



## PARISH OF GREAT BERKHAMSTED

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Meeting of the Parochial Church Council held in the Court House  
Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September at 8pm

### **A G E N D A**

Start time: 20:00

Attendance:

Stuart Owen  
Richard Hackworth  
Sarah Elder  
Mike Below  
Chris Green  
Tim Hennessey  
Carolynne Charman  
Carole Dell  
Chris Chatterton  
Martin Moore  
Susan Holmes  
Hillary Elliot  
Will Gore

1. Prayers
2. Apologies - Chris Chatterton
3. Notification of matters for consideration under Any Other Business
  - feedback from archdeacon's visitation
  - notification on organ at All Saints
  - note about PCC secretary
4. Approval of Minutes of the PCC Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2024  
discussion of PCC email to be added
5. Matters Arising  
Group to meet regarding maximising Courthouse income – haven't met yet  
Use of smart water as security on smaller items not yet followed up
6. Financial Report  
Several questions discussed in relation to the report, including moving of funds to better make use of interest rates and how numbers relate to time scale.  
Heating system – MB 18 months ago it wasn't used but was on last year for all services (Sunday, Wednesday and Friday choir practise) with mixed results. Financial reasons not to have it on. Should we continue to keep it on this year? Discussion raised several possibilities, including sponsorship and the need to swallow lower costs to better serve congregation. After discussion, SO proposed heating on all services till Christmas, MM to liaise with choir

re need. Agreed. Additional discussion of charges for funerals. General agreement to keep those as is. Additional discussion of sponsorship for flowers. More conversations on this in future.

Rectory Lane Cemetery – Discussion of current financial contribution of the PCC to Rectory Lane Cemetery of £5,000 a year. General discussion of the positive outcomes of maintaining that relationship, but also questions over the nature of the obligation, especially if the parish faces financial difficulties. SO proposed to keep the £5,000 payment this year, but in November PCC meeting set the contribution after smaller group meets with parties at RLC. General agreement after discussion of deficit.

7. Committee/Group Reports

- Buildings Committee - haven't met
- Fundraising Committee – CG - Several positive moves forward regarding architects etc but need to be aware of the overall complexity and sequencing of a project like this. Lottery Heritage Fund is vitally important for projects success so would be the next stage moving forward. In terms of actual fundraising, lots of success in recent months that should be celebrated.  
MB – need to make sure funds are labelled flexibly so it can be used more widely – fabric fund. SO propose fabric fund - agreed
- Pastoral Committee – jogging along

8. Children and families – SE - Lots of positive work being done in making church a more welcoming space for children and their families, especially in terms of signposting to future events and building traditions that keep families coming back. Several pushes to get children more involved in intercessions etc as well as building relationship between the Sunday School and the choir. Very important that the wider congregation actively recognise the children as worshippers in church, who are also doing the work of the church.

9. Safeguarding – jogging along

10. Festival of Light – is in two months time. Have the volunteers to sustain it but need someone, or maybe two people, to coordinate as Mark Grego has decided to stand down. TH will announce on Sunday and CC to go to Robin about pew leaflet

11. Date of Next Meeting – **26<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

12. Any Other Business

PCC secretary – SO happy to do it for now. But would be good to find someone else

All Saints Organ – just an FYI from RH that All Saints have received a gift to buy a new organ. RH is supporting due process through the diocese

Archdeacon's visitation – just an FYI that it was a generally positive visit. Impressed with current safeguarding. Need to digitise catalogue of church plate. SH is doing this. But work does need to be done on the mission action plan

Thanks to TH and CG for their work on the PCC over many years

13. The Grace

Meeting ended: 21:04

## Future Meetings

26th November

2025  
25th February  
1st April (Zoom for APCM reports approval, provisional)  
6th April APCM (Provisional)  
20th May  
24th June  
23rd September  
25th November  
2026  
24th February