

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ST NICHOLAS CHURCH COMMITTEE HELD AT 2.30pm
ON WEDNESDAY 15th OCTOBER 2025 AT THE RECTORY**

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

1. WELCOME

MM welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES: CP

3. PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Minutes of the Church Committee meetings held on 25th June 2025 and 27th August 2025 were accepted as a true record, and signed by **MM**.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

(a) Sandra Ireson Legacy

The balance of the monies had been distributed to the four churches. Llanfair had made their decision on the use of the money and were proceeding with this. It was emphasised that whatever Grosmont decided to do with their share it should reflect Sandy's interests. Various options were discussed but it was agreed to give this more thought. **MM** had agreed at the last meeting to include this in notices, and Committee would discuss offline and seek suggestions from interested parties.

ACTION: MM/KF/JF

(b) Ministry Area Update (Report Attached)

MM attended the last meeting of the **NMMA** held on 16th September 2025. **KF** was unable to do so. The main points were that the focus of the fundraising in the coming year would be The Contact Centre in Abergavenny in line with the theme of Social Justice in the Diocesan Vision. The development of Pilgrim Passports and church stamps was continuing. The possibility of establishing two organ Scholarships with no cost to the **MA** was being explored. There was a request for volunteers to support children's activities across the **MA**.

Action: KF

(c) Planning and Development of the Post Office

JF reported that he has seen no change at the MCC Planning website regarding the two main planning applications (the main PO and the proposed new dwelling). As regards the closure of the shop, the request by the Grosmont Community Shop Group for a long-term lease had been refused. It was important to keep a watching brief on the whole situation.

Action: JF

(d) Friends of St Nicholas

MM reported that she had not yet had time to pursue this.

Action: MM

(e) Publicity

JM reported that there was still a glitch regarding access to the Grosmont Group of Parishes – St Nicholas Church page on the village website but hopefully this would be resolved very soon. In the meantime, with the help of Andrew North, the page was up to date. The Committee was asked to look at the page and decide what needed adding, changing or amending. **JM** to consult with **CP** on this matter.

Action: JM/CP

(f) Replacement of Pews

KF/JF had begun the procedure of a pre-faculty request but were still awaiting a reply from the **MA**. Until this had been received it was difficult to proceed. **MM** indicated that initially there would be thirty chairs of the preferred type.

KF reported she had had received a quote from Paul Fuller for £4,326 + VAT for improving the choir stalls. It was agreed to leave discussion of this until a later date.

Action: KF/MM/JF

(g) Christmas Tree Festival

This Grosmont Events/St Nicholas festival is to take place in the Nave between then 13th December and 3rd January. The trees would go up on 11th and 12th. It was agreed that instead of a large Christmas Tree in the nave the church would have one in the festival with room for prayer requests on it. A tree would also be put up outside the North Porch. A choir from Cross Ash School had agreed to come to the opening on the 13th December.

Action: RJ

5. MATTERS RELATING TO THE CHURCH BUILDING AND CHURCHYARD

Church Maintenance Plan – This is now in place and all checks needed are up to date and the PAT testing and Fire Testing are in hand. The table tennis table with the woodworm has been moved from outside the West door. **KF** reported that she now had a bank card so consumables can be ordered when needed.

Church in Wales Guidelines for Churchyards – One of the graves had had some artificial grass and low fencing put around it. There would be an attempt to contact the family but all that needed to be removed. It was agreed to put up notices reinforcing the guidelines.

Action: KF/JM

6. SOUND SYSTEM

This was an ongoing matter with people being trained individually. **KF** to investigate possibility of turning off the system when it was not in use to remove the constant hum in the church.

Action: KF

7. TREASURER'S REPORT

There was no written report this month. **JF** reported that the financial situation was reasonable. All expenditure was up to date, and he had taken out a fixed contract for a year for the electricity. The donations from the Tap and Go were yielding around £100 a month and along with the box donations and the loose collection, this represented a reasonable amount. At the present time there was no major expenditure needed on the building.

Action: JF

8. WARDEN'S REPORT (Report Attached)

Most of the items contained in the Churchwarden's Report had been discussed elsewhere in the meeting. The other items that were in the report were the working and condition of the boiler. **JF** agreed to contact the manufacturers. It was reported that Gerard Benjamin would be fitting a hand dryer in the lavatory within the next few days.

Action: KF/JF

9. HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

There was nothing to report.

10. SAFEGUARDING REPORT

MM reported to the meeting that as a parish we were almost up to date with DBS checks for those who required them.

11. MINISTRY MATTERS

MM said that the Youth Group had been positively received. It was hoped to get some volunteers to help on a bi-monthly basis.

MM said that she would be giving out information regarding Safeguarding Training for any member of the church would like to take the training.

The Remembrance Day Service would be held at 10.50 on 9th November at St Nicholas.

The **MA** Advent Carol Service would be taking place at St Nicholas on Sunday 30th November. She said that the **MA** Choir would be present along with the Kitchen Singers and she wanted members from Skenfrith, Llanvair and Llangatock to be able to take part in the readings. It was agreed to provide simple refreshments after the service. **JM** to contact Jenny Harter.

MM said that she was going to put a table inside the screen door on the left-hand side with a box for Prayer Requests. This was thought to be a good idea.

Since there were various special services taking place in November **MM** said that there would only be one communion service at Grosmont that month. Communion would, however, be available in one of the other churches.

Action: MM/JM

12. AOB

- i. Two of the beneficiaries have indicated that they would like to come to a service. **MM** agreed to arrange this for next year.
- ii. It was agreed that the newspapers could be distributed in the church as it was getting very cold to be in the nave.
- iii. Jamie Edwards to be asked to cut back the lime tree shoots on the tree by the lych-gate.
Action: KF
- iv. **JM** mentioned that the number of copies of the Church Guide was getting very low and that the charges for them and the postcards should be changed. **JF** agree to investigate this.
Action: JF
- v. **JM** referred to the booking of the nave and the church during the time the Town Hall is unusable. She said that she was not charging the groups who were using the church for meetings as they had said they would donate at the end. The members of the Committee agreed that this was the right course of action.

13. CLOSE AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of the next meeting of the Church Committee would be 2.30pm on Monday 8th December 2025

At 4.30pm the meeting closed with the Grace.