

## *The Parish of St.Thomas Werneth*

### Minutes of P.C.C. meeting Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 7p.m. via Zoom.

#### 1. **Welcome and prayers.**

Meeting was chaired by Rev. Zahra who welcomed everyone and opened in prayer.

#### 2. **Present:** Revd. Nick Andrewes, Revd. Richard McEwan, Revd .Zahra Shafiei, Janet Campbell, Mercy Ekhoesuehi, Graham Lees, Kathy Lees, Abigail Ogbesusi.

**Apologies.** Ann Batchelor, Nasreen Masih.

#### 3. **Minutes of meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

3.1) Accepted as a true account. Proposed by Janet, seconded by Graham and passed unanimously.

#### 3.2) Matters Arising

From the Parish Mission Action Plan.

- We have started to have a reflective hymn at the beginning of each morning service and this is appreciated.  
NURTURING.
- Adeena, Henry and Michael have been added to the list of readers.
- The P.C.C. discussed plans for Lent activities and decided to offer a group discussion at St Thomas' on Thursdays at 11-30 am running alongside the English class. We have chosen to study "Fit for Purpose" by Ed. Hone. It will be offered to St. Paul's on Tuesday evenings at 7pm. It was agreed on Thursdays, we could serve soup after the session, though we noted that Ramadan might affect Moslem participation.  
SERVING.
- We will apply for more chairs and another chair dolly.
- A Madhlo youth group for over 13 year olds is using the church for their activities.
- A Family Fun Day being fronted by Carrie-Ann is to take place during half term under the HAF scheme. We anticipate that, in the week after Easter, they will be in for 4more days.

- Church is acting as a polling station for 7<sup>th</sup> May elections.
- Arising from the “Mission Community Action Plan” there has been a meeting of Social Justice Champions at St. Paul’s Church.

### 3.3). Other Matters Arising.

Zahra proposed giving John and Max , who have helped with church maintenance, a £30 gift card each as a “thank you” which the PCC agreed to.

## 4. Vicar’s Update.

### SERVING

- An application for a “One Oldham Grant”  
This application, which if successful, would be used to purchase new gates, more chairs, a chair dolly, and repairs and repointing of sections of the church walls. We hope to hear positively by end February.
- Feedback on Christmas Services.  
Was positive particular because of input from the young people. Nick apologised for not organising a New Year’s Eve watchnight service.  
Servers. Are there any volunteers and would they wear girdles and robes? Michael is possibly a volunteer. To be reviewed.

### NURTURING.

- Confirmation Dates.  
Rejoice, Henry and Michael are the candidates. Potential dates were discussed.

## 5. Screens.

P.C.C . agreed with the Statement of Need and the Statement of Significance. Proposed by Nick seconded by Graham. Carried unanimously and this will go on an application for a Faculty.  
We accepted the quotation for fixed screens from Piranha Audio. Proposed by Nick seconded by Janet. Carried unanimously and we will apply for a faculty on this basis.

## **6. Window Repairs.**

We have had recent storm damage, and windows near the organ chamber have been damaged causing the church to feel colder. P.C.C. agreed to accept a quote from Bolton Stained Glass for £8,154 and to apply for a faculty under List B. We'll need to pay for excess. Proposed by Graham and seconded by Mercy. Passed unanimously.

Additionally, a quote to protect glass in the porch above the door has been obtained from Pendle Stained Glass but an additional quote is being sought.

## **7. Correspondence**

None.

## **8. Racial Justice Grant.**

There's an opportunity to apply for a racial justice grant which could fund intercultural activities, including Bring and Share meals, day trips for children and adults, festival celebrations with the Zimbabwean and Romanian church and an intercultural choir.

In addition, Richard proposed organising a united service with the Zimbabwean church perhaps at Pentecost.

Richard has also had a conversation with the head at St. Thomas School who told him that school were happy for us to use their minibus for days out at the weekend.

## **9. Arrangements for Cleaning the Church**

Dmitru, from the Romanian church, has been approached about cleaning the premises on Saturdays in lieu of rent, with a 2 hour cleaning period. There would be a handover session with Janet/Kathy to explain procedures and to review current cleaning duties on the website.  
Re. indoor waste bins.

Correct recycling isn't happening making it very difficult for those who transfer from indoor to outdoor bins. We could take photographic evidence to share with Christine and others in the hope that this will lead to improvement. Christine will bring a green food waste caddy for her group.

## **10. Reports**

### **10.1 Safeguarding**

Parish Safeguarding Plan Update.

### **10.2 Use of Church**

We should receive £325 when the church is used as a polling station. Rumanian church will now be off the list of receipts, if they take on cleaning duties in lieu.

### **10.3 Finance**

**Financial Report** was looked at. Janet noted that the gas bill for the last quarter was twice as much as last year's cost for this quarter. Nick and Graham to contact Jason about ways to reduce these costs, perhaps by exploring solar panels and alternative heating systems.

#### **Parish Fees.**

These were accepted.

#### **Monies received on behalf of Children's Society.**

Mercy discussed the status of Children's Society collections, with Janet clarifying that only plate collections would go to Children's Society, while regular envelopes would remain with the church.

### **10.4 Mission Community**

**Laura Tebay** is continuing to offer training to those wanting to be involved with the young people.

**Safeguarding** . Nick discussed the need for local safeguarding training for P.C.C. members, mentioning plans for a meeting with parish safeguarding leads.

**School Governance Structures.** There are changes to this. Nick explained that St. Thomas School has joined the Crompton House Multi Academy Trust ,which will affect how church members are appointed to governing bodies.

**Gifts and Legacies.** A possibility of informing parishes about leaving gifts and legacies to churches is being mooted.

### **10.5 Health and Safety.**

Trees have been felled and branches pruned. Many thanks to Graham and Max.

### **10.6 Social and Other Dates**

Next Bring and Share meal? Mothers Day ? Easter Sunday?

### **11. Dates.**

Date of next P.C.C. meeting is to be Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm via zoom.

Reports for A.G.M .need to be written and presented before 19th March. (next P.C.C. meeting)

Date of A.G.M. to be arranged.

The meeting was closed as we said the Grace.