**ST MARY MAGDALEN, KNIGHTON**

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting held on**
**15th September 2026**

**Present**: Revd Adrian Jones (Chairman), Revd Cecilia Adjadje, Amanda Beck (Treasurer) Tabitha Fogg, Mick Gasper, David Palmer, Ida Stanyer, Amanda Youngman

**Apologies or absence** were received from Sian Howard, Beryl Bonfield and Nigel Siesage

The Vicar welcomed all and opened with a short reflection and prayers.

## 26/48 REVIEW OF HALF-YEAR ACCOUNTS

The half year accounts were shared and received after discussion. Revenue from the Centre in 2026 will be less than budgeted for because the Pre-School did not take up as many rooms as suggested until later in the year. Income from regular giving has actually fallen this year – possibly because several members of the congregation have died in the last two years. An overall shortfall of £16,000 for 2026 was now predicted.

It was **agreed** unanimously that the PCC would reduce its pledged giving to the Diocese this year by £5,000, thus bringing the deficit back into line with the £11,000 budgeted for.

## 26/49 PARISH CONTRIBUTION TO THE DIOCESE 2027 & BUDGET FOR 2027

These items were taken together.

It was **agreed** unanimously that the PCC should aim for a balanced budget in 2027 and take the significant steps necessary to achieve that.

It was further **agreed**, with reluctance, that the PCC contribution to the diocese should be reduced by £10,000 in 2027.

The diocesan letter with a request for increased giving in 2027 was found to be unhelpfully structured and off-putting.

It was also **agreed** that a reduction in staffing costs was necessary. Diocesan HR consultants would be asked for advice about appropriate fair and effective ways to achieve this. The Vicar and Treasurer would take this forward.

**Action**: AJ, AB

26/50 **IMPACT OF GIVING LEAFLET**

The Treasurer introduced a leaflet for the congregation aimed at bringing home both the impact of their giving (in terms of what it enables the church to do) and also the challenge to increase giving so that we can do more. The leaflet originated from the Generous Giving Team but had been shaped by our own figures and context. The PCC made helpful suggestions and agreed that it should be used as part of the autumn push to encourage congregation members to reconsider and increase their regular giving to the church.

26/51 **SAFEGUARDING: POLICY REVIEW**

The PCC conducted the annual review of procedures for dealing with safeguarding concerns or allegations.

It was agreed that the policy document still represented both good practice and the intentions of the PCC. It was re-affirmed for a further year.

26/52 **SAFEGUARDING: APPOINTMENT OF DBS ADMINISTRATOR.**

This important role required someone with the appropriate level of training and skill. After consideration of the information in the paper presented, the PCC agreed that our Church Administrator should be asked to take on this role as part of their paid work. The Vicar would ensure that the role description was changed appropriately and after full discussion with the current post-holder. Initially it was likely that DBS checks would be initiated by Vicar and Administrator working together.

**Action: AJ**

26/53 **SAFEGUARDING: LONE WORKING POLICY REDRAFT**

The Vicar apologised that he had not been able to prepare this paper for the meeting, and the item was postponed for a future meeting.

26/54 **PARISH CENTRE UPDATE**

The Treasurer and Vicar reported on progress on repair and maintenance needs and options. The PCC agreed to proceed with a repair to the roof following recent leaks, and that the Treasurer would contact Cresta, the contractor.

It was further agreed to press ahead with a fresh application to BIFFA for grant support relating to the refurbishment of the toilets.

While the various options for the development of the Centre that had been explored now looked to be stalled, it was agreed to press ahead with obtaining a commercial

valuation of the site so that all the information had been gathered as we considered future steps.

A proposal to meet the costs of forthcoming major maintenance of church and Centre, at least partially, from designated funds was agreed.

26/55 **MEMBERSHIP**

The PCC welcomed the offer of Jill Journeaux to join the PCC and unanimously agreed to co-opt her with immediate effect.

26/56 **ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

There was discussion about the pattern of Advent/Christmas services. It was suggested that the Carol Service and Christingle Service might be combined. The Christmas Tea would be on Saturday 19th December.

26/57 **PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The minutes of the PCC held on 25th June 2026 were approved as a correct record. Notes of the meeting of thr Standing Committee held on 25th August notes were received and approved.

Social and Fundraising Committee - a verbal summary was given. PCC expressed its appreciation of the positive benefits of the work and events provided.

26/58 **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

The damaged benches at the front of the church had been removed. Thanks were expressed to Dr Howard and Mr Gasper.

26/59 **SAFEGUARDING**

There were no specific issues to report

26/60 **NEXT MEETING**: Tuesday 3rd November

The meeting ended with the Grace.

Chairman