

**PCC Minutes: Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2025**  
**St Luke's Church, Grayshott**  
**Meeting 418 of the PCC in the Timothy Room at 7.00 pm.**

**Present:** PCC Members: Revd. Jeremy Haswell, Jonathan Tippett, Alice Murphy, Annette Baker, Ros Balfour, Anne Gale-Jones, Anna Lescure, Clive Loder, Hilary Loder, Viv Ward, Philippa Whitaker, June Windle.

**In attendance:** (First item only): Grayshott School Governors: Linda Holbrook (Chair of Governors), Tim Robertson.  
Edward Tobin (PCC Secretary).

**1. Welcome and opening prayer**

Revd Haswell read from Isaiah 43 and opened the meeting with a prayer.

**2. Grayshott School Academization**

Linda and Tim gave a powerpoint presentation to the meeting about the school joining an academic trust. Over the past 3 years, they visited 5 schools that had become multi-academy trusts and had invited the CEO's of 2 of them to meet them. One of the trusts only had 5 schools in the group and the other had 24 schools. The Board of Governors of Grayshott School had voted to join the larger of these, the Good Shepherd Trust which was set up as a not-for-profit company by the Diocese of Guildford. Several schools in our area had already joined this trust. Feedback from teachers at these schools had said there was good communication between their school and the trust.

The Good Shepherd Trust is a Christian based organisation. Staff would be paid the same salaries as at present but from the trust. When a new head teacher was chosen, this would be by the trust but with consultation with local committees. There was reassurance that the Good Shepherd Trust would seek a Christian in the first instance. There was praise for the present headmaster of the school, Richard Austen. There would be more inset days for staff training (8 instead of the present 5 each year). There are also teachers in the trust who can stand in for absent staff. At present the school has to pay heavily for replacement staff.

PCC members asked whether the school would retain its identity and were reassured it would. Regarding the ownership of the land and assets, this would remain as it is. Half belongs to Guildford Diocese and half to Hampshire County Council. The Trust would pay rent to these bodies. Hilary Loder (PCC member) declared a previous interest having advised the Good Shepherd Trust in the past. She commended the way the trust is run and a historical background on its original foundation. It is run as a non-profit making company on behalf of Guildford Diocese.

The Vicar summarised that this meeting was as a courtesy to the PCC because the parish will lose the foundation governors of the school under this scheme but the school will benefit for the reasons discussed. He recommended that the PCC should support the decision the governors are taking. He thanked Linda and Tim for their presentation and Hilary for her helpful comments. Linda and Tim left the meeting.

**3. Apologies**

Susanne Wavre, Susie Millard (LLM)

#### **4. Resolution on Grayshott School joining an Academy**

***The Vicar proposed that the PCC support the school's board of governors in their aim of joining the Good Shepherd Trust. This was seconded by Hilary Loder and approved unanimously by the meeting.***

#### **5. Minutes of Previous Meetings**

The minutes of meetings 416 (8<sup>th</sup> May 2025) and 417 (7<sup>th</sup> July 2025) and the minutes of a PCC vote by e-mail (1<sup>st</sup> July 2025) to proceed with the first stage of the Weathervane repair had all been circulated to PCC members. They were all agreed and signed by the Chairman.

However, in the case of Meeting 417 regarding the Church Development Plan, Clive Loder asked for clarification regarding the version given as an appendix to the minutes. This was the version prior to the amendments being incorporated. The Chairman confirmed that the copy he had signed incorporated these amendments, but this had not been made available to the PCC secretary. The Chairman will make the amended version available to all PCC members.

#### **6. Action List (Matters arising)**

The Treasurer noted that the Standing Committee needed a further PCC member.

***June Windle volunteered to join and was approved unanimously by the meeting.***

He also noted that a further member was needed for the Finance Working Group and ***Rosalind Balfour volunteered to join the FWG. She was approved by all present.***

#### **7. Reports**

##### **a. Vicar's Report**

Hilary pointed out that several people had come forward as intercessors at services. Ros Balfour had volunteered for the 8.30am Holy Communion service on first Sundays of the month.

