

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ST NICHOLAS CHURCH COMMITTEE HELD AT 2.30pm
ON WEDNESDAY 27th August 2025 AT THE RECTORY

PRESENT: Revd Mary Moore (**MM**), Karen Farr (**KF**) (Warden), Chrissie Farr (**CF**) (Warden), Jeremy Foster (**JF**) (Treasurer).

1. WELCOME

MM welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES: JM, RJ.

3. PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Minutes of the Church Committee meetings held on 25th June 2025 were accepted as a true record, and signed by **MM**.

MM agreed to ask at the Family service for volunteers to join the Church Committee. It was planned for Carli to join the next meeting.

ACTION: MM

Note that **MM** is away for a week from 23 September.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

(a) Gartside Solicitors & Sandra Ireson Will

After comments and views from all our 4 churches on the original proposal to allocate the legacy monies (the majority to youth work, and £3,000 per church), the trustees (Louise Minford, Andrew Harter, Jeremy Foster) of the Tudor Price Trust, (the trust which is funding the youth work in the Benefice), have proposed a slightly revised allocation to fund youth work for a further 3 years (after MM's current role is up for review in August 2026). The invested monies will be overseen by a newly created trust, Grosmont Benefice Youth Ministry Development Fund.

The balance of £14,000 will be split and each church will receive £3,500. The 3 other churches have agreed this approach. Committee was very mindful of the importance of this youth work good progress has been reported by Mary to the Trustees. Committee agreed with this revised fund allocation. JF agreed to let Louise know of this decision as soon as possible.

ACTION: JF

Each church has been asked to provide details to the trustees of how they plan to spend the funds in a manner which will be an appropriate legacy/memory to Sandy. MM agreed to include this in notices, and Committee would discuss offline and seek suggestions from interested parties.

ACTION: JF/KF to discuss and collect ideas

MM agreed to lead a service of celebration for Sandy, and JF agreed to be in touch with each of the beneficiaries to see if this could happen, including dates and location.

Action: JF/MM

(b) Ministry Area Update

KF attended the last meeting of the **NMMA** recently, on 22 July 2025, which was held primarily for the purposes of an AGM, and electing officials. There was nothing else to report.

Action: KF

(c) Organ

By all standards and reports, the organ is sounding wonderful. JF agreed to be in touch with Wintle (Organs) and Huw Morgan to create an article for The Link about the restoration itself. The Organ Fund has been marked as "Restricted" in the books and records. **Action: JF**

(d) Planning and Development of the Post Office

JF reported that he has seen no change at the MCC Planning website with regard to the two main planning applications (the main PO, and the proposed new dwelling). He had messaged **AT**, who had indicated that there was no further update.

With the recent news that the shop would close in early September, **KF** noted the meeting that had been held in the village on 23 August with all those interested (49 villagers had attended, with several apologies) in the idea of a community shop. **JF** noted that he had been contacted by and would meet Andrew North (chair of the Community Shop Group), to try to facilitate communication with **AT**.

JF also agreed to look at whether there were any specific church rules which might prevent the possible use of the nave for the distribution of the daily newspapers. (Post meeting update:

Action: JF

(e) Friends of St Nicholas

KF reported that after speaking to Grosmont Events, she would draft a wording for Carli to include in the publicity. This note would be broad, asking for volunteers and those interested in keeping an eye on church and churchyard. A clean and tidy of the church and immediate surroundings was agreed to take place prior to the Remembrance Service.

Action: KF/CF/JF

(f) Publicity

MM said that she was very pleased with the work in this area that was being done by Carli Porter, in her new role as part-time Administrative Officer, as a great help to MM, helping also with the publicity for the Grosmont Group of Churches. It was agreed to make full use of the **NMMA** Website, (Mary Heading is very helpful), and to check the status of the new Grosmont Group Facebook page, Grosmont Noticeboard Facebook page and posters.

Action: MM/JM/KF

(g) Replacement of Pews

With thanks to all those who have done research on this, **KF** reported that the preference had been expressed in the "testing process" for 2 particular types of chair. The supplier would help with the process of contacting Cadw, and then arranging a faculty. The idea of a process of sponsorship for these chairs was supported. **MM/KF** to contact Mary Heading.

KF reported she had had good discussions regarding the choir pews, especially adapting and amending the cushions for greater comfort. She would be in contact with Paul at Fuller's Finer Furniture, who was aware that faculty and funding were two key hurdles for Committee to discuss at the next meeting.

Action: KF/MM/Committee

5. MATTERS RELATING TO THE CHURCH BUILDING AND CHURCHYARD

JF reported that, also linked to Maintenance Plan above, there were no known current issues in this respect. **KF and JF** will meet shortly to review the maintenance plan and related actions, to coordinate all annual certifications, and to review the current status of the building and churchyard.

Agreed for **KF** to purchase an electric hand-dryer, and arrange for it to be fitted.

Action: JF/KF

6. SOUND SYSTEM

Committee agreed with **KF**'s suggestion to approach individuals rather than to organise a broader "training session" would be more effective.

Action: KF

7. TREASURER'S REPORT (REPORT ATTACHED)

A summary of Cash Receipts and Payments for to 31 July 2025 was presented. Even allowing for the very successful organ fundraise, cashflow remains tight – thankfully, our regular ("planned") giving, loose plate and donations are steady. Absent one-off donations etc, we are running an estimated deficit on cashflow for the full year of c. £2,000.

JF agreed to pull together thoughts and a plan for a possible fundraising event, and report back to Committee.

Action: JF

8. WARDEN'S REPORT

MM agreed to source (free cycle?) a suitable rug/carpet for the area in south transept for more comfort for children's area. **CF/KF** kindly agreed to look to clear the cupboard and find some more drawers to store the materials there, as well as source some toys/other items from charity shops.

JF/KF agreed to investigate the reported damp in that corner and assess need to repair.

ACTION: JF/KF/CF

There was nothing further to report.

9. HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

There was nothing to report.

10. SAFEGUARDING REPORT

JF reported that both he and **JM** had completed A and B modules. No other matters related to the church to report in this area.

11. MINISTRY MATTERS

MM reported that Carli Porter was proving a very valuable help indeed.

Harvest services were being planned for October, varying dates between the different churches. Carli would prepare all of the materials, and it was suggested the collections would be paid to a local charity for farmers. There was also a proposal to have a "Bring & Share" lunch for after the Grosmont Family Harvest service to be held on 5 October.

12.AOB

- a) Christmas tree festival has been agreed, we need now to liaise with Grosmont Events.

Action: KF/MM

13.CLOSE AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of the next meeting of the Church Committee would be 2.30pm on 15th October 2025

At 4.05pm the meeting closed with the Grace.