

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ST NICHOLAS CHURCH COMMITTEE HELD AT 2.30pm  
ON MONDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2025 AT THE RECTORY**

**PRESENT:** Revd Mary Moore (**MM**), Karen Farr (**KF**) (Warden) Via Zoom, Chrissie Farr (**CF**) (Warden), Jeremy Foster (**JF**) (Treasurer), Jane Moggridge (**JM**) (Secretary), Russell James (**RJ**), Carli Porter (**CP**)

**1. WELCOME**

**MM** welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with a prayer.

**2. APOLOGIES:** There were no apologies.

**3. PREVIOUS MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Church Committee meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2025 were accepted as a true record, and signed by **MM**.

**4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**

**(a) Sandra Ireson Legacy**

There was still a need for a decision on how to spend the Sandra Ireson Legacy of £3,500 left to St Nicholas Church. It was agreed to have a sub-committee to discuss this, and **MM** would inform the congregation via the notices and ask for any suggestions. It was felt that it should have some connection with either the choir or work with children and that it should be tangible.

**ACTION: MM/KF/JF**

**(b) Ministry Area Update (Report Attached)**

**KF** was unable to attend the last meeting of the **NMMA** held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2025. The main points were that the Pilgrim Passports and church stamps would be available by Christmas. Any church deciding to apply for the Bronze Eco Award was encouraged to inform the MA Support Officer for assistance. **RJ** volunteered that his name be put forward to Mary Heading. All Pastoral Districts were requested to have a Safeguarding officer in place as soon as possible. Ministry Area Sub-Committees had been established for the following areas: Ministry, Finance, Buildings, Safeguarding and Education and Families.

**Action: MM/RJ**

**(c) Planning and Development of the Post Office**

**JF** reported that there had been no change at the MCC Planning website regarding the two main planning applications (the main PO and the proposed new dwelling). **JF** to contact Anthony Thomas again and bring up the subject of the slipped tiles and health and safety.

**Action: JF**

**(d) Friends of St Nicholas**

**MM** reported that she had not yet had time to pursue this but would do so in the new year.

**Action: MM**

**Publicity**

**JM** reported that there was now access to the Grosmont Group of Parishes – St Nicholas Church page on the village website. **CP** was able to put poster information on. The page was up to date, but some training was still needed to enable further information to be added. **JM** to follow this up and then consult with **CP**.

**Action: JM/CP**

**(e) Replacement of Pews**

**KF** reported that The Diocesan Advisory Committee have sent information explaining the policy on removing pews from churches. We have been advised that we will need to produce "robust arguments" as to why we want to replace the pews. As one of the issues was the moving of the existing pews she had acquired a template for a risk assessment for manual handling, but felt that it would be better for someone other than a church committee member to fill it in. **MM** agreed to publicise this and find a volunteer.

**Action: KF/MM/JF**

**(f) Church Guides**

**JF** has ordered some more Church Guides. There are sufficient copies of Hidden Grosmont and there are no longer any short guides or children's guides. He has updated the price list.

**5. MATTERS RELATING TO THE CHURCH BUILDING AND CHURCHYARD**

**Church in Wales Guidelines for Churchyards** – **KF** has removed the fencing from the grave and put up notices in the churchyard about the guidelines. It was agreed to remove the artificial grass and store this and the fencing for 6 months.

**6. TREASURER'S REPORT (Report Attached)**

**JF** reported that income and expenditure were broadly in line with plan, although energy costs were higher than expected.

The Parish Share and Insurance costs were the largest commitments around 75% of costs. The Parish Share is to increase by 5% for £2026 to £14,108. The increase in the insurance premium for 2026 is minimal.

The bank balance is healthy but continues to be eroded, so costs need to be monitored closely. He expressed his gratitude to the regular givers.

There was a discussion regarding charitable giving. A total of £587 had been donated to a range of charities through coffee mornings and church services and the Diocesan rebate of around £600 was usually distributed to charity. **MM** informed the committee that 10% of income should usually be given and asked **JF** to look at the figures and report back at the next meeting to see if we were achieving that figure.

**RJ** suggested that we might include the use of a QR code to boost giving. **JF** agreed to investigate this.

**Action: JF**

**7. WARDEN'S REPORT (Report Attached)**

**KF** thanked **JF** for all the work he had done, painting railings and cleaning guttering. She also thanked Mike Noakes for monitoring the oil. She reported that the hand dryer had been fitted. Other items in the report had been discussed in the meeting previously.

**8. HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT**

There was nothing to report.

**9. SAFEGUARDING REPORT**

A safeguarding matter was discussed and was resolved by consensus.

## **10. MINISTRY MATTERS**

MM reported that involvement in the Cross Ash school was increasing. She visited once a month and Emily Bailey, the School Engagement Pioneer visited twice a month. The pupils had sung at the Christmas Market and there would be a Christingle Service at St Nicholas.

The Advent Carol Service had been an immense success with a good congregation and lay involvement in the service.

She reported that, with the Town Hall unavailable, the church was being used for regularly for meetings and events, which introduced many new people to the building. She had also introduced "Ask the Vicar" using the Angel as a venue for two sessions.

She asked that people let her know of anyone who was housebound and would like home communion.

Action: **MM/JM**

## **11. AOB**

**RJ** reported that he had purchased 4 Christmas Trees which were outside the church. One of these was for outside the Town Hall.

**JM** asked whether the parking permission for the car from Wood View had been addressed during the house sale negotiations. She agreed to talk to the owners.

## **12. CLOSE AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Date of the next meeting of the Church Committee would be 2.00pm on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

At 4.20pm the meeting closed with a Prayer.