

St Peter's Church, Grandborough
Minutes of the APCM held at 10.15 am on 19th April 2026
at St Peter's Church, Grandborough

1. **Opening Prayer** - RBC opened the meeting with a prayer.
2. **Welcome & Apologies** - TC welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies received from Phil Blundred, Robin Coling, Joy Coling and Pauline Stratton.
3. **Minutes of Last Meeting** - The Minutes of the APCM held on 22nd May 2025, were approved unanimously.
4. **Matters Arising** – There were no matters arising.
5. **Annual Report** – TC explained that this report outlined the activities of the church in the parish in 2025. The meeting reviewed each of the sections of the report in turn.
 - **Electoral Roll** - CW advised that no changes had been made since the last APCM in 2024. The current number on the Roll remains at 16.
 - **Chair's Report** – TC reminded the meeting that the Parochial Church Council (PCC) worked with Rev Phil Price as the governing body of St Peter's. In 2025 it was made up of RBC, TC, DP, DJ, PB and CW. In 2025 AS stepped down from the PCC and HI joined.

The year has gone well and the PCC was very happy with the pattern of our services. Communion and Breakfast service, twice a month and a new service has just been introduced which will be known as Morning Worship. The PCC was also pleased with the way our extra services went, Remembering, Remembrance and Christmas Eve, as well as a Pimms and Hymns.

TC expressed thanks to CW for coordinating flowers, to DJ for preparation of all rotas, and raising money for Christian Aid and Lent lunch and also to PJ and DJ for their work in running the Farmers Market. Thanks also to AS for her work with safeguarding.

TC asked RBC if she had anything to add regarding the service of the church and she advised that we were fortunate that everyone within the 8 churches of the Benefice all worked very well together and they have regular meetings to work out service patterns and rotas which they think will be appropriate for each of the churches and pleased to say that everything has gone very well for 2025.

TC asked if there was anything anyone wanted to raise regarding the church.

- CW said that she handed over the flower coordination to Janet Mawby and everything had gone well for Easter.
- AB proposed that a 'thank you should be made to TC for the work involved with fundraising and also to DP for his work as Treasurer. This was agreed unanimously.
- **Fabric**

TC reported that the of the main thing achieved in 2025 was the restoration of the Reredos and we are delighted with the final appearance of it. In addition, the railings had been removed from the war memorial. Alongside these one-off projects regular maintenance

activities had continued and TC thanked PJ/DJ for organising churchyard clean up days in 2025.

TC added that during 2025 we had also hoped to have the restoration of the clock completed. Before this could be done, we had to obtain grants and appeal to the community for donations. Unfortunately, during this period, the Government unexpectedly ended the Listed Places of Worship Scheme after over 20 years of operation. This scheme enabled PCCs to reclaim VAT on any maintenance or restoration works. As a result, the PCC needed to raise another 20% to cover all the costs of the clock restoration project. This put us back by 3 or 4 months. However, TC was pleased to say that these additional funds were raised and the clock has now been taken away for refurbishment and hopefully will be back in place in around 10 weeks. On behalf of the PCC, TC expressed thanks to our local community for responding so well to our appeal.

The PCC received a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to help with the costs of the clock restoration. The grant also covers repairs and refurbishment to the War Memorial and the churchyard wall and the creation of a new website. These matters will be progressed in 2026.

A more pressing issue is the roof as we have had a leak in the north aisle and also a lot of mould and dampness in the south aisle roof area. The PCC requires permission from the Diocese to undertake the necessary repair works. No grants can be obtained without this permission. The Diocese insist on a professional specification being created by an architect before they will consider granting permission- something which is really expensive. TC, on behalf of the PCC, had contacted numerous architects in 2025 and chosen one who appeared competent and cost effective. Unfortunately, his submissions had been rejected three times by the Diocese. On the back of the final rejection another architect had been appointed in March 2026 as it was clear that the Diocese would not give permission under any circumstances without such a change. The new architect was expected to provide a revised specification by the end of April 2026. Once this was received another attempt would be made to get the required permission from the Diocese.

