St Barnabas Church, Linthorpe

PCC Meeting 7.15 pm Monday 5/10/2026

Refreshments from 7 pm

AGENDA

1 Worship

Ruth Ritchie led this with Psalm 119 verses 97-105.

2 Present:

David Goodhew, Lindsey Goodhew, Gail Roberts, Richard Peacock, Ruth Ritchie, Helen McGregor, Allison Ward, Debs Smith, David Roberts, Isaac James, Malcolm McGregor, Stuart Gunn, Andrew Devereux, Immy Burgess-Hale, Chinedu Anioke.

Apologies: Lynda Walker, Alistair Bolton, Caleb Otuo Serebour, John Downs, David Gbenedio.

3 Minutes of meeting of 14/9/26

Immy made the following amendments:

Under staffing - it was suggested that updates could be given from the front on certain issues within the service, but it wasn't agreed that these things "should" be explained from the front which is what the minutes say. We spoke about people needing grace when these issues arise, rather than interrupting worship to over-explain technical issues.

The 'GDPR Policy Update' should be called the Privacy Notice

Under the Privacy Notice section, change ‘In order to review it, more information is necessary. We are retaining safeguarding data in line with guidelines. The Diocese will help us to work out how to implement this.' to 'The Church of England updated its best practice data retention guidelines in May 2026. Due to the level of detail included, the diocese is looking into how they can help us implement this well at parish level.'

The PCC accepted these amendments unanimously with none against.

Andrew made the following amendment:

Regarding correction of Minutes of meeting of 6/7/26 mentioned in September’s minutes, Andrew suggested that the amendments are proposed and seconded with the outcome of voting recorded. Under Staffing, the correction of spelling of Graeme Malyon had been proposed by Immy, with Alistair seconding. Under Matters Arising, the change to the day Scouts ran their meetings from Mondays to Wednesdays, Andrew had proposed with John seconding. The PCC had voted for all these amendments with none against. The minutes, including above amendments were accepted unanimously by the PCC.

4 Matters arising

None were mentioned

5 Correspondence

James Cawdell sent a card thanking the church for his gift.

The Diocesan Finance Team thanked St Barnabas for its Freewill pledge for 2027.

Sam Farnhill Young notified about his new role as parish giving support advisor for the Diocese, and said he would like to meet the PCC to discuss how to work towards supporting sustainable ministry.

6 Vicar's Report

Students - We were encouraged by attendance at the Globe Café at the University which was supported by four churches. Our student lunch had over 40 students attending. We need to pray for warming up of our student ministry.

Grocery – Middlesbrough Council has made a grant towards our grocery which will go to the Message Trust. Our Grocery needs extra funding.

Noble - David asked for prayer for Noble who sometimes leads our services, and now has Bell's Palsy. It will take him a while to recover from this. The Prayer Circle has been asked to pray for him. Noble, Paul and Simon are PTOs (Permission to officiate).

7 Mission Action Planning

Our MAP expires at the end of March 2027. The PCC needs to think and pray how to move on. We will aim for a revised MAP by the next APCM. In May 2023 PCC attended an away day to create a MAP – this would be a good idea for revising the current one. The PCC split into groups to discuss how to pray, what does scripture say, how to listen to the congregation and community, and whether to refresh the current MAP or do something more radical.

<u>Prayer</u>

PCC to pray about the away day.

Activities in prayer chapel to reflect development of MAP

Church to hold a December together in Prayer

Intercessions during services and in Life Groups

Once a month pray together for guidance re: MAP

Testimonies from current MAP which could be extension of Bible conversations.

People to write on post-it notes the success areas from current MAP vs areas in which we can grow. To put these on a flipchart then circulate on the website.

<u>Scripture and MAP –</u> 'Your word is a light unto my feet'

Remind ourselves of the 7 priorities through the Bible.

Does everything we do have a good scriptural base?

How does bible teaching tie in with the MAP?

Listening to the congregation

We can ask the same questions as in the survey 2 years ago, with the results ready in time for the away day.

Engage with church groups and people outside the building e.g. Grocery, Hope's Edge, Narcotics Anonymous. Staff can have conversations with them and feed back to PCC. A QR code can be used to take groups to the survey.

