

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CHURCH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes
Monday 8th June 2026

Attendees : Bernard Hunter, Fr Michael Copps, Lorna Spears, Donna Patros, Peter Robson. Also present: Suzie Wright, Srs Appolonia and Mary Bernadette

Apologies for Absence: Damian Atkinson, Matthew Ives, Martin Sharkey, Cynthia Oji, Robin Shearmur

Our constitution requires 6 members present for a quorum, so all the decisions made will need to be ratified at the next PPC.

Introductions were made for the sisters, who have recently joined our parish. Fr Michael started the meeting with a reading of next weekend's Gospel passage.

Minutes

The minutes of the May meeting were approved subject to the suggested clarification of the relationship of the H&S committee and PIB/our insurers.

Matters arising

Suzie is seeking advice about possible improvements to the signage so that it is more visible to those passing/looking for us.

No options or possible suppliers of replacement gable crosses have arisen. Lorna pointed to the crosses at the back of the roof which we will look at for ideas.

UPDATES

Regular meetings for young people

Bernard is still seeking to engage with the confirmation programme for their assistance in ideas and communication with the confirmands; Fr Michael and Suzie will assist.

Screens in church

The meeting acknowledged potential problems with screens, but resolved to proceed with a trial to gauge opinion and help identify which issues could be significant.

Henrietta Suite refurbishment

Rob continues to monitor and oversee completion, and has reported that some relatively minor snagging work is still outstanding. Not all the cost has been paid yet. No problems are expected.

Attracting volunteers

Some encouraging response was received to Suzie's flyers a few weeks ago. That highlights the value of bringing to parishioners' attention the need for more volunteers. Bernard to coordinate further efforts.

REVIEW OF RECENT EVENTS

Polling station: We had a discussion based on Suzie's notes.

It was agreed that the day had gone very smoothly.

The cooperation of parents after a concerted communication campaign by the office was much appreciated.

The tarmac area in front of church proved sufficient for polling station needs.

We can improve communication with the authorities about those entitled to be there and those attending mass next time.

It was agreed that we should not seek to profit from this use of our facilities, it being a service to the local community: the £250 charged seems about right. Suzie was asked to find out where that figure had come from.

Upstairs in the Becket centre had been closed off for security reasons (to prevent those voting from straying around the building).

Future events

- outdoor mass Sunday 14 June; Bernard has circulated notes/actions for the event and has identified who is doing what this year, but pointed out the need for a nominated coordinator in future.

- AGM Wednesday 1st July at 7:30pm. Peter reminded us that some of us were coopted last year and need to be officially voted as members.

A PPC report is also needed. Action on both: Bernard

- Summer Fete is being coordinated by Avril Leary. Bernard will check she has all she needs, and try to ensure that details are documented to future-proof the event.

- The parish celebration of Fr Brian's birthday is planned to start with mass at 2pm on Saturday 25 July, followed by afternoon tea and cakes and wine, provided by the office (Maria leading) and served by the CWL. Cost of about £200 agreed.

AoB

St Francis anniversary: Fr Michael undertook to organise a Triduum (Fri 2nd-Sun 4th Oct) covering the Transitus and the anniversary. Peter has some useful material.

Post-Alpha: participants now meet as 'Friends in Faith'. They wish to have an away-day structured around the Enneagram self-reflection tool at The Barn.

A budget of £250 for its hire was approved, subject to the event being effectively promoted to all parishioners.

Alpha: It was agreed that the next course, open to parishioners and non-parishioners alike would be best timed as for the last one, to start in the new year.

Parish management computer system: Suzie sponsored a meeting to explore whether to stay with PPS, the conclusion being 'probably yes'.

Ways to better embed various office systems with PPS will be explored, and only if we are unable to do what we need with it will we look elsewhere.

Two other systems, neither used in Brentwood Diocese, have been identified.

Sr Mary Bernadette closed the meeting with a prayer.

Next Meeting will be held on Monday 13th July 2026 at 7.30pm (after the AGM on 1st)