TC would like to thank PJ and Phill Davis for scraping the mould away and generally cleaning the wall that is badly damaged, which improves the look in the short term. The new architect had seen the damaged areas prior to these works being undertaken and has photographs to include in the specification to enable the Diocese to understand the extent of this problem.

Finally, it was noted the PCC had considered a reordering in the church, which would mean the pews being removed. There was interest in the idea and a specialist architect had been engaged, but this would not progress substantively until all the other fabric matters highlighted previously were completed.

- **Finance Report**

DP tabled the 2025 accounts to the meeting. He reported it has been a very successful year overall, in particular in relation to fundraising. During the year we have had a total income of around £67,000. We have spent around £51,000 which was mostly made up by the appeal and grants TC raised. We have paid our Parish Share and electricity costs which have increased over the year.

Having the card machine has proved very useful for any events and extra services such as weddings and funerals and is used regularly at Sunday services and Farmers' Market. A GWAS evening was held at the church and was very successful and another one is planned for this summer. TC thanked DP for all he has done.

DP added that since the accounts have been published, he had submitted a Gift Aid application to HMRC and HMRC had paid the sum of £7,289. Due to the fact that the Listed Places of Worship scheme was closing at the end of March 2026, it was decided in the middle of March to make an up-front payment towards the contractor working on the clock restoration in the hope of claiming back some of the VAT before the scheme closed. Initially our claim was rejected but earlier this month DP was told the PCC had been awarded just under £1,800.

DP added that the Government had announced a new scheme would be set up to replace the Listed Places of Worship Scheme, but it was not as generous and did not cover all repairs. Nevertheless, we will keep a check on it to see if we will be able to make any further claims in the future.

- **Deanery Synod**

TC reminded the meeting that the Deanery Synod was representative of the group of churches within the Rugby area looked after by the Area Dean. Each parish was entitled to send up to two people to be on the Deanery Synod. RBC added that the Deanery Synod meets four times a year to discuss issues of mutual concern, including setting the parish share.

AS had served as Deanery Synod Representative for the parish in 2025 until her resignation from the PCC in September 2025. She had nothing to report in respect of the period she served in this role but said it was something she would recommend as there was not a huge time commitment and the discussions were interesting and important. RBC advised that in the remainder of 2025 the Area Dean for Rugby had retired. The new Area Dean for Rugby was the incumbent at St Andrew's in Rugby. He had been initially appointed on a temporary basis but subsequently the new Bishop of Coventry had made this appointment for three years.

- **Safeguarding**

AS was the Safeguarding Officer until the end of September when she retired from this role. She confirmed there were no issues during this time. In the meantime, PB has agreed to take on this role, but is still awaiting to be formally installed. RBC advised the meeting that safeguarding wasn't just for children, but anyone who was at all vulnerable. It was noted there were no matters of safeguarding concern raised to the PCC in 2025.

Election and Appointments

The meeting then considered the various appointments to be made:

- a) **Election for Synod Representative** – No nominations
- b) **Election of PCC members** – Duly signed forms nominating Phil Blundred, Tom Crane, Dorothy Johnson, Dave Proctor, Helen Ireland and Charmaine Williams were presented to the meeting. The vote was carried unanimously for re-election of all the above individuals.
- c) **Appointment of Independent Examiner** – DP proposed Andrew Robinson to carry on with this role for 2025. He is a retired Bank Manager and very happy to continue. Those present and on the Electoral Roll voted unanimously to approve this appointment.

Any Other Business

- Yael Owen said she would like to thank everyone for the welcome she has had when attending our church.
- Wendy raised the question of mould and damp. TC replied that this was a problem and perhaps more needs to be done with ventilation and/or heating.
- Personal thank you from RBC for the help and welcome shown to everyone who comes through the door for our extra services when we have weddings and funerals.
- The Benefice APCM will be held at Leamington Hastings on 11 May at 6.30 pm and will be followed by a fish and chip supper. Everyone welcome

RBC closed the meeting with a prayer at approximately 11.00 am

DJJ – 20.4.26