

The Parish of St. Thomas Werneth

Minutes of P.C.C. meeting Thursday 30th April 2026 at 7p.m. via Zoom.

1. Welcome and prayers.

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

2. Present: Revd. Nick Andrewes, Revd. Richard McEwan, Revd. Zahra Shafiei, Ann Batchelor, Janet Campbell, Graham Lees, Kathy Lees.

Apologies. Nasreen Masih.

3. Minutes of meeting of 5th February 2026.

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

3.2) Matters Arising

From the Parish Mission Action Plan.

GROWING.

Welcoming, including and encouraging.

We are in the Public Notice period for faculty permission on plans to install wall mounted T.V.'s in the church. We have applied for grants from various funds, including Oldham Parish Church Education Fund and Racial Justice Grant.

NURTURING.

Nurturing Farsi/Dari speaking congregation members.

This is not now part of Mission Action Plan at the moment but Farsi support can be continued through informal appointments with Zahra.

Supporting people into other roles and ministries.

Toyin is willing to attend a meeting about leading intercessions. Adeena, Henry and Michael are happy to read the first lesson but need to know when it is their turn.

There is to be a confirmation service at St.Thomas' on May 10th.

SERVING.

Hosting activities for all members of the community.

English classes run by Daniel and Mei Whetham are continuing. Recent successes include a Family Fun Day and H.A.F. sessions during Easter. Richard shared his positive experience observing a Relaxed Kids Session which focusses on mindfulness for special needs children from St. Thomas' school. Jo (Organiser) hopes to do another session in the summer holidays.

Church will continue to host baby bonding programme in January and will pay for church use.

We'll postpone purchasing another chair dolly till St.Paul's gets theirs thus saving postage.

Use of church by Madhlo has discontinued because of poor uptake.

- Improving our buildings better to serve the community.

We have received a grant of £120,000 from One Oldham Fund which will cover re-pointing and the architect's fees for that and also replacing some stonework.

- Moving forward with Eco church.

De – carbonisation audit has arrived.

SUSTAINABILITY.

Building maintenance to prevent deterioration.

Dead wood has been cleared away from grounds .The grounds continue to be very well cared for and attractive. Special thanks to Graham and Max.

3.3). Other Matters Arising. (Not part of Mission Action Plan)

Max has received a gift (mentioned in previous minutes) but John hasn't. We will follow up to ensure John receives his.

We have a List B and Bolton Stained Glass company are coming on 5th May to board up and do window repairs.

We will not use the superfrontal on the altar for practical reasons.

We are pleased with the work of the Romanian Church in cleaning the church in lieu of room hire. We need to encourage them to leave the chairs out for our Sunday service, rather than put them back in the dolly.

4. Vicar's Update.

- Joint Service and meal with BICC church to be arranged possibly for 28th June.

- Feedback on Lent Course and Easter Services.

The discussions based on “Fit for Purpose” which Richard had recommended were much appreciated .

We were encouraged by the children's participation in the Passion Gospel readings during the Palm Sunday Service, led by Richard.

Maundy Thursday service was well attended and the Good Friday and Easter Sunday services went well.

- Appreciation was also expressed to Zahra for co-ordinating a “Prayer for Iran” evening. Other countries were also included and friends from other fellowships also attended this very meaningful time.

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5. Screens.

Proposal. That P.C.C. is happy to make an application for a Racial Justice Grant of £2,500 for mounted TV screens and £500 for Bring and Share food . Both of these would enrich worship and celebrate diverse cultures. The proposal was accepted unanimously.

6. Correspondence.

Letter of thanks has been received from the Bishop as we have paid the Parish Share in full.

7. Annual Reports and A.P.C.M.

We noted that Annual Reports and accounts had been provided and P.C.C. is happy to present them to A.P.C.M. on 31st May. Proposed by Nick Andrewes and seconded by Kathy Lees.

P.C.C. membership updates were discussed with Mercy, Janet and Abigail standing for re-election for another 3 years.

8. Financial Options - looking to the future.

Nick presented 2 options to help Atif's financial situation as he is currently in debt to the church.

There are concerning financial trends because of high gas bills and room hire costs. Graham suggested that installation of solar panels might be necessary for our long term survival and suggested that we should seriously consider this. It would also be in line with strengthening our eco credentials. We need to discuss this at our next P.C.C. meeting.

9. Future Dates.

Mission Community meeting on May 6th at St. Stephen's and All Martyrs.

Ascension Day service at the above church on Thursday 14th May. A.P.C.M. on Sunday 31st May at 11-45a.m.

Next P.C.C. meeting to be on Thursday 2nd July at 7p.m via Zoom.

The meeting was closed as we said the Grace.