

Hertingfordbury St Mary with St John Parochial Church Council.

Minutes of the meeting held 16 January 2026 at 1930 in the Brace Room and via Zoom.

Present:

Robin Bishop (Chair), Alan Stewart, David Gorton, Alastair Curry (Zoom), Robin Densem, Philip Juniper, Kath Oates, Barry Wade Simpkins.

1. Apologies

Rachel Carter, Stephane McCarthy

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes were approved as correct record subject to;

5.5 replace 'had been set up' with 'continues',

9 for 'clock' read 'clockface'.

3. Matters arising

3 AS had had no response to his letter to the Archdeacon re. TM dissolution.

The relicencing service had been postponed with a new date yet to be set.

Prayer Ministry. AS was to meet shortly with Juliet Curry and Stephane McCarthy

4. Correspondence

Nil

5. Priests' report

Christmas services.

AS reported that attendances across all services had been good and in many cases, at both HSM and HSA, up. AS would speak with Jane Eldred as members felt that the bellringers might feel underappreciated. It was agreed that the Carols and Handbells at the White Horse had been a better occasion. DG undertook to speak with those at the WH responsible for the wording of their publicity and to agree a date well in advance for this year's event.

Foundation Governor at HCPS

Insert name had been proposed and confirmation of his appointment was sort. The meeting felt that it was not appropriate simply to agree without knowing anything of the candidate. It was agreed that AS would speak with the Head and that in future the PCC would be given information about a candidate in advance of a confirmation being sort.

White Horse Wedding Fayre

Karen Cox (Wedding Administrator) and Laura Manning would be attending to answer questions about marrying at HSM.

Youth Worker

AS proposed that HSM should make a financial contribution given Lindsey Betteridge's work included HCPS and HP. The meeting agreed in principle. AS will undertake some research and circulate members with a proposal.

The Exploring Faith Course

The course would begin shortly with interest being generated by AS's promotion at Christmas services in addition to the leaflets.

Confirmation Service

One member of HSM would be being Confirmed at the forthcoming service.

6. Mission Action Planning

The draft was discussed at length. Several tweakings and additions were considered and agreed. AS will circulate the final version before submission to the Diocese.

7. Reaching New People

KO volunteered to undertake a profile of a several aspects of the parish.

8. Friends of St Mary

The meeting noted the contents of the Chairman's report, particular that c£5,700 had been raised

9. Churchwardens' report

The Vestry Roof and the BR window had been repaired. Various elements of routine maintenance had been undertaken.

Whilst functioning after a fashion, it had become apparent following an inspection by Greenheat that the boiler needed to be replaced before September. Whilst the Diocese is keen that new boilers should be consistent with its environmental vision, DG's feeling that finding an effective alternative to a new gas boiler would be challenging was confirmed during his discussion with HSM's Architect. DG has an appointment with the DAC to discuss the best solution and will keep members informed. The Treasurer said he believed that the reserves should be sufficient to cover the cost of the replacement albeit they would be significantly dented. For the immediate future, three electric heaters had been purchased, their key feature being quietness. However, there is a fallback position of using a space heater, although that has disadvantages of noise, cost and generating condensation.

10. Churchyard Managers Report

Nothing of note to report.

11. Treasurer's report

Further to the report, the Treasurer reported that the paperwork would be going shortly to the Auditor and that HMRC had already paid the 2025 GA claim

12. Safeguarding

Members noted the contents of the report. The PSO commented that a number of members and others had their DBS renewal falling due this year.

13. Deanery Synod

Nothing additional to report.

15. Eco Church

The meeting scheduled for 18 Jan had been postponed until 10 Feb.

15. Parish Magazine

There was nothing of significance to report.

16. Hertford Churches Together

KO brought to the meeting's attention the events to be held during the Week of Christian Unity 19-25 Jan, namely the 24/7 Prayer Event at St Andrew's Church (Saturday) and the Unity Service at Hertford URC (Sunday).

17. AOB

The meeting agreed, nem con, to DG's proposal, seconded by AS, that Barry and Elizabeth Wade Simpkins be allowed to reserve a plot in the HSM Churchyard. DG will forward the proposal to the Diocese.

17.1 New PCC Secretary

A name was suggested, who will be approached by AS &/or the Wardens. The congregation's attention will be drawn to the vacancy in the weekly Notices.

AS observed that it would be good to have some new blood on the PCC, particularly as there are several vacancies. A number of names were suggested. As with the Secretary's position, the congregation will be made aware of the need in the weekly Notices.

18 Dates for 2026

The dates had been circulated and were noted

Next meeting

19 March at (nb) 2000 in the Brace Room

The meeting closed at 2119 with a prayer.