

St James the Great, Cradley

Minutes of PCC meeting – 6th August 2025 at 19.30

Held at Reafields, courtesy of Chris and Di Roberts

Items for action are marked in **bold**.

Present:

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

1. Mike opened the meeting at 19.30 with a lovely reading and prayer.
2. Apologies were received from Eryl Copp.
3. There were no declarations of interest.
4. The minutes of the previous meeting were signed as a true record.
5. Matters arising.

Sue Warner said anyone meeting the candidates on the first day of the interviews, as they are shown round, should provide feedback to the interviewers.

Eryl reported that the gifts of Bibles from the church to the school leavers were very gratefully received.

6. a] Fabric

Ian reported that the damaged churchyard wall bordering Rectory Lane will need to be rebuilt. Meanwhile, **Ian will put hazard tape along the wall** to warn passers-by of its dangerous state. **Chris will make contact with insurers** in the hope that they might be able to help.

Ian has a new quote for the roof work which is much more competitive than previous, and it is hoped that the work will be undertaken soon. All were in favour that this roofer should be appointed.

b] Wardens

Ian, Di and Jane were thanked for their recent hard work.

c] Treasurer

John requested that the profits from the recent organ recital be added to the Organ Fund, as advertised.

d] Worship

Peter will officiate for the Sung Evensong on 17th August.

e] Churchyard

Tony intends to stand down as chair of the Churchyard Committee as from January 2026. However, **Chris will contact the insurance company** to see if they could extend the policy to cover older volunteers.

Tony has appealed for volunteers to mow and bale in the week starting 18th August. **John and Mike said they would endeavour to help.**

A desire was expressed that the NE Churchyard should in future be mown short in the summer, instead of being left as a meadow. All were agreed that this change should be adopted.

f] O&E

Harvest – all were agreed that there should be a lunch after the C4A service at which the bread made by children in church the previous day, could be consumed.

John said that the organist for next year's recital is not available for the usual Sunday following Easter, but might be available in late May. It was thought this would be possible. **John will get a firm date** as soon as possible.

Peter talked about the proposed link between the church and the Village Hall's Christmas Fair on 6th Dec. Various issues were discussed, and **Peter was asked to get back to the VH committee** for clarification on these.

g] Eco Church

John has displayed the Eco Church certificate on the chest in church.

h] H&S

There were no entries in the accident book.

7. Parish/Benefice Profile

Peter has made some minor changes to the Cradley Profile.

A suggested Statement of Need [aka 'Person Profile'] has been sent by the diocese, a version of which will be added to the Cradley Parish Profile.

Mike and Peter will fine-tune it for our present needs.

Peter requested that the PCC endorse the Cradley and the Benefice profiles; Mike proposed its adoption, and all were in favour.

Mike reported that some parishioners would like to give their views on the personal qualities that we should be seeking in a new Rector. He agreed, as the Benefice morning on June 14th had been attended by relatively few members of the wider community, and was considered to be poorly led. Information gathered would not form part of the Benefice Profile, but might be useful to the churchwardens as they show applicants round the church, and to the two interviewers. He suggested that brief, anonymous, written comments be invited after each of the next four church services, and he would collate the responses. The proposal was seconded by Sue Ronan and carried nem con.

The following were thanked for their greatly-appreciated work on the Profile: George Howe, Peter and Sue Warner, and Mike.

8. Statement of Need – see above.

9. There was a vote to determine which of the nominated members would represent Cradley on the interview panel. The result [which was close]: Mike and Peter.

10. Safeguarding

Action Plan: Some items [in red] will be confirmed at the next meeting.

Risk Assessments: Sue Warner asked if people to contact her about roles they have within the church which might require a risk assessment.

Information documents: Sue Warner said that these are displayed in the church porch. Protocol for reporting incidents, plus other reference documents will also be kept in a 'Safeguarding' file in the church.

Mike proposed that the PCC support Sue Ronan in her roles as worship leader, and pastoral visitor. All were agreed. This was required by the diocese for a new type of online form, which she has found very tiresome.

Members concurred that these irksome requirements could put people off volunteering for these roles in the future.

11. Organ

John reported that, since his report on the organ two and a half years ago, the instrument has deteriorated further in certain areas. We recently received a survey and quote from Anthony Hall of Clevedon Organs, for what might be termed a 'minor restoration'.

John reminded the PCC that in January 2023 the idea of creating an organ restoration fund was turned down, but that the PCC nevertheless committed to maintaining the organ in good working order going forward. Minutes from 18/1/23;

"...the PCC declared its intention to maintain the organ in good playing condition in the future, financing this through the general church fund".

John outlined a possible funding plan, espoused by Roger Judd [the Diocesan Organ Advisor], which he believes is being used at Bosbury for their organ restoration project. **Chris will contact the Treasurer of Bosbury PCC to find out about this.**

Concern was registered regarding the cost of the work, although it was thought we might qualify for grants. Reluctance was also reaffirmed about opening another restricted fund for the organ.

John was asked to **provide his own report, and to try and ascertain a time-frame for the work. John will also circulate Mr Hall's report to members.**

12. The PCC approved Peter's request to apply for a faculty in order to apply for grants for the planned AV system.

13. Village Hall proposal

Internet.

Questions were raised about the viability of piggy-backing on the Village Hall connection, and/or the possibility of installing the church's own internet connection. It is hoped that a mutually acceptable joint arrangement can be made.

Projector.

Regarding the possibility of sharing a projector with the Village Hall, it was thought that the church should buy its own when funds become available.

14. PCC Code of Conduct

The PCC agreed to adopt the Diocese's PCC Code of Conduct.

The diocese's Introduction to the Parochial Church Council document was also accepted – this can be given to people considering membership

15. AOB

Ian proposed that no 10.00 communion service should take place on Wed 3rd Sept, but that the congregation should be invited instead to join Bishop Richard for prayers in church at 11.40. This was agreed.

16. Dates

The next meeting will be on Monday 29th September at 7.30 at Reafields.

The meeting ended at 22.04 with the Grace

Signed.....

Date.....