

Present	Lucy Allen, Jema Ball, Steve Fairbairn, Sonia Home, John Gwyther, Tony Hughes, Caroline Jowett-Ive, Madeleine McNeill, Al Meadows, James Newby, Caroline Owen, Francis Parkinson, Kate Pinfold, Nick Powlesland, Rachel Powlesland, Brian Richardson, Peter Robottom, Keith Sheather, Hazel Trapnell, Stephanie Wren, Edward Yates
Present via Zoom	Charley Maidment and Julie Summers
Chair	Jema Ball
Minutes	Siân Steel
Apologies	Simon Potter
Item	Notes
1.0	Opening reflection and Prayer
	Jema opened in prayer and reflected on the unity of all believers and read from Ephesians 4.
2.0	Apologies
2.1	Apologies (see above).
3.0	Minutes of previous meeting
3.1	Stephanie Wren proposed and Peter Robottom seconded that the minutes were a true and accurate record. All in favour.
3.2	James Newby informed the PCC that their House Group are progressing and taking it in turns to lead the group in Bible Study.
3.3	<p>Thank Yous!</p> <p>Jema thanked all those who standing down from their elected PCC position - Lucy Allen, Charley Maidment, Madeleine McNeill, Edward Yates (although as a member of Diocesan Synod, Charley will be continuing on the PCC as an ex-officio voting member). Stephanie Wren has come to the end of her term and will be standing for re-election.</p> <p>Jema also thanked Caroline Jowett-Ive for her time, advice and wisdom as Churchwarden since 2020. As Caroline is unable to attend the APCM Jema also gave Caroline a gift and a card. There was a round of applause.</p> <p>Post meeting note: Since the PCC meeting and APCM, John Gwyther and Stephanie Wren have tendered their resignation from the PCC.</p>
4.0	Discerning Inclusion
4.1	Guiding Statement Document
4.1.1	In light of their roles on Leadership Team and their involvement with the Discerning Inclusion process, it was proposed that the PCC co-opt Siân Steel and Rachel Powlesland as voting members of the PCC until the APCM on 18 May. Lucy Allen proposed and Caroline Jowett-Ive seconded. The majority voted in favour, there was 5 abstentions and 1 against.
4.1.2	<p>Guiding Statements</p> <p>A letter to the PCC from Chris Thomas regarding the Discerning Inclusion process had been shared electronically with the PCC as an item of correspondence. This unfortunately was only sent to the PCC a few hours before the meeting due to the delay in the chair receiving confirmation from Chris Thomas that he definitely wanted it to be shared. The chair discouraged discussion about the letter though some comments were made by members.</p> <p>Peter Robottom expressed his concern about the voting process for section 5 of the Guiding Statements document. Francis Parkinson expressed concern with</p>

the paper as a whole and wished it to be noted that he felt the PCC needed more time to discuss the Guiding Statements prior to voting.

The PCC voted using an electronical voting form and the results were shared with the PCC. There was some confusion with question 5 and Madeleine McNeill and Al Meadows did not realise you could vote for more than one item. **Jema Ball proposed** that Madeline and Alasdair could update their vote on question 5. The majority were in favour, with 3 against and 3 abstaining.

Jema updated the PCC of the outcome of the votes, which were as follows.

Eligibility for Leadership Roles

Option A = 8 in favour

Option B = 14 in favour

Abstentions = 2

Outcome: Option B, carried by a majority of 14 out of 22 votes.

Teaching during public worship

Option A = 7 in favour

Option B = 14 in favour

Abstentions = 3

Outcome: Option B, carried by a majority of 14 out of 21 votes.

Pastoral care and discipleship

Option A = 7 in favour

Option B = 15 in favour

Abstentions = 2

Outcome: Option B, carried by a majority of 15 out of 22 votes.

Ministry with young people

Option A = 6 in favour

Option B = 16 in favour

Abstentions = 2

Outcome: Option B, carried by a majority of 16 out of 22 votes.

The Prayers of Love and Faith

5A = 6 in favour

5B = 15 in favour

5C = 10 in favour

5D = 12 in favour

5E = 15 in favour

Abstain from all of the above = 1

Outcome: There were 23 possible votes for each of the options 5A-E and therefore options 5B, 5D and 5E were carried by the majority.

In summary, the outcomes of the voting were that the more inclusive statements for each of the first four sections were selected by the majority, and *The Prayers of Love and Faith* were approved for use at St Mary's in public acts of worship, private homes and as stand alone services.

