

ST MARGARET CHURCH, ADDINGTON
Minutes of Parochial Church Council Meeting
Dated Tuesday 3rd March 2026
7.30pm in Church Room

ACTION
BY

Graham Halliday-Saddler opened the meeting with a reading from Isaiah followed by prayer.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Rita Drayson, Laraine Jalili-Hodges.
2. **Present:** Rev. Helen Burn, Graham Halliday-Saddler (Churchwarden), John Humphrey (Churchwarden/Treasurer), Brenda Humphrey (Secretary), Nicola Budgen (Safeguarding Officer), Tony Chapman, Christine Halliday-Saddler, Sally Goodman, Judy Grimes.
3. **Minutes of Meeting** dated 20th January 2026 (copies circulated) were agreed as a true record.
4. **Matters Arising:** There were no Matters Arising from the Minutes.
5. **Mission:**
Rev. Helen Burn reported an increase in the benefice of younger people joining church.
6. **Home:**
Palm Sunday Service — Benefice service in West Malling church
Mothering Sunday—Trish Hart taking service. Martin and Jane Howells have been in touch with her re the giving out of plants which they have kindly donated.
Easter Sunday Service—Christine Halliday-Saddler confirmed members of Village Voices will attend. Judy Grimes produced plastic eggs but it was felt that larger ones would be preferable. Christine Halliday-Saddler agreed to search for these.
The Secretary agreed to produce a poster for the service. John Humphrey to send a copy to the Parish Council Secretary.
Proposed Service Times Review—After discussion the PCC agreed that moving services to 10.30am was the preferred option. The congregation will be consulted on the options.
Future Arrangements for PCC meetings and APCM—Rev Helen Burn explained that having seven **PCC Meetings** every other month was difficult for clergy to attend and proposed having four meetings per year with clergy to discuss Mission and forward planning; Fabric and Safeguarding; Finance and Stewardship; Review of mission and outreach events and ongoing planning. The PCC felt this was a good idea as long as we could have business meetings in between these four.
APCM Meetings would take place in 2027 on a trial basis with the seven churches meeting together (maybe in one of the church schools) to worship and share what has been happening in their church. Then we would move into separate spaces for their Meeting of Parishioners and APCM.
John Humphrey requested that this should not take place on the 2nd Sunday as proposed as this would mean clashing with Café Church which is our main outreach service.
The Secretary expressed her concern that this meant that the Meeting of Parishioners, which is open to all on the parish electoral roll, would be held outside of the parish. Rev. Helen Burn pointed out that it was not a legal requirement that the Meeting of Parishioners be held within the parish.

Ch-s
Sec/JH

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7. **Safeguarding**

The Safeguarding Officer distributed copies of St Margaret's PCC Recruitment of Ex-Offenders Policy which was adopted by the PCC. She then discussed outstanding items in the Safeguarding Action Summary—Level 3.

8. **Finance**

The Treasurer's report had been circulated.

He reported that the repairs to the **East Wall** had commenced at the cost of £30,000 including VAT. He reported that he had applied to the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme for refund of VAT on the £5000 Architect fees. Our application was submitted prior to the closure of the scheme.

The Treasurer reported that we have finally switched our energy supplier to Octopus on a two year fixed rate.

9. **Church Wardens' Report**

East Wall Repointing—the work has commenced.

Car Parking—There is not much we can do. If we re-seed the area the cars will soon churn it up again. Placing Tarmac over the area would work and would seem to be the only alternative but it would be expensive. It was decided to discuss this further after we know the full cost of the repairs to the East Wall.

Damp in Wall—Considerable damp has been observed under the music control desk at the back of the church. The wardens are not sure of the cause and will investigate further.

10. **Any Other Business:**

Beetle Drive—Christine Halliday-Saddler reported that the Beetle Drive held in the Church Room was successful with participants requesting a repeat.

11. **Date of next Meeting:** Tuesday 14th April 2026, 7.30pmm in the Church Room.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

CH-S