A social media search showed a score of 4.7/5 for 8 reviews for St Barnabas church. We would benefit from a page on Trustpilot.

Refresh or more radical

Some items on the MAP are still pertinent, but we have had many changes in our community e.g. A66 crash, more students in Ayresome. We need clarity of our values leading to intentional actions. Our students seem to be knowledgeable about doctrine People look to the church to make a stance in time of crises so we need to have a response team. This could be based on up to 2 sides of A4 based on comparison of the last MAPs.

David asked PCC if they were happy with the general MAP, and whether they would like an away day in the Spring – all the PCC were happy with both of these.

8 Bible Conversations Teesside

The Bible Course started this week in church on a Wednesday evening and in Life Groups. The Bible Conversations programme (a 4 week series just on parts of Luke) has started with three groups operating, plus a fourth to come, plus a group on campus run by several churches working together. So far, about 40 Luke/Acts books have been given out.

9 Safeguarding

St Barnabas has scored 88% compliance in training, as recorded on training hub. One document for volunteers needs updating.

PAUSE TO PRAY

10 Staffing

Last week David and the Churchwardens led interviews for maternity cover for Admin. Immy's post is for 20 hours a week, and two people have been appointed. Caroline James, who already does Babybank admin, is to work 15 hours a week and Ashley John, with significant IT skills, will do 8 hours/week. The extra 3 hours will support Phil Hale in media work and will fit in with the apprenticeship culture we are aiming for. St Barnabas will pay an extra £9000 for 11 months for maternity pay and replacing Immy, including added 4 weeks for handover period.

David proposed that PCC approves this appointment of maternity cover for senior admin post, for 1x15 hours and 1x8 hours a week for 43 weeks. Malcolm seconded this and everyone voted for it.

11 Pastoral care – Looking forward

To be carried over to November 2026.

12 Doctrinal Statement and the Website

Students have been asking what our doctrinal basis is. It is based on the 39 Articles, the Nicene and Apostles' Creeds, and the Evangelical Alliance. As it reflects that some people are unfamiliar with Christianity and the Church of England, we need to be clearer about this. Some overseas students are asking 'What kind of church are we?' rather than 'What does it mean to be a Christian?' They need to be directed to the Creeds rather than the Church of England website.

Destiny Church and TVCC already have a doctrinal statement on their website so we need to look at these and feed back to PCC.

13 Finance

We have obtained a grant of £9000 from the Lyndhurst Trust, to go towards Criccieth Camp, Student Ministry, and Grocery Internet and Broadband. Sunday School is to receive £200 more to allow for 15 children attending the 9.30 service. They will receive 10 Story Sacks to allow for siblings. The Hope project (a separate grant from the Benefact Trust) is paying for 8 hours of Phil Hale's time from September for 3 years. This information is all in the circulated report.

Andrew proposed that Sunday School budget is increased by £200 this year. Dave Roberts seconded this and everyone voted for it. It will be discussed at Wednesday's Finance Committee with the intention of bringing the outcome to November's PCC.

14 FMG report

Tony needs a person with technical ability who can write specifications.

Organ motor - coming back on Wednesday but still needs installing.

The Hall window still needs repairing – once this is done, Gail will inform the insurance company.

High level work and gutters have been worked on.

15 Organ Scholar/Music Intern

Praise Ali, a young person aged 14, has been appointed. Chinedu is to talk to Paul and Simon to encourage them to reach out to involve more people. Isaac suggested holding a mini-fair to inform people how they can be involved in church activities.

16 Eucharistic Ministers for Wednesday Communion

Now John Ravalde has left, more people are needed. David suggested Lynda Walker, Jonathan Shippey and Bill and Chris McGregor. PCC approved of these people.

17 Health and Safety

Nothing to report.

18 Craft Aid

This annual fundraiser for Jachie Eye Clinic in Ghana will take place on Saturday 7th November. Sylvia Wallace is taking over from Glenys Hill to organise this. The day before, on Friday 6th November, younger retired people need to be available to move furniture.

19 AOB

Today is Immy's last PCC meeting before she goes on maternity leave.

20 Prayer to conclude meeting

Date of next meeting is 2nd November 2026 7.15 in the Narthex

Chair……..
Date…….