St Barnabas Church, Linthorpe

PCC Meeting 7.15 pm Monday 14th September 2026 in the Narthex

Refreshments from 7 pm

AGENDA

1 Worship

Alistair led this with a song from Mission Praise and a reading from Philippians 2 vs 1-11.

2 Present

David Goodhew, Gail Roberts, Richard Peacock, Stuart Gunn, Alistair Bolton, Andrew Devereux, Isaac James, David Gbenedio, Lynda Walker, Caleb Serebour, Helen McGregor, John Downs, Immy Burgess-Hale.

Apologies – Malcolm McGregor, Ali Ward, Dave Roberts, Lindsey Goodhew, Debs Smith.

3 Minutes of meeting of 6/7/26

Two amendments were made: one, under Staffing, was the correction of spelling of Graeme Malyon, and the other, under Matters Arising, changed the day Scouts ran their meetings from Mondays to Wednesdays.

PCC accepted these amendments, with Immy proposing and Alistair seconding the first one, and Andrew proposing and John seconding the second one.

4 Matters Arising

None were reported.

5 Correspondence

Nothing was reported

6 Vicar's Report

PCC members split into pairs to reflect on significant happenings in the past two months. The following, were mentioned:

-Thanks for success of Criccieth Camp with 15 of our young people attending, in addition to those from other parts of the country. In particular, there was gratitude for the enthusiasm for evening worship.

-Recent Churches Together meetings and prayer events

-Baptisms at Saltburn beach

-16 people from St Barnabas went to Keswick Convention

-The crash on the A66 where seven people lost their lives. Following this, police force managed themselves well and worked well with other forces. This event is consequently

making people focus on the future of today's young people and opportunities available to them.

-The summer heatwave, with thanks given that our area was not so severely affected.

Other things to mention:

-James' recent licensing in Leeds

-Last week's Wednesday morning communion where Ray Morris, our long-standing reader preached, while Nobel, our most recent reader, officiated. Ray preaches on the second Wednesday of each month.

-Our Mission Action Plan is coming up for renewal next year. This needs to be carried out every three years. David wishes to retain what still applies, but some updating is necessary. He will ask the congregation and PCC to pray about the next 3 years.

7 SMMIB Bid of Diocese of York (SMMIB stands for the Strategic Ministry and Mission Investment Board of the Church of England)

Funding from this is usually in 3-year blocks but some needs with require a longer time-span. York Diocese may be prepared to focus on Middlesbrough with some of the funding impacting St Barnabas. If this is available, there is a possibility we may obtain a new Associate Vicar for intercultural ministries, also resources for administrative work. The result of this bid is expected in November or December.

Low Income Fund – this is targeted at areas of social deprivation and has been increased by one third. Due to this fund, it was possible to fill 6 vacancies over the past year.

8 Bible Conversations Teesside

Teesside was selected as a pilot area for Bible Conversations because so many churches are able to work and pray together and the whole mission is a multi-church venture. Up to 80 churches are now involved in this. At St Barnabas on Wednesdays starting 7th October for 8 weeks there will be a Bible Course for people at all levels of faith. It will be held in Life Groups with an extra one run by Lindsey in the Narthex for people not yet in a Life Group. Its aim is to familiarise people with the Bible and increase their confidence in speaking about it.

In November the Bible Conversations course will begin. It will run for 4 weeks based on the Good News version of the books of Luke and Acts, and will take place on Thursday mornings at the Community Café, Swatters Carr on Wednesdays, and in church on Monday and Wednesday evenings. Bible Conversations can also take place informally, as well in the above groups.

Recent negative events in Teesside recently may be making people to search spiritually.

9 Safeguarding

The Safeguarding Policy is now on the church website. Guidelines have been circulated round each group. This needs to be carried out every 2 years. Stuart said that the dashboard shows 87% compliance.

