC member. b) Pauline O’Gorman has now left the village and could not continue as a member. She was thanked for her long contribution as a member and Church Warden. c) The responsibilities of PCC members as trustees of the church were confirmed as detailed at parishresources.org.uk , PCC/APCMs, Trusteeship: i. Having shared legal responsibility for the financial affairs of the parish ii. Ensuring that the PCC is carrying out its purposes for the public benefit iii. Managing the parish’s resources responsibly iv. Acting in the PCC’s best interests v. Complying with laws and regulations	
4	The Future of the Church. Although we are still short of volunteers and funding and are awaiting the results of the Quinquennial Inspection (QI), the short-term life of the church is now more secure. The Revd Dr Claire Maxim is to be the next Rector for the Benefice. She has been involved in rural churches and could join in mid-September/October.	
5	Worship and Activities a) Review. HP and HW were thanked for getting together to provide passersby with free sweet pea plants on Mothering Sunday. FS had provided free Hot Cross buns and Easter eggs, although this year they had not all been taken. Those who helped with the spring clean and flowers ahead of the Easter day service were thanked. The Benefice wide outdoor service at Evenley Wood Garden had been appreciated but less people attended than previous years. b) Harvest Festival. It was agreed that Hethe would not hold a separate Harvest Festival, but parishioners would be invited to attend a Benefice wide service. The date of Sunday 27 th September and location to be confirmed. It was agreed that the 8.00am service normally held on that date would not take place in Hethe. c) Lay led services. These services of Morning Prayer were continuing to be held, with an attendance of three to eight people last year. The next of these services was due on Sunday 28 th June and the following service in August may take place, subject to the availability of HP. d) Coffee mornings. These are continuing to alternate between the village hall (arranged by FS and HP) and St Phillip’s Hall (arranged by members of the Holy Trinity Church). There would be no coffee morning in August. e) Talking about faith with others. A space for quiet reflection and conversation is continuing to be made available at coffee mornings in the village hall. There was a discussion on whether readings from the Old Testament should be included in our services and that it would be more appropriate to concentrate on the teachings of Christ through the Gospels. This would be subject to discussion with the new Rector.	FS
6	Eco Church. Maintenance of the churchyard ecologically was continuing, and we now have a more ecological electricity supply with Ecotricity through Parish Buying. Members need to engage more with parishioners on eco issues to make progress towards a gold award.	

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- 7 **Finance**
- a) A report had been circulated before the meeting (copy attached). In summary, there are sufficient funds to cover regular outgoings for the next three months. If income stays the same, we should have sufficient funds to the end of the year, although we are heading for an in-year deficit of £2,412. It was agreed that £4,000 be transferred to the CCLA deposit account (the interest from this will offset the bank charges now levied by Lloyds Bank). This transfer was proposed by FS, seconded by HP, and agreed by all present. **MG**
 - b) Parish Giving Update. One person has stopped contributing this year.
 - c) Encouraging more regular giving. It was thought unlikely that there would be additional regular givers.
 - d) Fund Raising.
 - i. 100 Club. HP was continuing to run the club. The Treasurer passed £351 to her for prizes.
 - ii. Raffle held at the Village Fete. Takings were £633 less £90 to print the tickets. Members were thanked for contributing prizes, particularly JN for the crate of wine. It was agreed that a raffle would be held again next year.
 - iii. Other options.
 - a. Ride & Stride. It was agreed that the church would be open again to welcome participants on Saturday 12th September.
 - b. A Christmas Tree lighting ceremony to take place on 29th November, the first Sunday of Advent. FS will discuss the details with Perry Stuart.
- 8 **Church Fabric & Churchyard**
- a) Church Warden's Report.
 - i. Church Restoration. Scheduled works to replaster and redecorate the area above the chancel arch have been completed. It was agreed that the bare walls would not be replastered.
 - ii. West Window Repairs. No funds available for the exterior stone works. A way forward would be agreed after the QI report had been received.
 - iii. Electrical Inspection. Completed with no major problems identified.
 - iv. Quinquennial Inspection. The QI inspection had been completed. The Church Architect had advised that one chair was unsafe due to woodworm damage. This chair has been removed for disposal. Four additional chairs had been donated to the church by FS.
 - b) Notice Board Replacement. A donation of £500 had been received from HP towards the cost of a replacement notice board at the front of the churchyard. The balance would be met from a grant and church funds. It was agreed that the notice board be purchased, proposed by MG, seconded by JN. **HP**
 - c) Tree Works. A new quote would be obtained for work on the walnut tree. **HP**
- 9 **Safeguarding.** No concerns had been raised. It was stressed that all PCC members must watch the latest videos. **ALL**
- 10 **Feedback from Deanery Synod.** The last Synod had discussed ecological issues, including the impact of land management practices on wildlife and Eco Church.
- 11 **Feedback from the Joint Council.** Pay rises had been agreed to the Benefice Administrator and the supervisor of Little Lambs. More funds were to be raised for the Wulu Girls' Teachers Incentive Scheme (individuals were asked to consider sponsoring a teacher).
- 12 **Matters arising from the last meeting not previously covered.** All covered above.
- 13 **Any Other Business.**
- a) PAT testing had been completed.
 - b) A churchyard tidy-up would take place on Saturday 4th July, starting at 2.00pm. Members were requested to bring their own tools. **ALL**
- 14 **Date of next meeting.** The next meeting of the PCC will be held on Wednesday 14th October starting at 1.30pm at Old Montague Barn, The Green.