

MINUTES of a meeting of the Parochial Church Council of the Parish of St Paul's New Beckenham held in the church on Thursday 23rd April 2026.

2025 / 2026 No. 10

Present: Rev'd Rachel Winn (in the chair), Maria Adu, Sarah Butler, Anne Harkness, Clari Harrington, Anne Howick, Keith Howick, Ian Johnson, Anthea Pendergast, Roger Wells (for minutes 11380(iii) - 11382).

Apologies for absence had been received David Charlesworth, Andrew Griffiths, Wesley Guy, Sandra Horner, Paul Lashmar, Penny Power.

Rev'd Rachel Winn opened the meeting in prayer.

11380 Preparation for the Annual Parochial Church Meetings, 17th May 2026

(i) Items to be covered during the 10.30 am service. The following teams would be presenting at the service: Buildings, Climate & Ecology, Communications, Finance, and Mission. There would also be a Safeguarding report, and possibly a report from the Pastoral Care team. Teams had been asked to send photographs of the areas of work they had undertaken, for the PowerPoint. A representative from each team would be asked to say what the Team had been doing in 2025, hopefully for only two minutes. The main part of the work of the Finance Team would be reported at the APCM meeting in the hall after the service.

(ii) Draft Annual reports. It would be important to have a report on Worship, Youth and Children in the informal teams reports. Rev'd Rachel would be preparing a report on the youth work in 2025. It was hoped that there could a photograph with the Babies & Toddler group report, and also of the Sunday Squad and creche. Anne Howick was asked to check if Liz Spencer would be preparing a report on St Paul's Pre-School, and if Tracey could provide some photographs. Moreen Lane had offered to present on behalf of the Gardening Team and Revd Rachel would provide some photographs of the 8.00 am Holy Communion Servers. Rev'd Rachel would prepare a report on Pastoral Care. Clari Harrington would provide some photographs of the Connect Café and the litter picking team. It would also be good to have photographs of the Friendship Group and the Welcome Team. The Worship Team report should include details about music, leading and preaching, and Prayer Ministry. Members suggested there should also be information about the weekly Morning Prayer services, Creative Prayer evenings, Youth Group, Experience Easter and Christmas. Some amendments to the draft Annual Report were suggested.

(iii) APCM meetings in the hall after the service. The congregation would be encouraged to come into the hall, where drinks would be served and the formal aspects of the APCM would continue. In answer to a query regarding whether there would be hard copies of the reports available, the vicar suggested that there should be a note in the weekly notice sheet asking people to sign up and let the PCC Secretary know by 10th May if they would like a hard copy of the reports.

(iv) Annual Accounts. Tim Harrington and Rosemary Dear were putting together a report.

(v) Independent Examiner's report. The final report from Ernest Kabera, the Independent Examiner, had not yet been received.

(vi) Report of fabric, goods and ornaments. A report had been received from the churchwardens. Some amendments or additional words were requested, including information about the Flower Team.

(vii) Deanery Synod report. A report had been received. It was requested that there should be mention of the Confirmation Service which had been held at St Paul's in the Worship Report.

(viii) Vicar's report. Rev'd Rachel confirmed she would be preparing a report.

(ix) PCC membership. It was noted that there would be six vacancies available for election to the PCC at the APCM 2026. David Charlesworth and Wesley Guy had indicated that they wished to stand down. Andrew Griffiths and Keith Howick were required to stand down from the PCC as they had served for six years. Sandra Horner was required to stand down from the PCC but was eligible for election for three years. Penny Power was required to stand down as she had been co-opted on to the PCC but was eligible to stand for election. Anne Howick would be providing nominations forms and job descriptions, which Rev'd Rachel would be putting on a table at the back of church. St Paul's also needs to elect two members to serve on Deanery Synod. The churchwardens are required to stand down each year.

(x) Appointment of Presiding Officer. In the event that there has to be a vote, there needs to be a Presiding Officer. Ian Johnson offered to be the Presiding Officer if necessary.

(xi) Postal voting. The PCC agreed that it should not be possible to have postal voting. The relevant paragraph would be deleted from the notice of the APCM.

(xii) Electoral Roll. It was noted that there are currently 149 on the Electoral Roll. In answer to a question from Anne Howick, Anne Harkness agreed to check with Rufus Ballaster if he wished to continue as the Electoral Roll officer.

1381 Dates of next PCC meetings

Rev'd Rachel and Anne Howick would be meeting to agree these dates. It was noted that Youth Explore would be taking place on some Wednesdays in future, and the Baptism and Confirmation course would be on Thursdays.

11382 Date of meeting to update congregation on PCC Vision

It was agreed that on Sunday 28th June at 12 noon, after the 10.30 am service, everyone should be encouraged to bring their own lunch and to meet for an update on the PCC Vision. Ian Johnson offered to take notes of Archdeacon Allie's recommendations at the meeting on Sunday 3rd May.

There being no further business, the meeting closed with prayer and the Grace.