

St James the Great, Cradley

Minutes of PCC meeting – 25th June 2025 at 19.00
Held at Reafields, courtesy of Chris and Di Roberts

Present: Mike Hames [in the chair], Jane MacFarlane, Peter and Sue Warner, Ian and Sue Bailey, Chris and Di Roberts, Margaret Edgar, John Parsons

The first part of the meeting comprised Safeguarding Training given by Wendy Long. Wendy was thanked for her help, and for leading our discussions.

1. The meeting opened with a prayer at 19.00
2. Apologies were received from Sue Ronan and Eryl Copp
3. Conflicts of interest. John Parsons – re Katharine's appointment as a School Foundation Governor.
4. Wendy responded to various questions regarding the Cradley Safeguarding Checklist.
5. A few amendments were made to the minutes of the last meeting, and then approved.
6. There were no matters arising of any significance.

Reports

7a Fabric See report

There was a meeting with the architect today, regarding progress on the WC. Building work will have to cease for a month pending the installation of a new electricity cable. The hope is that this work will be free of charge. Ian is consulting on this.

Ian mentioned that part of the churchyard wall along Rectory Lane has become unstable. This will require assessment.

7b Church Wardens See report

Jane was thanked for taking on the weekly Pew Sheet.

There has been a request that the most recent entry on the 'E-news' section of the website should be at the top. The point was also made that the E-news is perhaps superfluous as it duplicates the Pew Sheet; the only difference being that it usually incorporates some photos.

7c Treasurer's report See report

It was agreed that the PCC needs more clarification before fees for the recent request for a Wedding Vows Renewal can be agreed.

7d Worship Committee There was no report

7e Churchyard See report

The PCC approved and confirmed Tony's roles as Chair of the Churchyard Committee and Mowing Rota Co-ordinator for 2025, and noted his intention to stand down from these positions at the end of the year.

Tony is looking for volunteers for hay-making in the Spring Meadow for the week starting 21/7 and 18/8.

7f Outreach and Events See report

There have been comments that £10 for the Open Gardens programme is too high a price. It was decided therefore that free drinks and cake [with the exception of Pimm's] would be offered, with a donation plate. All were in favour.

7g Eco Church

John has had the certificate framed, but a decision needs to be made as to where to hang it.

7h Health and Safety

The Accident Book has not yet been checked.

8. Approval of appointment of School Foundation Governor.

Ian Bailey proposed that Katharine Parsons be appointed, seconded by Maggie. All were in favour, with John abstaining.

9. Benefice Profile update, and Nicholas Lowton's report.

Various comments were made for possible alterations to the Benefice Profile, and Peter was congratulated and thanked for his superb work on this, together with the rest of the team.

Concern was raised about the critical tone of Nicolas Lowton's report. Though he made some good points, the report was largely unconstructive and contained substantial inaccuracies. The meeting felt it not to be a true representation of our work at Cradley. Sue Warner will write to the Archdeacon to register the concerns of the PCC.

Sue Warner made the point that we need to decide who will be on the interview panel, and who should be guides. It was decided that Ian and Di will be guides, and that the two interviewers will be chosen in due course from Peter, Chris, Eryl and Mike.

10. Audio-visual system and data projector.

Peter reported that he has made an application to the Joseph Rank Trust.

It has been decided to delay obtaining an interim projector for the time being.

Chris said that we could apply to the Parish Council for a grant towards AV equipment.

11. AOB

Ian and Peter underlined the importance of obtaining decent equipment should we decide to continue live stream services. It was decided to continue to live stream services for now, using Peter's equipment.

12. Future meetings

Wed 6th August, 7.30 at Reafields.

The meeting closed with the Grace at 22.28.

Signed.....

Date.....