

Dorchester & West Stafford PCC Meeting, St Peter's Church Hall

Tuesday 15 September 2026 at 7.30pm, following Holy Communion at 7pm

- 1. Opening prayer** - Rector, Revd Keith Magee (KM)
- 2. Present:** Rev K Magee (KM)(Chair), Steve Burgess(SB), Janet Cooper(JC)(Secretary), Jonathan Farmiloe(JF), Rev Connor Hansford(CH), John Heath(JHe), Rev Jimmy Holden(JHo), Laretta Kerridge(LK), Alex Lyons(AL), Suzanne Lyons(SL), Jane Pryce(JP), Janet Ranger-Dennis(JR), Peter Vojak(PV)(Treasurer) & Rev Cora Yarrin(CY).
In attendance: Mandy Miller
Apologies for absence: Stuart Connelly, David Elliott, Jill Minchin & Stephen Wibley(SW).
- 3. Minutes of last meeting held on 14 July 2026:** Minutes signed as a true record.
- 4. Matters arising: Item 11(C) Investment management by CCLA** Updating the Diocesan investment situation – A small group had met with Rev John Mackenzie, Rector of Holy Trinity, Weymouth and a member of Salisbury Board of Finance, following which a letter had been sent to Diocese about reviewing interest earning on deposits as realised the Diocese is failing in its duty to maximise profits and asking for advice for PCC investments. No reply received from Diocese yet.
- 5. Safeguarding:** (a) KM welcomed Mandy Miller to the meeting. Following approval of PCC by email on 29 July Mandy is appointed as **Benefice Safeguarding Officer**, she is a regular worshipper at St Peter's. Mandy is awaiting her DBS check and will have a period of induction and guidance as to what the role involves and what support the Diocese will provide. (b) Updating of the Safeguarding Dashboard has been taking place over the summer. Record of up to date **DBS** for PCC members needed, normally Gill Hartnett in the Parish Office is able to do it digitally but the system is not working well at present so contact CY who will do it manually. (c) PCC members should also be up to date on **Safeguarding training at Basic and Foundation levels**. Contact JC who will record individual training details.
- 6. Health & Safety:** KM advised that, following the production of a Guide Shelter Report (Run Hide & Tell Policy) at the July PCC meeting, each church should do their own risk assessment. A meeting still needs to be arranged with church H&S reps and the clergy.
- 7. Reports from churches: St Peter's** – Report circulated from KM before meeting. The 64 page Quinquennial report had been received the previous day.
St Andrew's – Report circulated from JR before meeting. On the weekend of 10/11 October there is to be a Julia's House concert in church and Harvest Festival.
St Mary's – Report circulated before meeting, JHo thanked SW for writing it. On Saturday 3 October there is to be a St Mary's Vision Day, a chance for the church to reflect on what our mission is, held at St Francis Church, Littlemoor.
St George's – CY & CH gave a verbal report. The Emergency talk evening was very well attended with people from across the community. Supported the Churches Together tent at the Dorset County Show weekend 5/6 September. Ride & Stride and a wedding on 12 September. New Creationtide service booklets with a speaker from A Rocha on Sunday 13 September. Harvest Barn Dance 19 September. Harvest Festival, an invitation to come and join a service of the Word, non-communion, on 20 September was followed by Harvest lunch at the Walnut Grove restaurant. Mark Chutter talk about Hardy, the Moule family and Fordington on Saturday 26 September. Starting an ecology group to consider how to make the church more sustainable from an energy point of view and to bring more diversity to the churchyard, planning a Psalm 23 garden and a talk from the local council. Planning Christmas Tree festival 4-7 December.

There has been progress on the Faculty for replacing the damaged memorial bench. In progress is getting information together for applying for a Faculty for work on the porch between the church

and the hall, where the wood is degraded and there is no safety glass, have now obtained three quotes for the work. Also, exploring idea of solar panels on the church.

8. Diocesan Synod: No meeting since last PCC, next meets 17 October.

9. Deanery Synod: No meeting since last PCC, next meets 7 October.

10. Resourcing: a) **Budget report** circulated before meeting from PV. Running costs as expected, one or two costs are higher but will balance out over the year. CH asked about the photocopier leasing costs being high. PV explained that they are cheaper than they were and that the lease covers all maintenance and running of the machines. The leasing contract runs for about another two and a half years and it will be a good idea to look around a year before the contract runs out regarding renewal. Buying own photocopiers would run to tens of thousands of pounds and maintenance is beyond our capability. KM thanked PV for all his work.

b) **Annual grant to Quiet Space:** It was explained that this is an ecumenical community space on Poundbury that different churches support where there is a monthly Holy Communion service and Monday afternoon drop in tea and chat. The PCC have regularly given an annual grant, in recent years £2,000. Decided to wait for a request from the Quiet Space Trustees.

CY raised the previous matter of supporting the Winterbournes who felt their Diocesan Share was too high and were struggling paying. Supporting them had been discussed at our four church committees. JHo gave an update that an email from Rev Teresa Stewart-Sykes explained the Winterbournes had decided to pay less to Diocese from the end of June and had asked the Diocese to rethink their Share amount, awaiting reply.

11. Rector's report: KM reported that he had been approached about hosting in Dorchester a talk by Canon Sarah Jones, the first trans woman to be ordained priest in the Church of England. As there is to be a talk in Holy Trinity Church, Weymouth on Friday 16 October at 7.30pm, tickets are £10, he encouraged people to support the talk there where Sarah will be speaking. The Benefice service on Sunday 22 November at St Martin's Church, Martinstown will be at 10.30am, arranging for a Franciscan to preach at the service.

12. Items for next agenda: None noted.

13. Date of next PCC meeting: Tuesday 17 November 2026 at 7.30pm at St Peter's.

Date for your diary: **Benefice Service on Sunday 22 November at St Martin's, Martinstown at 10.30am.**

14. Closing Grace

Meeting closed at 8.30pm