

Meeting of the Parochial Church Council
of the Parish of Ordsall and Retford St Michael on
Thursday 30 July 2026 in All Hallows Church at 7.00pm
MINUTES

Opening Prayer – Alex read a prayer for PCC meetings.

Members: Alex Shiells, Nigel Bower, John Pugh, Tessa Rolph, Gill Glover, John Chambers, Paul Hardman, Sue Walker.

Apologies for Absence: Steve Thorpe, Maxine Fisher, Mike Goffin, Kenny Newstead, Chris Porter, Kerry Rawlings, Rachel Waby.

Minutes of the PCC meeting held on Thursday 14 May 2026 were agreed as a true record and signed.

Proposed: Alex **Seconded:** Nigel Unanimous.

Matters arising not coming up on this Agenda:

All Hallows Church damage to pinnacle – this matter is still ongoing.

Grass around graves and ashes plots – this was discussed at All Hallows F&F. Alex has spoken to the Council and it has been done. We need to keep an eye on this in the future. To go back to All Hallows F&F.

Applying for Growing Disciples Alex explained this needs to be within the calendar year. Alex will discuss further in Vision section.

Pastoral visiting – Tessa feels that we need a policy. Alex explained that at the moment only clergy or church wardens visit. Tessa is concerned about any issues arising. Nigel said that this is done informally at the moment as if visiting friends. Alex will bring an update to next meeting with a policy outline.

Alex talked about the fire in churchyard 29/7/26. The Fire service and dealt with the fire. Alex, John P and Kenny will do a risk assessment on this. Tessa asked if it should be reported to Ecclesiastical and should signs be put up around the churchyard for No Smoking. Alex and John P will look for signs at the end of the meeting. Kenny is liaising with the Fire Service. John P has been trying to get the risk assessment done for the graveyard team during which time he stopped a fire being built. The Ecclesiastical risk assessment is being worked through but the Fire Service could inspect anytime. The graveyard team know their responsibilities and we need evidence that we are making progress on this, as a form of due diligence.

Declaration of interest – none were declared.

Safeguarding report for St Michael's and All Hallows churches - July 2026

Having taken over from Don in April, Mike has been given a handover by Alex and Don. The Diocese's contact details have been updated, replacing Don's name.

Training updates for church members are ongoing. Most training has been updated over the past three years. Don has handed over all records and certificates, of safeguarding training completed, in alphabetical order. Mike has completed a train the trainer's course, so will arrange for face-to-face Basic Safeguarding training in the autumn.

The safeguarding policy and other policies need updating, Mike has met with Gill and Alex to start working on updating, both on the hub and on the website, in 'A Church Near You'. Safeguarding posters in both churches have been changed to include change of PSO and retirement of DSO. Mike has enrolled for the PSO induction course on 26 October 2026.

Mike is having hip replacement surgery on 27 July, so will have a few weeks of limited mobility. He can still be contacted by phone or email.

Safeguarding review in 2027 to be worked through by Alex and Mike.

Policy Review – Recruitment of Ex-Offenders – this was deferred again due to Mike's absence and Alex not circulating it before the meeting.

Fabric & Finance:

All Hallows - Fabric and Finance Minutes distributed – proposals

John C reported that there had been no progress on 19 Grange Road due to the potential purchaser losing interest.

Shares

Some at least of the All Hallows shareholdings are currently in the names of Rick Thomas and Paul Richards as Church Trustees. There is some administrative paperwork necessary to put All Hallows in a position to sell the shares and Paul Richards is progressing this. The shareholdings were valued at approx. £8,800 on 31 December 2025.

Proposal: That all the current All Hallows shareholdings (Lloyds, Severn Trent and Santander) be sold.

Proposed: John C **Seconded:** Kenny **unanimous**

St Michael's - Fabric and Finance Minutes distributed - proposal

Alex reported that he and Nigel and others are going to All Saints, Eaton coffee morning to look at their heating system. The heating is a high priority to do but we need to view other churches. The ramp replacement is ongoing but no costs available.

Proposal: To replace the first door of the Community Hall with like for like in wood by a local contractor at a cost of £1600 + VAT. Nigel to liaise with the contractor.

To be funded from previous donations.

Proposed: Nigel Seconded: Alex unanimous

Treasurer's Report

John Chambers is happy to be put forward to take over as Treasurer for the Parish. John was previously treasurer for St Saviour's, Retford for 10 years and for Bassetlaw and Bawtry Deanery for about 5 years. He also served on the Diocesan Finance Committee and several Parish Share task groups. In addition, he ran his own business for 30 years before retirement. Please note though that a bookkeeper may still be needed in the future to help with some of the necessary financial work.

Proposal: That John Chamber should be the Treasurer, with a phased take-over of tasks by 30 September 2026

Proposed: Alex Seconded: Kenny unanimous

Proposal: That John Chambers should be added to all Parish TSB bank accounts with Full Access

Proposed: Alex Seconded: Kenny unanimous

Tessa has submitted a Parish giving scheme explanation in her report. Alex will be talking about this later in the year in both churches. It will be good for PCC members to lead on transferring their giving across sooner rather than later.

