

St James the Great, Cradley

Minutes of PCC meeting – 10th March 2026

Held in church

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

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

1. The meeting opened with a prayer at 14.30
2. Apologies were received from Eryl Copp
3. There were no declarations of interest.
4. The minutes of the previous meeting were signed as an accurate record.
5. Matters arising
 - Sue Bailey has produced the new form for the accident book.
 - There has been no communication from the diocese regarding the car park. **Chris will follow this up.**
 - Ian reported that the issue regarding damage to the Nifty Lift is ongoing.
 - Mike reported that the dates for the Herefordshire Histories Festival are: 9/10 May, 23/25 May, and 9/16 August. There will also be a sung evensong on 16 August. Tours of the church and churchyard will be laid on, and entry will be free - donations welcome.
 - Sue Ronan conveyed thanks to the PCC from her neighbour, Sorrel, for her very successful cake sale in church, which raised £83.10. Sorrel was hugely appreciative of our support.
6. A. Worship Committee. See report.
 - We now have full cover for services up until the arrival of the new Rector.
 - Many thanks to George Howe for his help with this.
 - B. Fabric Committee. See report, and accompanying documents.
 - Sue Bailey expanded on several items, including use and servicing of the new WC.

C. Treasurer. See report

Chris expanded on the finances regarding the toilet. He said that, whereas costs have increased in some areas, he was hopeful that our available funds will be able to cover these extra costs.

The point was made that the amount in the general fund is currently low, and income has been reducing in recent years. The last drive to raise awareness of the Giving Scheme was some time ago, and contributions have not all risen in line with inflation. It was suggested that, as church members, we should regularly review our own levels of giving.

Mike asked for a vote regarding his proposal in the Fabric Committee report: that fund-raising events this year must be directed to the General Fund only (apart from the organ recital on May 24, which has already been advertised). All were in favour apart from one vote against, and one abstention.

The point was made that the proceeds of the majority of concerts in the last few years have gone into the general fund, and that it is hoped that in a year or so concerts etc will be able to support the church's other fund-raising drives such as the AV system and the organ.

D. Church Wardens. See report.

Thanks were expressed to Margaret Edgar for the recent successful St David's Day concert.

It was agreed that the request of a parishioner for a bench in the churchyard would be granted.

E. O&E. See report.

Ian reported that a pull-up banner explaining costs of running the church, and appealing for donations, would cost about £100. In view of the current financial position, it was decided to put this off until matters improve.

F. Eco Church

Tony Copp has recently installed a Mason bee house in the churchyard. Regarding the geological display in church, Tony said, via John, that "the display was provided decades ago by the Earth heritage Trust. But no-one there remembers it".

Tony would like to know if there was an agreement with the AONB [now National Landscape] partnership. It was thought that there was an agreement, but that there are no details. It was decided that NL would be contacted when Rosie has settled in, and the reordering of the rear of the nave is considered.

John will label one of the bins in the kitchen for recycling.

G. Health and Safety

There were no entries in the accident book.

7. Annual Report and financial Statements to Dec 31st 2025

Peter thanked those who have put a great deal of work into the report. Copies were signed as required.

8. PCC officers - vacancies and renewals for nomination at APCM

Sue Bailey and Peter Warner are up for re-election onto the PCC, and there is one vacancy for nomination.

Di Roberts and Ian Bailey, having completed 6 years as Church Wardens, agreed to serve another year to assist Rosie in her first year as Rector. In accordance with the Church Representation rules, a resolution will need to be passed at the Annual Meeting of Parishioners to allow them to stand for this further year.

Chris Roberts and Mike Hames will continue as Deanery Synod Reps, but there is a further vacancy.

An announcement will be made at a service regarding the PCC and Deanery Synod roles, appealing for people to step forward.

9. Parish Newsletter

A] Following recent discussions about an unpublished article, the PCC warmly thanked the Editorial team for their invaluable work on the Three Villages Newsletter. The PCC supports the Editors' judgment and looks forward to continuing a positive, collaborative relationship in preparing future articles, bearing in mind the editorial guidelines recently discussed, and recognising how helpful open and timely communication is in supporting the smooth production of each edition.

B] It was noted that the PCC had received £500 from the Newsletter in 2025; a report from the Newsletter team will be received before the APCM. Having introduced herself to the team in 2025 as a link with the church during its vacancy for a Rector, Sue Warner (PCC Secretary) attended the Newsletter AGM on 27th January 2026 and expressed thanks on behalf of the PCC for their work. She also reported that the team were concerned that spare copies of the magazine were left at the church for which the team did not receive payment. It was agreed that, to avoid payment getting lost in the collection box in the wall, **a marked box be left out** with the magazines for payment so that the team are properly recompensed for all the magazines left in the church.

C] Publicity: In addition to the Newsletter, the PCC listed some other local and regional media outlets which have been or may be useful in promoting church activities and events: the Diocese of Hereford website and Weekly News, West of the Hills, Facebook, A Church Near You, the Church website, Herefordshire Histories, BBC Hereford and Worcester. In due course the PCC may wish to consider having a Press and Publicity officer.

10. Request for a Churchyard bench – see 6D.

11. Church Furniture

Chest: The work starts on 27/4/26. **A team will be needed to turn the chest in the morning.**

Bench in tower: The Diocesan Furniture Consultant, Rachel Sycamore, has recently inspected the old bench. She will research the date of it, and produce a brief report.

12. Organ

Mike proposed and Peter seconded, all were in favour, that we apply for a faculty for the proposed work to the organ.

John reported that Gary Owen's charge for organ tuning is £360. This is slightly more expensive than our current tuner, so it was decided to stay with him for now, switching to Gary when the work is more imminent.

John mentioned his plan to undertake a sponsored run in September in aid of the organ project, and it was said that this could go ahead, despite other fundraising events for the organ being on hold.

13. Safeguarding

There was nothing to report

14. AOB

Di Merker was thanked for her report on the visit to Malvern Priory to examine their children's area.

John mentioned that the photos of the church, taken by a friend using a drone, can be used as we wish. Peter will edit them, so as not to include any neighbouring properties.

15. The next meeting is the APCM on 19/4/26, 12.15, in church.

The meeting ended with the Grace at 17.05.

Signed.....

Date.....