

**Minutes of St. Mary's Whaddon, Parochial Church Council (PCC) Meeting  
held at Spring Cottage on Tuesday 13 January 2026 at 8pm.**

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*The PCC is a group of people who, with the Vicar, oversee the life of the church to ensure we are focused on what Jesus wants us to do. We aim to seek God's will, work well together, reflect our values and take action for the future.*

**Present:** Rev. Helen Orr (HO) (Chair), Helen Strudwick (HS), (Vice Chairman), Erica Coomber (EC), Jenny Grech (JG), Kay Clarke (KCI), Peter Haselden (PH), Claire Hales (CH)

**Action**

**Opening prayers**

EC opened the meeting with prayer

**Apologies for absence** Anne Newberry (AN), Simon Morris (SM), Karen Coningsby (KC)

**Declaration of Interest**

None given

**Minutes for approval and signing**

Minutes were signed by HO

**Matters arising not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda**

**Correspondence**

JG drew the meetings attention to the email sent from Ely regarding the [Patronal Festival Grants applications](#) These grants support parish churches in celebrating their patronal festival (the feast day of the church's patron saint, or the nearest Sunday) through a service of choral evensong as a central feature of the festival, followed by a reception. All agreed this would be a good addition to our services. PH will follow up and talk to Reed Choir about joining us for this event. Our patronal saint day is 15th August so we would look to hold this evensong on Sunday 16th August 2026.

**PH**

Proposed by HO and seconded by CH

**Safeguarding**

AN was unable to attend but sent her report via email which was read out at the meeting. It can be seen at the end of these minutes.

## **Finance**

JG spoke to her report. All very grateful to her for preparing the Annual Financial statement, and to Roger VP for continuing to act as our Independent Examiner.

## **Church Maintenance**

PH thanked David Grech for his help in preparing the draft Fabric Report 2025. The report is attached.

## **Policies**

JG agreed that she and David Grech would assist PH in completing the review of the Health and Safety Policy as well as the PAT testing of electrical appliances and upgrading of the fire extinguishers.

**JG/PH**

## **Synod meetings**

No meetings have taken place since our last PCC meeting

## **Any other business**

Prayer Box - this was discussed and privacy was seen as a possible issue. Further thought to be given to this.

Jazz Evening - this can no longer be held on Saturday 9th May. PH to discuss other possible dates with Saturday 27th June given as the preference.

Fund-raising talks - to be held on Wednesday 4 February and 4 March.

HS has been asked by Reed Choir for further collaborative events to be considered. They are performing on 25th May 5.30pm at St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmonds.

## **Review of services**

All agreed the Christmas services were well attended and enjoyed by many. Thanks to HS for her playing.

EC said that the Ministry Team would encourage a joint choir at Christmas service again. It was felt it was a very positive move and enjoyed by both Whaddon and Bassingbourn.

### **Forthcoming services**

HO would like to add Plough Sunday to 2027 services and hold the Pet Service again this year

Sunday 15th March Mothering Sunday Service

Ash Wednesday 18th February ??

Good Friday 3rd April Walk of Witness in Bassingbourn with the Final Hour to be held at St Mary's Whaddon 2pm.

Easter Sunday 5th April Sunrise Service - time TBC

Morning Service 9.30am

### **Date of Next Meetings**

Tuesday 17th March 8pm Turpins

Sunday 10th May APCM/AMP 10.30am

Tuesday 7th July 8pm

Tuesday 8th September 8pm

There being no further business HO closed the meeting with a prayer.

## **Parish Safeguarding Update for St Mary's Whaddon PCC January 2026**

### **A short report to start the year.....**

a) **Dashboard progress**

The dashboard is showing 92% compliance with mandatory requirements which is the same as last time.

b) **Choir**

Helen and I met and I have made some progress on reviewing the risk assessment and developing a Choir Leader role description, however, due to work commitments I've not completed this. I will endeavour to do this for the next meeting. There are currently no vulnerable adults/children in the choir so the risk is very low.

c) **Safeguarding Training Update**

Everyone is up-to-date. Thank you once again for your commitment to safeguarding training.

**Anne Newberry, Parish Safeguarding Officer, January 2026**