On 16 May there was an emergency PCC vote by correspondence, initiated by Jema in light of new information shared by the Archdeacon of Bristol. This led to one further amendment to revise the wording of the PLF paragraph in the Guiding Statements document to state that clergy at St Mary's will only use *The Prayers* in private homes and stand alone services once this has been permitted by General Synod. **Jema Ball proposed** the majority voted for this option with 6 abstentions.

	<p>Tony Hughes suggested that the PCC vote on the whole of the Guiding Statements paper including the wording before the voting options. Jema Ball proposed and Tony Hughes seconded that the PCC agree the whole of the guiding statements document. The majority voted in favour with 2 against and 6 abstentions.</p>
4.2	Next steps with the process
	<p>4.2.1 The final version of the Guiding Statements document, following the incorporation of the wording which received a majority of votes in each section will be shared with the PCC before the APCM.</p> <p>Jema outlined to the PCC, that she would be updating the wider congregation at the APCM and after the APCM there would be information on the website available regarding the outcomes of the Discerning Inclusion process. There will be links to further resources from the traditional viewpoint and from an affirming viewpoint. There will also be a document about unity and loving disagreement.</p> <p>Jema assured the PCC know that she will work really hard to ensure that unity is retained as far as possible, and that any future use of The Prayers of Love and Faith is handled carefully and with respect. Jema also let the PCC know that her door is open, if anyone would like to talk further with her about this subject. Jema also reminded the PCC that these statements are now in place for 3 years.</p> <p>Charley Maidment asked if this would affect the ASMA (Avonside Mission Area) group. Both Jema and Sonia expressed their view that this would not affect the ASMA partnership as there are already different perspectives held amongst the clergy and churches, and this hasn't negatively impacted working relationships.</p>
5.0	Resourcing Mission
5.1	Our People
	<p>5.1.1 General Update George and Katie Brett, Lewis Simonds and families are leaving after completing their studies at Trinity College. Charley Maidment is seconded to the Arctic and then Rome. Tristan our MES (Ministry Experience Scheme) worker may finish in July. Simon sends his love, but will not back in the foreseeable future. This means the staff team are low on numbers. Please pray for our Staff Team and for those ordinands and MES students starting courses in September.</p> <p>5.1.2 Younger Generations Minister recruitment There has been no interest in the Younger Generations Minister role, the closing date has now been left open.</p> <p>5.1.3 Jema Ball – EMDL (Sabbatical) Jema's EMDL has been approved by the Diocese for beginning of May 2026 until end of July 2026. Jema thanked the PCC for their support.</p>
5.2	Our Finances
	<p>5.2.1 Management Accounts Caroline Owen brought her notes on the accounts, that were sent out with the agenda to the attention of the PCC. Caroline did not have anything further to add and there were no questions.</p>
5.3	Our Buildings
	<p>5.3.1 Church Rooms Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jema Ball brought to the attention of the PCC the Buildings Committee notes that included updates regarding the redevelopment of the Church Rooms. Jema informed the PCC that the main works (with the contractor) is being overseen by Chris Thomas and Peter Robottom and the additional works will be overseen by Siân Steel.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter Robottom informed the PCC that the WECA grant for £15k has been approved for the air source heat pump for the Church Rooms. Peter also pointed out that the main hall doesn't include flooring. • Jema confirmed to the PCC that insulation of the Church rooms is included in the main works.
6.0	Mission and ministry updates and decisions
6.1	Worship and Teaching <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Going Deeper with God is picking up momentum with the month of accompanied prayer and 24/7 week. • Keith Sheather expressed his gratitude for the Annual Report and how well put together it was and easy to read. Jema thanked those who contributed to the Annual Report and Siân for pulling together and designing.
6.2	Outreach and Evangelism – no updates
6.3	Connect and Support We are grieving the loss of key church members and most recently David Baker whose Thanksgiving Service will be on 30 May (which would have been his 90 th birthday) at 12pm.
6.4	Stoke Bishop C.E Primary School – no updates
6.5	ASMA - no updates
6.6	Eco Church – no updates
6.7	Safeguarding – no updates
6.0	Any Other Business
6.1	Jema informed the PCC that from 25 May we will be reverting to the use of alcoholic Communion wine at all our services, with the option of alcohol-free wine in a small chalice for those who opt for this.
7.0	Closing Prayer
	Jema read Ephesians 4 again and closed in prayer

Date of Next PCC Meeting – 9 July at 7.30pm in Church