

St. Barnabas Church, Linthorpe

P.C.C. Meeting: 7.15 p.m. Monday 1st September 2025 in the Narthex

Refreshments from 7 pm

AGENDA

1. Worship 7.15 p.m.
Oli lead worship
2. Election of secretary 7.20 p.m.
David announces that Helen McGregor is available to be secretary but requires co-opting onto the PCC
Voted on unanimously
3. Apologies 7.21 p.m.
Ali Ward sends apologies
Stewart Gunn sends apologies
4. Minutes of meeting of 7th July 2025 7.22 p.m.
Approved with minor changes
5. Matters Arising: 7.23 p.m.
AOB from Mark Allan
6. Correspondence 7.30 p.m.
None
7. Vicar's report 7.32 p.m.
David delivered his report. The numbers of baptisms are continuing to rise. Barnies on the Beach was a positive and exciting activity with 3 baptisms.
The overall number of baptisms has been increasing being over double figures again since 2023. The bulk are infants.

The ratio of Older baptisms to infants was requested and others offered their encouragements from Barnies on the Beach. It was also requested that older candidates have an opportunity to offer their testimony at baptism.
8. Safeguarding 7.40 p.m.
- risk assessment for home visits

David introduces the item with Stewart not being present.

The PCC discussed the scope of the safeguarding risk assessment for home visits. Concerns were raised that the document does not include lay people visiting children and that the section stating written risk assessments may not always be required could be confusing. It was explained that the intention was to limit the assessment to home communion visits, with an appendix serving as a general template for routine visits. Questions were asked about how the policy would be implemented and whether it applies to clergy and casual church visits. It was confirmed that clergy will distribute the assessment as needed, further clarification is being sought from the diocese regarding clergy, and that informal visits between congregation members are not included.

David moves for approval: Toni proposed, Malcolm seconded

Two abstentions. PCC in favour.

9. Evangelism Task Group Report on Church Planting
7.50 p.m.
David introduces the agenda item.

The PCC discussed a potential diocesan church planting initiative being developed by the Bishop, which may involve a major new plant in the town centre. There is uncertainty around whether a funding bid will be made and, if so, whether it will be successful. If it proceeds, the expectation is that the parish would support the larger diocesan plant; if not, the parish will continue with its own plans.

It was noted that this represents a new diocesan approach, as previous church plants have typically been initiated by individual parishes. Questions were raised about the origin of the idea, how city centre churches might be involved, and how current diocesan-funded posts will be affected.

The PCC agreed that, despite the uncertainty, planning for the parish's own mission should continue, while maintaining communication with the Bishop. It was also agreed that efforts already made would not be wasted even if plans were redirected. Members were encouraged to continue praying for discernment and for the new partnership with Ayresome School.

10. Living in Love and Faith: the Church of England and Sexuality 8 pm

David introduces the item and summarizes the item document. St Barnabas, under its current and previous vicars has upheld church doctrine as it is supported by and grounded in Holy Scripture. We've, since COVID, run a course on this to make clear, in a pastoral way the church. David continues to summarise the document.

The document encourages that we join the Alliance in writing to our bishops to ask them to oppose these changes and proposes several ways that we can do this.

Summary:

The PCC discussed upcoming plans for a "Bible Focus" event and how to approach related teaching and correspondence. It was noted that several members will be writing on this matter in their individual capacities.

The Vicar explained that holding the Bible Focus on a Saturday morning should allow for deeper engagement than a Sunday sermon and will help prepare the church and PCC for future discussion. Members expressed appreciation for the process and agreed that the congregation should be made aware of it in advance.

Concerns were raised about external influences and the tone of communications from national groups. The Vicar outlined possible responses and emphasised his responsibility to guide the church's teaching in line with Scripture.

The PCC discussed how best to hold further conversations, with some suggesting an away day or extra meeting, and others highlighting the importance of space for individual discussions. The general view was that an additional meeting would be helpful. Members affirmed their support for the Vicar and agreed to proceed with the proposed process.

PAUSE TO PRAY

11. Finance

8.30 p.m.

- provisional date for 'Gift Day' – Sunday 2 November
- including discussion of level of Free Will Offer to diocese in 2026

The PCC reviewed church finances and discussed Free Will Offer to the diocese. It was noted that the card giving machine is currently out of order due to a software update but is being repaired. The Treasurer reported that the church should break even at year end, though non-gift-aided giving has been higher than expected. The PCC agreed on the importance of encouraging giving through Gift Aid.

The diocese has asked parishes to maintain or increase their FWO contributions. The church currently gives £81,000 against a suggested £70,000, with the diocese requesting an additional £34,000 across the area. Members discussed balancing diocesan giving with the church's own "Kingdom Mission Giving" (KMG), which already represents a significant budget commitment.

Various views were expressed: some supported increasing the FWO in line with inflation as a sign of generosity, while others highlighted the need to remain realistic given building costs and financial pressures. It was noted that the church benefits from diocesan funding through the Lower Income Communities scheme.

The general sense of the meeting was supportive of increasing the FWO in line with inflation, while maintaining transparency and proportionality with congregational giving.

Proposed by Alistair, seconded by John. Unanimous that we increase FWO by inflation.

12. Facilities Management Group report

9.20p.m.

The PCC expressed thanks to all who helped at the recent church workday, which was considered a great success. A further "spring clean" is planned for April. It was noted that items are being left on the stage without permission, and the PCC agreed that all additions to church storage areas should first be approved by the wardens or staff team. The PCC commended the Facilities Management Group for their ongoing work, noting steady progress on maintenance tasks.

13. Buildings Task Group feedback

9.25p.m.

Held till next PCC

14. New Photography and Video Policy

9.25 p.m.

The policy is accepted with minor changes.

15. Grant Applications to the Grocery

9.35 p.m.

Our grant team and the Message Trust grant team need to communicate about who is applying for which grant. We need to keep control of the applications.

We are happy for the current arrangement to continue

16. Alpha this Autumn 9.36 p.m.

*Alpha is starting 22nd September. The last was a success so be praying for this one.
There is a clash with PCC but we will manage somehow.*

17. Any other notified business 9.35 p.m.
[These should be submitted (in writing if possible) to the Churchwardens at the latest
by the evening before the PCC meeting.]

18. Prayer

Proposed PCC Meetings

6th October

3rd November

1st December