

St James the Great, Cradley

Minutes of PCC meeting – 29th September 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], Ian and Sue Bailey, Jane MacFarlane, Peter and Sue Warner, Margaret Edgar, Chris and Di Roberts, John Parsons

1. Mike opened the meeting at 19.35 with some comments about St Michael, and a prayer.
2. Apologies were received from Sue Ronan and Eyrl Copp.
3. There were no declarations of interest
4. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as a true record and will be published on the website.

5. Matters arising:

Chris said the insurers will not cover the wall damage.

Chris also said **he will try again to contact the Treasurer of Bosbury church** to see how he organises their organ restoration fund.

Peter said that it has been suggested by the Village Hall Committee that the £1 entrance fee for the Christmas Fair could be shared between the church and the village hall, and that the church could run its own stalls in church for its own profit.

John said he would **chase up the organist to confirm the date for next year's recital**.

John apologised that he hasn't had time to do the organ report, but **he will do this as soon as he can**.

6. A] Fabric

The quotes for the wall repair recommend that it is rebuilt completely, and all were agreed that the job should be done thoroughly. It was agreed that we should indicate to Colwall Stone that we intend to use

them, but delay the work whilst we look for grants. In the event that grants are not forthcoming the Webster Fund could be used.

B] Treasurer

Mike thanked the cream tea team, through whose work over £1k has been raised.

It was thought that a new stewardship campaign should be undertaken when the new incumbent arrives. **Chris and Sue Bailey said they would liaise over the production of a new leaflet.**

A working party is required to **clear unrequired items from the tower storage area.**

C] Wardens – see report

D] Worship Committee – see report

E] Churchyard

It was noted that Tony will retire as chairman in January, and it was thought that volunteers could be found from the current lawn-mowing rota. **Mike will ask Tony to contact the people on the rota to ask.**

The graveyard plot plan has been updated.

F] O&E

An unknown person erroneously claimed the £40 open gardens raffle prize from the village shop. **Sue Warner will send a card from the PCC** for the village shop expressing our sorrow over this, and thanking them for their ongoing contribution to Cradley life.

G] Eco Church

John reported that he'd recently given a talk to Cradley Wild about Eco Church, and that there was a positive exchange about possible coordination and joint projects.

H] H&S

There were no entries in the accident book

I] Safeguarding

Sue Warner spoke about the list of church activities that need to be approved by the PCC. She made the point that this only refers to core church activities, and that the list should be adjusted with this in mind. Mike suggested that Wendy Long should be consulted in this matter. A discussion ensued about which activities should be included. Mike and Sue Warner will meet to discuss this further to make a conclusive list.

7. Organ

It was reported that a second survey has been carried out by David Gallichan, which differs quite substantially from the previous survey by Anthony Hall, and is competitive, at about £15,000.

It was thought that a third opinion should be sought, and **John will approach the next recommendation from the diocesan organ advisor**, Roger Judd.

8. Glebe land

An informal meeting was recently convened with officers of the PCC and the Diocesan Secretary, Sam Pratley regarding the planning application on the glebe. Whereas Mr Pratley recognised the Diocesan 'duty of care' for the people and environment of its parishes, he maintained that his principal concern was to liquidate land assets and help balance the books. He wished to stay in touch with the PCC, but nevertheless will press ahead the application.

9. Chest

ChurchCare has awarded a grant of £300 towards the cost of the conservation survey undertaken earlier this year. As an anonymous donation has already been received, this grant will go towards conservation. ChurchCare have also indicated the likelihood of a further grant towards the cost of conservation - to to be confirmed. Mike proposed, and all agreed, that these grants be accepted.

10. Clerical vacancy – see report.

11. There was no other business.

12. Next meeting: Wed 12th November at 19.30, Reafields.

The meeting closed at 21.25 with the Grace.

Signed.....

Date.....