

Present	Lucy Allen, Jema Ball, Steve Fairbairn, Sonia Home, John Gwyther, Caroline Jowett-Ive, Charley Maidment, James Newby, Caroline Owen, Francis Parkinson, Kate Pinfold, Nick Powlesland, Peter Robottom, Keith Sheather, Hazel Trapnell, Stephanie Wren, Edward Yates
Chair	Jema Ball
Minutes	Siân Steel
Apologies	Vivienne Francois, Tony Hughes, Madeleine McNeill, Al Meadows, Simon Potter, Brian Richardson, Julie Summers
Item	Notes
1.0	Opening reflection and Prayer
	There was a time of reflection on Exodus 17 and Jema opened the meeting in prayer.
	Jema informed the meeting that Vivienne Francois intends to resign from her position on the PCC, but hasn't yet submitted this in writing.
2.0	Apologies
2.1	Apologies (see above).
3.0	Minutes of previous meeting
3.1	Edward Yates proposed and Stephanie Wren seconded that the minutes were a true and accurate record. Majority in favour, there were 4 abstentions.
3.2	There were no matters arising from the PCC Minutes.
3.3	Leadership Team Meeting Notes – No matters arising.
4.0	Resourcing Mission
4.1	Our People
4.1.1	<p>General update</p> <p>Jema updated the PCC on Simon's illness and also informed the PCC that Albert Pearson has died. There was some discussion about a need for a replacement small group leader and small group preparation that Simon did. There was consensus that there are lots of resources of books for small group leaders, which might help as a stop-gap.</p> <p>Jema welcomed back Hazel following her Sabbatical and Hazel thanked the PCC for enabling her to have a really helpful time of rest and recreation.</p>
4.1.2	<p>Jema Ball EMDL</p> <p>Jema set out her plan for EMDL in 2026 from 26 April 2026 to 17 August 2026 (including 2 weeks annual leave) which was part of the paperwork sent to the PCC. There was a question about cover and Jema and Sonia explained that the ASMA team should help out during EDML. Caroline Jowett-Ive proposed and Caroline Owen seconded that the PCC approve Jema's EMDL in 2026. The PCC approved unanimously.</p>
4.1.3	<p>APCM planning</p> <p>Jema asked the PCC to fill in the sheet going round regarding PCC elections at the APCM, indicating whether members whose term is ending wished to stand for re-election</p>
4.1.4	<p>Youth Minister</p> <p>Jema went through the paper that was sent with the PCC paperwork and explained that we have not had a paid Youth Minister since 2023 and we also tried to recruit an ASMA Youth Minister last year, but were unsuccessful. Jema has been very grateful for Katie Brett, who has been leading Fuel and (until December) BULB on a part-time voluntary basis, but she will be leaving at in May. The proposal for a new Youth Minister would be for 15 hrs per week and</p>

	we would hope to advertise before Easter. Jema proposed that the PCC delegate authority to agree the recruitment pack details to the Leadership Team. There was some discussion but the PCC approved unanimously.
4.2	Our Finances
	<p>4.2.1 Accounts Caroline Owen went through the accounts and paperwork that was sent out with the agenda and also confirmed the deficit was down to £5,142. There was some discussion about 1 St Laud Close as the Diocese is keeping the amount that was left from the sale of £441k until we need it for the Church Rooms Redevelopment. Caroline confirmed that we will also receive the interest on this account.</p> <p>4.2.2 Charity Commission Annual Report Caroline Owen went through the report, there will be some slight changes to names and the accounts, and it will be brought back to the PCC in May for approval.</p> <p>4.2.3 CCLA Account Caroline Owen informed the meeting that new signatories are needed on the CCLA account. It was agreed the new signatories would be Caroline Owen, Tony Hughes, and Kate Pinfold. Nick Powlesland proposed and John Gwyther seconded. All in favour.</p>
4.3	Our Buildings
	<p>4.3.1 Church Rooms Development Update The DAC have confirmed that we need a full faculty rather than updating the existing one. However, it is on the agenda for the DAC on 20 March. Planning Permission by Bristol Council is looking positive for March and new plans have come through from the architect. There is a potential cost of £680k for the works and there is no firm start date. Post Meeting note: The DAC did not recommend the faculty application and we are now in discussion with them over the plans. This may delay the building project further. Planning Permission was granted on 21 March.</p>
5.0	Policies
5.1	Health and Safety Policy
	Siân brought the Health and Safety policy to the PCC for approval again as she discovered that there was asbestos in the building and felt the Health and Safety report should reflect that. There was some discussion, however, Kate Pinfold proposed and Caroline Owen seconded the approval of the Health and Safety Policy. All in favour.
6.0	Mission and ministry updates and decisions
6.1	Worship and Teaching There are 3 courses available at the moment. The Bereavement Course, Kintsugi Hope course and Alpha. Going deeper with God is continuing with planning for the weekend at Home on 15 and 16 March. Jema informed the PCC that they are regularly getting 50 people at Explore@4 which is really encouraging.
6.2	Outreach and Evangelism
	8 people from St Mary's are being confirmed on 16 March with Bishop Neil including 5 young people.
6.3	Connect and Support
6.4	Discerning Inclusion
	<p>Jema notified the PCC on the plans for discussion:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Any questions 2. Feedback from the worshipping community 3. Sharing in groups 4. Agree the next steps via vote. <p>Most groups after discussion agreed that they would want one meeting before the next PCC meeting and only include the PCC and not the wider church community.</p>

	<p>After some discussion it was agreed that Jema would put together an email including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sending out a poll to agree a date for the next meeting • Before the meeting takes place a poll will be sent out by email so that PCC members can indicate whether our discussions at the next session should begin from the premise that St Mary's is a church where different perspectives on this matter are held. If a majority are in favour of this, we will begin from that premise at the next session. • If a majority are in favour of this, the purpose of the next session will be to explore together what it might look like in practice to be a church where a range of perspectives are held. The aim would be to formulate a proposal which would be brought to the PCC at the meeting on 14 May.
6.5	Stoke Bishop C.E Primary School – no updates
6.6	ASMA - no further updates not already covered above.
6.6	Eco Church – no updates
6.7	Safeguarding – no updates
6.0	Any Other Business
6.1	No other business
7.0	Closing Prayer
	Sonia Home closed in prayer

Date of Next PCC Meeting – 14 May at 7.30pm in Church