Godmanchester Parochial Church Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 21 September 2026

Present: David Busk (DB) [Chair], Colin Thirlwall (CT), Dave Hodge (DH), David Moger (DM), Peter Morgan (PM), Nicholas Leigh Smith (NLS), Bob Hurd (BH), Mike Westcott-Rudd (MWR), Frankie Stead (FS), Bill Templeton (BT), Adrian Sington (AS), Jonathan Young (JY), Lucilia Azevedo (LA).

1.	**Opening prayer and devotion (Matthew 9:9-13)**	**Action**
	Prayers were offered and the gospel passage, read by AS, was discussed and reflected upon.	
2.	**Apologies for Absence**	
	David Bowers (DBo), John Newton (JN), Andrew Wright (AW).	
3.	**Minutes of last meeting**	
	The minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2026 were agreed as a true record, and were signed by DB.	
4.	**Matters Arising**	
	a. Circulation of Safeguarding Materials. These will be circulated in advance of Safeguarding Sunday, which is on November 15th. b. PCC Sub-Committees – confirmation of final names. Karen Molloy is now on the Bazaar and Fête Committee, and has agreed to run the Prize Draw on the day, with support from Dave Hodges in the preparation. Thanks were expressed to PM & Jenny Morgan for the many years they had run the draw. The urgent need to find a Chair for the Fabric Committee was stressed, especially with work on the roof to be undertaken. The broken lapel microphone had been fixed. Thanks to CT.	
5.	**Safeguarding**	
	SP reminded the PCC that we are required to approve the new Data Processing Agreement (previously circulated) between the Diocese and the PCC. SP proposed approval, PW seconded, and it was passed nem con. DB said he would circulate the document again with the minutes. SP emphasised that all PCC members are on the front line for safeguarding reporting and have responsibilities. If a safeguarding concern is disclosed to any member of the PCC, it is essential that either SP or DB is informed immediately, and certainly within 24 hours. However, if there is a concern is for the immediate safety of someone, call the police. It is not the responsibility of any PCC member, or any member of the church, to attempt to solve, assess or investigate any concern that is reported – the sole duty is to pass on the concern to the appropriate person. SP then used some question cards issued by the Diocesan Safeguarding Team to encourage PCC members to reflect on various aspects of safeguarding: How would you make someone reporting a safeguarding concern feel safe? Answers: Listen, don't judge. Don't promise a specific outcome, or absolute confidentiality. Ask if it's OK to write things down, show the person concerned what you have written and ensure it is agreed upon between you both, then pass it to SP or DB. How would you show you can be trusted? Answers: Say, 'I believe you.' Do not interrupt. Keep control of reactions and facial expressions. If you are told of a safeguarding concern, what would you do? Answers: Respect the wishes of the one reporting the concern, unless you as hearer believe there is immediate danger, in which case you have a duty to contact the police, regardless of the wishes of the one reporting the concern.	**DB**

