

1. Mike Tolley led the opening prayers.

2. **Apologies** – Rachel Thomas and Katie Steadman Towns.

2a. **Correspondence.** Received thanks for Christmas donations from Heads Up, YMCA, Aid for Ukraine. (Ukraine money actually went to the wrong group.)

Due to subsidence at the vicarage a Pittosporum tree in churchyard needs to be removed. Ian offered to come with a chainsaw and cut it down but it would also need stump grinding. PCC agreed.

3. **Minutes** of meeting Jan 28<sup>th</sup>. Agreed

4. **Matters arising.** Community room work. In hand to be done soon.

5. **Prayers for next meeting.** Leave for now. (not sure who will be on PCC following APCM)

6. **Financial update.** £562 per day is outgoing costs – to be included in the annual Report so that people get a true sense of how much we need to run the church. The January figures look more bleak as some December bills have been paid. Ian proposed: *that St. Thomas run our accounts, from January 2026 with two account types – General and Restricted. The General Fund will hold funds for General Purpose expenditure. The Restricted Fund will hold named funds that have a legal or procedural requirement for the funds to be treated in a specific way.* Unanimously agreed.

Agreed not to record assets.

7. **Safeguarding update.** DBS and training is on-going happening. Risk assessments in hand for various activities.

8. **Deanery and General Synod reports.**

**General Synod.** Archbishop Sarah reflected on Serving, not new initiatives.

Burial costs – Synod voted against imposing higher fees.

Care for disabled and older people. Commend carers.

Faith in the City – anniversary..

Working class vocations – struggling to encourage people from working class backgrounds.

LLF - Vote to discontinue LLF but to continue discussions.

Flowers – Synod recommended that artificial foam should be discouraged in churches, as should imported flowers. PCC agreed to follow Synod's guidance and for oasis to no longer be used in St Thomas, and for us to pursue using UK flowers and pot plants instead.

**Deanery.** (Picture, Nicodemus and Jesus by Tissot)

Mendip Community Transport desperate for drivers. A great support for the community. Suggestion to have a concert in St Thomas, with the audience being people brought in by Community Transport.

9. **APCM and PCC places.**

Mike has completed 3 years and will not re-stand this year. Rachel happy to be co-opted or take an elected place. Barbara still thinking about it. 3 elected member places and 3 deanery synod places are available.

Chris and Judy happy to re-stand as Churchwardens.

10. **Churches Together in Wells Area.** Lynn Rendell to be the St Thomas rep.

**11. Reports.** Worship and Pastoral Care Team reports were circulated before the meeting.  
Training for server/Sacristan. 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> March during coffee.  
Home communions. People need foundation level Safeguarding training and DBS.  
Training for Reading and leading intercessions will be offered after Easter.

**12a. Churchwardens report.** Ecclesiastical Insurance survey. Pretty good.  
Need for a Key holder survey.  
Fire alarm check, Adam will arrange.

**12. Legacy Team feedback.** See sheet from Rachel.  
Ian gave some figures. If we spend nothing and get no increase in income we will need to close in 21 years time. The more we spend with no increase in income, the less time we can stay open!  
Hall survey just received. Basic structure in good shape but some asbestos and windows need to be upgraded.  
Christina asked Should we be looking seriously about the number of C of E churches in Wells?  
Need to look at what we want for the future which will steer our spend.

**13. Away Day and Church Hall discussion.** 25<sup>th</sup> April. Venue TBC.  
Attempt to bottom out what our priorities should be for the immediate future, with a clear focus on the hall.  
Members try to visit other churches/Halls.

**14. Information and suggestions for next PCC.**  
Dinder unable to keep on paying their share in full. As it's now calculated as a benefice share, we need to find out if St Thomas might be responsible for the shortfall.

**15. Dates of future meetings.** APCM Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March.

Claire thanked the existing PCC and especially Mike as he is stepping down.

The meeting closed with the Grace.