

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CHURCH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes
Monday 9th February 2026

Attendees : Bernard Hunter, Fr Michael Copps, Robin Shearmur, Lorna Spears, Donna Patros, Damian Atkinson, Matthew Ives, Patricia Jolly.
Also present: Suzie Wright.

Apologies for Absence: Cynthia Oji, Martin Sharkey, Peter Robson

Fr Michael started the meeting with a reading of next weekend's Gospel passage.

Minutes

The minutes of the January meeting were approved subject to adding Peter Robson as an attendee.

Matters arising

Church Sound System – Bernard apologised that there was no action yet.

The headset microphone has gone missing.

Ushers' guidance document – 8:30am and 10am Sunday teams have provided feedback. 10am comments accepted as they were clear omissions e.g. when to inform the Children's Liturgy team to prepare to rejoin mass. 8:30 comments fed back to Bernadette as there is quite a lot of it. Awaiting H&S comments

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

Henrietta Suite

The new suite has been very well received by everyone.

The new tables are difficult to put up and down properly, causing scratches on the table tops – to be kept under review.

The main outstanding issue is the counter top design, which will shortly be determined by the Becket Centre committee. Some snagging issues remain, including Bluetooth connection fault on the sound system.

The formal opening event being organised by the Becket Centre Committee is in Saturday 28th Feb from 3pm to 5:30pm.

Support for St Antony's and Trinity

Damian had spoken to St Antony's and asked what they are currently doing and could do if additional funding is available. TCHS will be contacted. Action: Damian

Lift

Bernard explained that and that there had been several recent issues suggesting a lift would be very helpful for some who wished to attend events upstairs.

A feasibility study had been undertaken some years ago for the installation of a lift.

Action: Bernard to report back on review needs/benefits, budgetary cost, location.

Review of recent events

Alpha: Very well received. 25 have signed up and about 18 attend on average.

Future events

Lenten activities – Martin's email was discussed; it is too late to action some of his ideas. The committee asked if Martin could produce some outline plans for Lent 2027. Peter to consider if last year's retreat day could be repeated.

It was agreed that Stations of the Cross (Fridays at 7:30pm) could be better advertised. Triduum services to be coordinated by Damian. Mike Murphy was thanked for his preparation of readings.

MC to discuss other options with the Friars.

Review plans for the year

Our young people – Bernard to explore whether we can organise ongoing meetings for our young people, to start as the confirmation programme ends.

Screens in church – .. for hymns, responses and other messages. Bernard to prepare a short business case for our deliberation, and organise a demonstration after Easter using loaned equipment.

Older people – carried forward – action Patricia

AoB

- Lorna asked if the protocol for the 'kiss of peace' was clear to everyone, given that some do not wish for physical contact. The meeting thought it was clear, and fine for individuals to choose for themselves whether they actually shake hands or not.

- Matthew asked for a statement of planned capital expenditure to be shared, and he would like to see a quarterly statement of accounts from the Finance committee.

Bernard thought that was a replication of the FC's role but would ask.

Damian closed the meeting with a prayer.

Next Meeting

This will be held on Monday 9th March 2026 at 7.30pm