6.	**Finance Report**	
	DH reported last time that he had hoped to manage the General funds without the support of the Hall and Grass cutting funds. This is now looking increasingly unlikely. Looking at the cumulative figures to August and comparing with the same period last year, donations are down by £1509, other income down by £1479, with expenditure rising by £1440. We therefore may need some of the grass cutting money and hope for a good Gift Day and Christmas Bazaar to help balance the books. We are now doing BACS payments (no cheques) with dual signature authority on the supporting documentation. Several people have transferred over the Parish Giving as a result of the newsletter appeal. There was a significant private donation to the Organ Fund this month. DH reported that he is struggling with Peacocks (the undertakers) over an outstanding invoice which was issued in June. They have introduced a new supplier payment system - called PayIt - and for some reason it does not work with the Santander account. This may have to be escalated to a formal complaint with their head office. AS proposed we buy a donation plate with a card reader attached. All agreed. CT to investigate.	**CT**
7.	**Transformation Project**	
	CT had circulated a report in advance of the meeting. CT, AS & DB had met with Town Clerk, who gave pointers to the Community Infrastructure Levy (a possible source of funding) and local fundraisers. CT, AS & DB would now meet to see how to follow up these and other leads.	**CT, AS, DB**
8.	**Fabric Committee**	
	CT had circulated a report in advance of the meeting: Church AV display – CT has managed to transform the current church guide into an editable Word document and is working on modifying it for the display. Work in progress. Organ – thanks to the generosity of the Friends the cleaning and repairs to the pedal organ division is complete. It is quite a novelty to have all of the pedal notes working correctly. Church Roof – this has not been progressed as we need a stronger fabric committee to take on the project which will almost certainly require grant applications, a faculty etc. Wi-fi - as recommended at the previous meeting, CT has only given access to the wi-fi to specific individuals on request.	
9.	**Future of Worship and Outreach**	
	FS reported on plans for youth work. Many parishes such as ours have only small numbers of teenagers, so a multi-church group might suit. A group called Friday Evening Youth, with Huntingdon Parish & Hunts. Community Church, is just in the process of re-launching. It has been suggested that young people from St Mary's could join from the New Year. FS will keep in touch with the group as it is launched, and would attend the group with any youngsters from St Mary's when they start attending. SP noted that some St Mary's youth go to the Baptist Church on Friday evenings – it was noted that this was more of a drop-in social event, whereas Friday Evening Youth is aimed at encouraging faith. DB reported that numbers of men from a local Martial Arts group had started attending the 8.00 am Communion on Sundays. DB planned to talk to the group's leader soon.	**FS** **DB**
10.	**AOB**	
	JY reported his intention to renew his Permission to Officiate (PTO) by Dec. 3rd AS outlined the Friends' proposal for an exhibition of Ladybird books and associated artwork, to run for 6 weeks during May and June 2027. There would be a need for	

continuous staffing. Costs for setting up and running the exhibition were estimated at £7200. It was hoped to cover all these costs by sponsorship. Revenue could be £20000. There would be special events during each week of the exhibition, including a talk by David Starkey. There would be no entry fee, but income from the sale of prints and books, teas, donations, and other sources. The PCC expressed its full support.

LA said she would soon produce a card, for sale in church, with a picture of St Mary's by the late Dai Morgan.

LA said that she starts her Authorised Lay Minister (ALM) Worship course on October 11th.

Thanks were expressed to NLS and Terry Young for their great efforts in the annual Ride and Stride, which raised in excess of the £1000 target.

11. Dates for Church Diary

Diary dates September/ October/ November 2025				In St Mary the Virgin (unless specified)
			September	
Sun	27	0930	Children's Church Communion	Church Hall
			October	
Sun	4		Harvest Festival & Gift Day	
		1130	Baptism – Loretta Harrison	
		1200	Harvest Lunch	Church Hall
		1830	Evening Prayer	
Tue	6	0900	St Anne's School Harvest Festival	
Sun	11	1100	Civic Service	
Wed	14	1900	Deanery Synod	H'ford Grey Parish Centre
Thu	15	1900	Town Council Meeting	Town Council Chamber
Sat	17	1930	Mashambanzou Quiz Night	Church Hall
Sun	18	1100	Bazaar Meeting	Church Hall
		1830	Taizé Worship	
Mon	19	1930	PCC	Church Hall
Sat	24	1900	Huntingdon Male Voice Choir with Decibelles Ladies Choir	
			November	
Sun	1	1830	All Souls Commemoration	
Sat	7	1930	Hunts. Phil. Concert	Hilton Village Hall
Sun	8	10.55	Town Remembrance Service	
		1400	Baptism – Federico Borthwick	
Tue	10	1100	Worship Group	Vicarage
Sun	15		Safeguarding Sunday	
		1100	Bazaar Meeting	Church Hall
Sat	21	1330	Christmas Bazaar (to 1630)	
Sun	29	1130	Baptism – Joey Davies	

15. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 7.30pm on **Monday 19th October 2026**, in the Church Hall.

Signed: ……. Date: ……..