Tessa reported that donation boxes are not cost effective. It was decided to discuss QR codes for donations at F&F.

John C asked for an explanation of how the Common fund is overdrawn. This should be balanced by income from each church. Tessa was asked to prepare the next report to include what goes into the common fund and what goes out. We also need to review this in the future.

Vision Update -

St Michael's have not had any vision meetings recently. All Hallows have been having meetings. Alex is continuing to discern the vision for both churches. Both are thinking about identity of church, use of buildings, discipleship, children and families particularly at All Hallows.

Nigel will put together a piece for newsletter explaining Compline. St Michael's has a serving rota in place. For Armed forces day there was a service of the word. They are looking forward to the Michaelmas service and a smaller 800-year celebration next year. There is a need to plan what to spend money on church or hall. There is a small volunteer team so not wanting to overburden.

All Hallows

Worship – there has been an overhaul of the family communion. The AV system is up and running and volunteers are needed for screens. The prayer list is now being used regularly. Morning prayer on Wednesday and a House Group have started.

Next steps are to look at building work – hall or church. Prayer – a prayer walk is planned. Children – Alex, John and Mair are working more closely with Ordsall Primary school. They are meeting with the head teacher in September to plan the year ahead. There is an overwhelmingly positive response. Pastoral visiting is being considered.

Towards the end of August Alex would like to talk to congregations about what is being planned and then talk about finance after that.

There will be a change of service from September to use family communion on every Sunday except the first. May also change which lectionary is used. The team are also looking at music and what is sung or spoken. We need to be intentional about what we have in the music. We need to make people aware of why we are doing this – to be more inclusive.

750 anniversary plans very exciting. People are coming into new roles. We are entering a period of explaining our dreams to the congregation.

Tessa suggested a prayer box on outside of gate or in porch where people passing by could leave a prayer request.

Volunteers – Tessa asked whether the encouragement of new volunteers is happening. Alex explained that he feels that people respond better when personally asked. As long as one person on the team is already trained, a new volunteer could do online courses just to be on the books.

750 Years of All Hallows Church

Brief update – putting together in a week in June 2027 for a weekend-to-weekend presentation of the history of Ordsall Church. This will start with a Civic service, Kate Bottley has agreed to preach, Alex has invited the Bishops and Archdeacon.

Benedict and John P have met, Kane would also like to be involved. They have been to Bassetlaw museum who are happy to be helpful with display boards. There are things that have been found in Ordsall stored in the museum. The museum are doing research on some of these. Colin Plumber is interested in understanding about the church. John P has been working with Anthony Partridge on the ride and stride route and has met people who were married in the church. John and Mair are proposing a special service for those who were married here. Links have been made and John P does not feel it is coincidence. Tessa suggested slips of paper giving details of who to contact if we meet people with an historic connection to Ordsall Church.

John P has also contacted Goosemoor Fruit and Veg about sponsoring and providing produce to decorate the church and churchyard. He has also found maps on the development of Ordsall.

Benedict is researching women who made an impact on Ordsall particularly the Wortley family.

Health and Safety Reports – nothing to report.

Any other Business: - no other business.

Deanery synod feedback – 22 July 2026

Paul had prepared a report on this meeting, which was held at St Barnabas, Ranskill. These are just two main take home points. Less business like than PCC.

1. The keynote speaker was Elisha Oak. (Pronounced Eleesha)

Elisha is the diocesan Parish Communications Enabler. Her role is to help parishes improve their communications including websites, notice sheets, logos etc. She particularly mentioned Canva which is an online graphic design tool which we can apparently have free use of via a CofE membership. She is available to visit parishes to collaborate with them on communications.

2. The Diocesan Safeguarding adviser is no longer in post, but other members of staff are covering the workload. The safeguarding email address is still active:
safeguarding@southwell.anglican.org

Other topics discussed included:

Vacancies within the deanery, Alex explained where there are vacancies. Deanery Synod also discussed the recent the General Synod and forthcoming General Synod elections. The meeting started and ended with prayer. They also had a time of sharing and prayer halfway through.

Steve Thorpe is happy to stand in place of John P.

Proposal: That Steve Thorpe replace John P as Deanery Synod representative for Ordsall and West Retford Churches.

Proposed: Alex Seconded: Sue unanimous

Gill will contact Paula Carlin on 31 July 2026 with this change of representatives.

Correspondence:

A dates list has been distributed but corrections are for Chorale Evensong dates. St Michael's is Tuesday 29 September and 1 November is All Hallows.

Date for Christmas fayre set but times will be discussed at planning meeting in September.

Dates of next meetings:

Fabric and Finance:

All Hallows 20 August at 7.00pm

St Michael's 27 August at 7.00pm

PCC meeting 24 September to be held in St Michael's at 7.00pm

Closing Prayer – Nigel led us in the grace.