ST MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH, ENFIELD
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parochial Church Council held on Wednesday, 22 July 2026

1. ATTENDANCE

Rev Dr James Lawson – Chair
Elizabeth Ranson – Churchwarden
Joy Heywood - Churchwarden

And 10 members

2. APOLOGIES

No apologies received.

3. VICAR'S REPORT

The vicar opened the meeting with a prayer.

There are some pleasing signs of growth in number of members of the congregation with over 80 attending the recent Patronal Festival and some new faces amongst the regular attendees.

4. APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS

a) Vice Chair – Elizabeth Ranson
b) Secretary – Sally Elphick
c) Treasurer – Ken Cope
d) Electoral Roll Officer – Elise Horlick
e) Fabric Officer
f) Church Safeguarding Officer – Joy Heywood
g) Independent Examiner – Data Developments
h) Stewardship Recorder – Sophie Lodato
i) Assistant Stewardship Recorder – Paul Reeve
j) Archivist – Joy Heywood
k) IT/Web Coordinator – Ken Cope
l) Hall Bookings – Gaziibo
m) Children's Champion – Alison Reeve
n) Christian Aid Representative – Alison Reeve
o) Charities Champion – Judy Smith
p) Events Co-ordinator – Alison Reeve
q) GDPR and Data Protection Adviser – Aniru Shyllon

5. STANDING AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Standing and Finance Committee consists of The Vicar, Churchwardens, Treasurer, Secretary and can invite others appropriate to the matter to be discussed.

6. APPOINTMENT OF LAY COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Paul Reeve, Alison Reeve, Elise Horlick, Bella Horlick, Neil Chatterton, Jackie Fish, Joy Heywood, Elizabeth Ranson, Anneliese Fenwick, Shivanee Woodger and Pam Hagan were approved as assistants at Holy Communion at the meeting held in May 2026.

7 DATES OF MEETINGS 2026/27

Wednesday 4 November 2026
Wednesday 17 February 2027 (to include approval of the annual report and accounts for 2026)
Sunday 30 May 2027 - APCM

8 CO-OPTIONS TO THE PCC

The meeting agreed to co-opt Ken Cope on to the PCC

9. SAFEGUARDING REPORT AND POLICY STATEMENT

Joy Heywood took over the role of Parish Safeguarding Officer from David Bird in April and Joyce Kiddy has taken on the role of Lead Recruiter, which means that she will checking DBS status and helping new members to apply for DBS certificates.

All members of the PCC should read our PCC Safeguarding Policy on the church website and the Diocese of London Safeguarding Policy Statement which can be found on the Diocesan website. Should you have any concerns or if someone discloses an issue to you, refer it to the Parish Safeguarding Officer or Father James, who would then seek advice from the Diocesan Safeguarding Team.

The Parish Dashboard is an electronic record of the Parish's compliance with C of E safeguarding requirements. At the moment we are 55% compliant. We all need to make sure that we have completed our safeguarding training online, especially for new members but also as a reminder to old members, every PCC member needs to do the Basic Awareness and Foundation training courses and it is recommended that the Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse course is also completed, training needs to be repeated every three years. These can be found direct on the Church of England Safeguarding Training Portal or by following the links on the Diocese of London website Safeguarding section. New members will need to create an account in order to access the courses Once you have completed your courses, please let Joy know either in person or my email so she can update the Parish Dashboard.

Finally, I can assure you that if we have had any safeguarding issues to consider, we will have done so in accordance with our policy and with the advice of the Diocesan Safeguarding Team and Area Safeguarding Officer.

A formal statement to adopt of the House of Bishops' Promoting a Safer Church; safeguarding policy statement was agreed by the PCC.

10. DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

The meeting, led by the Area Dean, Daniel Sandham, was held at Jesus Church, Forty Hill on 9 July 2026. Present were 9 clergy, 34 laity and 6 others.

2. Election of Officers

- Sue Johnson was elected Lay Chair and said that she will be visiting other parishes in the Deanery now she is no longer a churchwarden.
- Sally Reeve was elected treasurer; she stated this will be her final triennium.
- Paul Holgate was elected as secretary and Delores Cover as assistant secretary.

The Dean explained that the Standing Committee meets between meetings of the full Synod to plan the programme for the year. It consists of officers and usually 3 others from each house:

- From the house of clergy: C Bolster, S Morris and K Twining
- From the house of laity: A Zotti – the Dean invited others to consider whether they would like to be on this committee.

3. Key Items Discussed

a) Minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed.
b) Rev Robert Coupland has been inducted as incumbent of Christ Church Southgate.