##### **b. Churchwarden's Report**

Jonathan gave an account of the progress in restoring the weathervane – phase 1 – to make it safe. The steeplejack, David Palmer from Wallbridge, Salisbury had felt it was unsafe to take the weathervane down using the cherry picker he had when he visited. It was estimated that it weighed over 80kg and a sturdier cherry picker was required. His charge for the first visit was in excess of £2,000 and his discount for making a second visit was only £175 (+ VAT). The steeplejack was due to return the following Monday to complete the work in making it safe but there will be further expenditure for this. Several PCC members were uneasy about this expense but Jonathan explained that there was little else we could do.

He also mentioned the PCC's aim to improve the toilets in the Church Hall.

### **c. Safeguarding Update**

Hilary had circulated the Safeguarding Action Plan and Summary Action Plan to PCC members before the meeting. A guide was circulated at the meeting. She explained the procedures for the new PCC members and emphasised that PCC members are jointly responsible for safeguarding, not just the Safeguarding Officers. With young people playing with the music group at services, a safeguarding matter was that they should not be seen when the service is streamed.

***The Vicar signed the Safeguarding Action Plan on behalf of the PCC. The churchwarden (Jonathan Tippett) signed the Diocesan Safeguarding Document.***

### **d. Youth & Children's Work**

Hilary presented her report.

We have been awarded a grant of £6k over 2 years by Grayshott Parish Council to help to finance a Families' and Children's and Young People's Worker.

Following advertising for the post, one application had been received. This was from Alice Murphy. The Vicar had checked with the Charities Commission and Diocesan Authorities including the Area Dean and the Registrar regarding any conflict of interest that a churchwarden might incur by becoming an employee.

The Registrar had told the Vicar provided that:

- We have disclosed it to the Charities Commission and
- the Vicar has discussed it with the trustees (PCC members) and
- that the church is paying the employee a reasonable salary and
- that the Archdeacon is informed of the decision,

there will be no objection to Alice taking the employed position and remaining as Churchwarden. This will also need to be recorded in the Charities Commission annual report.

***The Vicar asked the PCC for their approval in Alice taking up the position of Youth and Families Worker and all PCC members at the meeting gave their approval.***

### **e. Treasurer's Report**

Viv presented his report. He said that the funds remaining at the end of the year will be £23k but, if things remain unchanged we would run out of funds by the end of 2026.

Regarding the Parish Share, the full amount had been paid to the diocese up to 2024 but there was a shortfall of £11,629.44 in 2025 payments up to the end of June.

Funding was currently available to pay this and Viv and the Vicar recommended that this was paid. There followed a long discussion about this including the possibility that our parish might be merged with neighbouring parishes in the long term.

Jonathan cited several examples of what had happened in other parishes in Guildford Diocese.

***The PCC voted on this proposal by the Vicar that the shortfall was paid. This was seconded by Ros Balfour. 8 PCC members voted in favour and 4 PCC members voted against this proposal. It was therefore carried.***

Viv also mentioned that he would be signing up with Parish Buying for a new energy contract from the end of September. Parish Buying will use their buying power of many C of E churches to get the best value for money.

#### **f. Prayer Report**

The Vicar had prepared a report which had been circulated before the meeting. The Emergency Prayer WhatsApp Group and the Prayer Box in Church were working well. He was disappointed that the monthly Tuesday evening prayer meeting was very badly attended recently. He thanked Anna Lescure and Penny Thomas for their work in maintaining the Prayer station by the side altar table in church.

#### **g. Outreach Report**

Claire Haswell had prepared a report for the meeting which had been circulated. There had been a Newcomers' Tea on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June attended by 35 and another is scheduled in the Autumn. An Alpha Course is due to start in the Autumn and a new venture is a group discussing "Hymns we Love". She also had reminded the PCC of outreach from the monthly Friendship Teas and Friendship Lunches and the work of Oasis on Tuesdays.

The Vicar reminded the meeting that Annette Baker was organising St.Luke's Fete on Lyndon Green on 30<sup>th</sup> August.

The Holiday Club will be running from 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> August after which Rhys McClaren, our Youth Worker will be leaving us on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August.

The Vicar prayed and the meeting finished at 9.30 pm.