10 Staffing

A maternity and paternity policy has been circulated to PCC members and passed. Ours is based on enhanced maternity benefit which is more generous than standard maternity benefit which offers the legal minimum. Immy will receive it for 20 hours. We still need to employ someone to replace her while she is on maternity leave. Shortlisting interviews for this will take place at the end of September.

As well as Phil Hale, Adrian the cleaner will be taking paternity leave in December so it is positive that the policy is in place. Phil will be spending more time in youth work, with CYFA and Criccieth camp, and less with the AV team. We therefore need a larger AV team, with older people needed to support the young people. Sometimes there is an unexpected interruption in AV service, e.g. due to sudden updates. In this case, this could be explained from the front to ease pressure on the AV workers. Also, if for some reason it is not possible to use the organ at the 9.30 a.m. service, rather than over-explaining technical issues, people need grace when they occur, rather than interrupting worship.

PAUSE TO PRAY

11 Pastoral Care

Planning for this has not yet been actioned.

12 Buildings Task Group

Alistair is to step down as leader. David thanked him, especially for the work he has done in arranging for work on the church hall roof. PCC members are to consider who could take over his role. Current members are Nigel Fletcher, Tony Hutchings, Hazel Murray, and Alistair. It was suggested that one of these people could take on Alistair's role.

David suggested consulting users of the church hall in order to allow them to suggest improvement of facilities, to raise the money required, and to make them aware of the work to be carried out.

13 Finance

-Last year our finances just broke even but this year we are up by £24,000 as we received more from Giftaid than expected. We are still awaiting a grant from the Lyndhurst Trust. More than £1,000 is still owed from users of the hall, with £2,800 more than 30 days overdue. If anyone on PCC has experience of debt collection, please can they speak to Andrew. Large amounts are owed by regular users.

-Freewill Offer – we need to tell the Diocese by 10 days' time what we will be able to give next year and projections for the following two years. St Barnabas gave £83,124 last year. David considered that a small increase was possible, to meet the inflation rate, increasing it to £85,335. We have to bear in mind that any increase will have an impact on planning for next year's budget. By 2031 we need to fully cover ministry costs, something we already do.

Richard proposed that we increase Freewill offering by the rate of inflation for this year and the following two years. This was seconded by David, with everyone else voting for this.

14 Facilities Management Group

The organ still requires repair, but the electric piano has an organ mode on it which can be used until our organ is able to be used again.

More people who are good with buildings are needed to be in the FMG and a notice has been place in Keep in Touch to communicate this.

15 CCTV Policy Update

Tony updated the documents and Gail highlighted the changes in red.

Gail proposed that we accept the new CCTV policy as amended. Andrew seconded this and everyone else voted in support of this.

16 GDPR Privacy Notice

Updates have been made to the Privacy Notice with changes highlighted in the document. Immy proposed acceptance of these, with Alistair as seconder. Everyone else voted in support of this. 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.

17 Martyn's Law

This applies to any gathering where there are more than 200 people and informs how they should be managed safely. Gail's evacuation procedure has made a start to this. There is also information on the website. Our document has to be submitted by the beginning of 2027. We still need to find out where the safer places in the church hall are, how to lock down, and how to communicate e.g. using mobile phones. PCC members need to share ideas with Gail.

18 AOB

-Gail would like to add John Downs and Eleanor Nixon as Duty Wardens. Gail proposed this, with David seconding. Everyone else voted in support of this.

-David suggested writing to John and Sue Ravalde on behalf of the PCC to thank them for their contribution to the life of the church at St Barnabas. All PCC members were in support of this.

-The flower arranging team would like to carry out a Flower Festival for Pentecost on 16th May. The last time we had one was in 2017. It would provide an opportunity for outreach such as inviting local schools into church and giving extra concerts. As next year it will be 10 years since Big Kids was inaugurated, this could be incorporated into church celebrations at the same time.

19 Prayer to conclude meeting

Date of next meeting: Monday 5th October at 7.15 p.m.

Chair……. Date…….