- St Mary w St John, Upper Edmonton remains in vacancy.
- Rev Taemin Oh is leaving St George, Enfield in August to be vicar of All Saints Highgate.
- There will be a Civil Evensong for the new mayor of Enfield at St Stephen, Bush Hill Park on 13th September

4. Structure and Function of Deanery Synod

The Dean gave a short presentation explaining how the Deanery fits withing the structure of the Church. Questions were posed for members to discuss in small groups.

- Synod means journeying together. Its role is to consider matters of the Church of England, to foster a sense of community and as a go between of the Diocese Synod and PCC.
- Most Deaneries follow similar boundaries to boroughs.
- We have the largest number of church schools in London: 12 primary and 2 secondary.

In practice, we should meet in a way that is meaningful and to take our part in the **diocesan vision: 'for every Londoner to encounter the love of God in Christ and to share the diocesan ambitions and priorities**. These are:

Three Ambitions:

1. **Confident Disciples**
    - Helping Christians deepen their relationship with Jesus.
    - Encouraging prayer, Bible engagement and lifelong discipleship.
    - Equipping people to share their faith naturally, in everyday life.
2. **Compassionate communities:**
    - Building churches that care for their neighbourhoods.
    - Addressing loneliness, poverty and injustice.

- Working alongside schools, charities and local organisations to serve London's communities.

3. **Creative Growth**
    - Growing both spiritually and numerically.
    - Planting new worshipping communities and renewing existing churches.
    - Encouraging innovation so that different people and cultures can find accessible ways to explore Christian faith.

Three Priorities:

The Diocese believes these ambitions should be pursued with particular attention to three priorities:

1. **Growing Younger**
    - Reaching children, young people and young adults.
    - Investing in youth ministry, schools and young leaders.
    - Making younger generations an integral part of church life rather than a separate ministry.
2. **Safer Churches:**
    - Strengthening safeguarding practices.
    - Creating church environments where children and vulnerable adults are protected and supported.
    - Embedding safeguarding as a core part of the Church's culture.
3. **More Racially Just**
    - Reflecting London's ethnic and cultural diversity in leadership and ministry.
    - Tackling racism within church structures.
    - Promoting inclusion and belonging across diocesan life.

There will be a Deanery Synod Meeting hosted by St Mary Magdalene in September or October.

11. FINANCE AND COMMON FUND CONTRIBUTION FOR 2027

The Treasurer gave his report. Unfortunately due to a data breach on the financial cloud platform full figures were not available but a brief breakdown of the income and expenditure figures for 2024, 2025 and 2026 were circulated. The figures for 2026 are slightly distorted due to reimbursement from Ecclesiastical for the chancel repairs which were paid to Hirst and receipt of a large legacy.

Common Fund – we pledged to pay £37,000 to the Common Fund in 2026 and it has been suggested we pay £45,000 in 2027, an increase of 20%. It was felt that this is not affordable given loss in income from the Stewardship Scheme and the cost of solicitors for the on going court case over Comreddy Close.

Dave Cockle proposed our Common Fund Contribution pledge for 2027 be £38,000, seconded by Joyce Kiddy and passed by six votes in favour with two against.

12. FABRIC

Following the break in to the Church through the window into the chancel the Police have not made any arrests despite being given clear images from the CCTV. The repairs to the window and locks will be paid for under the insurance claim. We should consider placing grilles over the windows in this area which is a vulnerable to being broken into.

13. MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD ON:

11 February 2026 – it was noted that Item 6 should read 'was paid for by the NCIL grant' and in Item 12 Shivani Ramful should read Shivani Woodger.

Subject to the changes Diane Coxon proposed to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2026, seconded by Dave Cockle and agreed by the meeting.

22 March 2026 – Paul Reeve proposed to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 2026, seconded by Diane Coxon and agreed by the meeting

17 May 2026 – Alison Reeve proposed to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 17 May 2026, seconded by Ken Cope and agreed by the meeting.

14. MATTERS ARISING

Levelling of the memorial stones as not been undertaken so far.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Ann Rolland talked about the Alpha Course that has just been completed run at St Luke's. There were five attendees from St Mary Magdalene, with attendance growing over the weeks and the course was very well received. It has been suggested that we run the course again, this time being hosted at St Mary Magdalene, perhaps over the late Spring/early Summer months next year.

The Diocese of London's explanation of the implications of The Data (use and access) 2025 for parishes and an explanation of the Charity Governance Code 2025 and what it means for parish governance were circulated.

The meeting discussed publishing the PCC Minutes on line, once they have been approved and with any personal or confidential details removed.

Our data protection adviser can be contacted directly through the Parish Website.

The Meeting closed with Grace at 9.30 pm.