

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ST NICHOLAS CHURCH COMMITTEE HELD AT 5.00pm
ON TUESDAY 28TH JULY 2026 AT WHITNEY VILLAS, GROSMONT**

PRESENT: Revd Mary Moore (**MM**), Karen Farr (**KF**) (Warden), Chrissie Farr (**CF**) (Warden), Jeremy Foster (**JF**) (Treasurer), Russell James (**RJ**), Carolyn Jones (**CJ**), Martyn Jones (**MJ**), Jane Moggridge (**JM**) (Secretary), 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 15th June 2026 were accepted as a true record, and were signed by **MM**.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

(a) Planning and Development of the Post Office

JF reported that new plans had been submitted along with change of use. The plans for the Coach House remain the same with the three parking spaces below the Coach House. Excavations would be needed and it was emphasised that **AT** needed to be aware he needs permission from the Church in Wales for these. **JF** informed the meeting that he had contacted the planning officer about the state of the building and would also contact the Church in Wales to clarify the situation about the church access point.

Action: JF

(b) Replacement of Pews

It was reported that the **MAC** had agreed the faculty and it would now be passed on to the **DAC** but in principle it had been accepted. The chairs would not be allowed to have fabric seats. It was intended to remove the six long pews. It was reported that some chairs would have arms to assist the less mobile members of the congregation. There was discussion on how the chairs would be funded and some ideas were put forward. This was to be discussed at the next meeting.

Action: JF/KF

(c) Sandy Ireson Memorial

Following on from discussions at the last meeting the congregation were shown sketches of the memorial and asked for suggestions as to where to site it in the churchyard.

Action: KF

(d) Review of Keys

JF reported that he had purchased, and fitted, a new key safe in the cupboard. It was intended that the frequently used keys would be kept in the original safe.

Action: JF

(e) Access to the External Parapet of the Tower

Quotes were being obtained for this work. **RJ** reported that he had wood from the original bell frame and wondered whether that could be used for some of the work.

Action JF/KF

(f) Heating System

The heating engineer was due to come and flush out the radiators to help the running of the system, but this did not take place. It will be done before autumn. **KF** agree to contact the manufacturers to discuss the system. It had already been reported that the boiler no longer complied with the regulations and would need to be replaced so steps needed to be taken to begin this process. There was a discussion about the covers on the radiators and the placing of furniture, which all blocked the heat. The running costs were also higher than they had been, although the church had been used a lot during the work on the Town Hall.

(g) GDPR

KF reported that she had asked the MAC about the Data Protection Policy but that they had no policy in place so we could continue to use our own.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

JF reported that after claiming back Gift Aid from last year of £3,000, there was a positive cash balance of £402. Monthly revenue was still steady from direct giving, loose collection, and donations. He reported that there was a new direct giver. The main expenditure was the Parish Share and insurance, but the oil and electricity had been higher than usual. Consumables were holding steady. It was important to bear in mind that there was some considerable expenditure coming up - on the boiler, the roof and the bell tower access and removal of vegetation.

Action: JF

6. WARDEN'S REPORT (Report Attached)

KF reported that the **MAC** had requested a list of all regular checks that needed to be carried out at St. Nicholas. Thanks to **JF** and **KF** these have now all been completed and a list is on the attached report. The sound system has been checked and repaired on 28th July 2026. One new microphone is needed. We have registered as an Eco Church and are working towards improving the churchyard in the first instance. **CJ** and **CP** have been working hard to make plans and engage the community.

Action: KF/CJ/CP

7. MINISTRY AREA REPORT (Report Attached)

The AGM of the **MAC** along with the last meeting was held on 21st July 2026. The **MAC** has no ruling about artificial flowers on graves, and we were advised to follow Church in Wales regulations. It has no Data Protection Policy and so we have been advised to follow our own. There was a request that the 5th Sunday Service might be held in the morning so that more people might be able to go but it was decided that services would remain as they are.

8. HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

There was nothing to report.

9. SAFEGUARDING REPORT

MM to follow up the safeguarding matter previously discussed.

10. MINISTRY MATTERS

MM said how sad she was about the fact that her health was the cause of her leaving and that this was her last meeting.

She informed the meeting that the rotas for the rest of the year had been done and all services had been covered until Christmas, with several people keen to help with Morning Prayer. She said that they would be circulated later in the week.

She reported that there were two weddings booked in the Benefice for next year and a baptism in the new year. She also reported that Archbishop Cherry would be taking a Confirmation Service on 28th February 2027.

She asked that all queries, on worship and administration should be channelled through **CP** in the first instance.

She said that Garry Reader would be taking the keys of the Rectory prior to doing a small amount of maintenance to the house and garden. **MM's** name would be removed from all utilities, and it was important that the electricity bill was transferred to the church. **CP** would need a place of work. This to be decided by her.

She

11. AOB

Online Services – JM said that there had been many problems with getting invitations out for the online services because of some changes to the Zoom App. It was agreed to have a meeting to sort this out.

Action: JF/JM

Morning Prayer Services in Church – CP said that there were gaps in the rota for the Morning Prayer service at St Nicholas and asked for volunteers. **JM** agreed to do a service in the hope that other people might follow on.

Action: CP/JM

The committee was unanimous in its appreciation for Mary's chair of the CC, but also much more broadly in the parish and Benefice - for her kindness, hard work, resilience and rigour, but especially her spiritual knowledge and leadership, which has strengthened the church in the community, and transformed many peoples' lives. We wish her and John a very happy and healthy retirement, we look forward to seeing her around the parish. She leaves St Nicholas and the CC in good hands, and we are emboldened by her in our own faith to confidently carry on to a successful future for St Nicholas and Grosmont.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

There was no date set for the next meeting.
At 6.45pm the meeting closed with a prayer.