

St Thomas Wells with the Horringtons

Minutes of the meeting of the Parochial Church Council held on

Wednesday 29th October 2025

Present: Revd Claire Towns (Chair), Judy Penhaligon, Joanna Birkett, Ann Edmonds, Michaela Cross, Charlie Sutton, Mike Tolley, Rachel Thomas, Barbara Calverley, David Kennett, Ian Ames-White, John Samarpi, Gill Tucker

Apologies: Katie Steadman-Towns, Chris Jenkins, Christina Baron

1. **Opening Prayer:** Joanna opened the Meeting with prayer based on a reading from Ephesians 4: 11-13.
2. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 24th September 2025** – Following a couple of minor amendments, it was unanimously agreed the Minutes be signed as a correct record.
3. **Matters Arising:** there were no outstanding matters.
4. **Feedback from standing Committee:**
 - 4.1 **Confidential Minute** - this matter has been discussed further, and arrangements have been made;
 - 4.2 **Assistant organist** - Claire reported that Arnold Wills had agreed to become the Assistant Organist, on a three-month trial period. He will play for two Sunday services a month, and be paid £40 per service. Gill has agreed to take a reduction in her salary.
5. **Prayers for next Meeting:** John Samapri.

Claire left the Meeting at this point as she had a message that Katie was about to be admitted into hospital. Prayers were said for Katie and Claire.

Judy took over the Chair

6. Finance.

Figures for September had been distributed prior to the Meeting. Ian explained some of the issues that arose from the figures.

7. Vicar's Report

7.1 Grant for Joanna – following her installation as a Reader, Joanna is exploring the subject of Chaplaincy in schools. Joanna explained details of a Course offered by Spiritus College in Plymouth. The cost of this Course is £900. The Diocese will pay £300 towards the amount, and Joanna is asking if the PCC could also provide £300 (she herself would pay the remaining £300). Joanna left the room briefly at this point while the discussion took place. The PCC has no specific policy on these requests. Following a short discussion, Ann proposed that we support Joanna by providing £300; this was seconded by Ian and unanimously agreed.

7.2 Ideas for 2026 – this issue was held over until the next Meeting.

8. Christmas Outreach – Christmas Cards will once again be sent out to each house in the Parish detailing all the Events and Services to be held over the Christmas period.

9. Christmas Charities –

The following Charities were suggested:

Local Charities – YMCA, St Margaret’s Hospice, St Lawrence Centre

National Charities – Save the Children, Children’s Society, Bibic

International Charities – Embrace the Middle East, Ukraine International, Water Aid

These suggestions will be put to the congregation so that one Charity from each section can be selected.

10. Legacy Project Team –

Rachel reported that the Team had met to set up the Aims and Objectives. Small and large projects will be identified and brought to the PCC for discussion.

Rachel was thanked for starting this discussion.

11. Safeguarding –

Mike is in the process of providing a Service Agreement for Dashboard, information being transferred from a spreadsheet to Dashboard. He reported that some people still needed basic DBS checks. There was some discussion as to how many people need the Basic Training.

Mike was thanked for all the work he had done.

12. Events and Mission –

12.1 Christian Aid Concert - Michaela reported that the money raised from the Concert for Christian Aid was £420. (the profits from the bar will go into Church funds). It was agreed that the Concert went well, despite all the other events taking place in Wells that evening. Michaela was thanked for organizing this event.

(Following the Meeting, Michaela reported that £575 was raised from the distribution of envelopes during Christian Aid Week, and £120 was raised from the Coffee Morning held in the Church)

12.2 Garden party – this had been a very successful afternoon, and will be held again next year.

12.3 All Souls - a Service of remembrance will be held at 6.30pm on Sunday 2nd November.

13. Information –

A ‘Light Party’ will be held on Friday 31st October from 5.00-6.30pm in the Church Hall (this replaces the October Crafty Church morning).

14. Dates of future Meetings –

PCC – 7.00pm on 26th November 2025, 28th January 2026 & 25th February 2026

Standing Committee - TBC

APCM – Wednesday 25th March 2026.

The Meeting closed with the Grace at 8.45pm