

PARISH OF ST. KATHARINE WITH ST. NICHOLAS, BOURNEMOUTH

Minutes of the Extraordinary PCC meeting held in the Vesper Bell Room at St. Katharine's Church on Thursday 21st August 2025 at 6 pm.

Present: Archdeacon Jean Burgess, Jayne Tarry (Winchester Diocese), Dean Quinton (Churchwarden and PCC Chair), Kevin Feltham (Churchwarden and PCC Vice Chair), Liz Hann, Peter Hann, Jenny Glendenning (Treasurer), Christine Quinton, Bob Hammond, Fr. Dave Talbot, Rob D'Arney, Johnathon Smith, Liz Christopher, Natalie Greenfield

Apologies: Colin Baker (Secretary), Julian Davies, Hilary Davies (Safeguarding Officer), Susan D'Arney

Part One (Minutes by Jayne Tarry)

See accompanying pdf.

Part Two (Minutes by Kevin Feltham)

Subsequent to the Archdeacon and Jayne Tarry leaving to visit the All Saints' PCC, the following items were discussed:

2.1 The Diocesan proposals for the future of our parish

A short discussion took place and, in view of the fact that the three new proposals all involved splitting up our two churches, the majority decision was to remain with the current proposal of merging with the Parish of All Saints, our neighbours.

2.2 Replacement of the Parish Centre boiler

DQ explained that the current boiler was well past its sell-by date and, due to two leaks, needed replacing, thereby being more efficient and reliable. He proposed that we accept the quote of £3531 provided by Webley's, as the company is acquainted with our system and has provided good service in the past. There was unanimous agreement.

2.3 Application for the BCM (Pastoral) Course

Jacqueline Tizzard, of the St Nicholas' congregation, was seeking the PCC's approval to join the forthcoming course. This was approved unanimously.

2.4 Getting the accounts onto a computerised package

KF explained that he had been asked, by the Finance Team, to contact the diocese to find out if they had any contacts who could assist us. The team did not think the reply was helpful so KF was asked to contact Mike Powis to find out whether he could provide the name of the person he thought might become treasurer of the united parish. That very afternoon KF had received a reply from Mike and, although

he could not provide a name, he had forwarded our request to the Area Dean who did provide a name and contact details.

NG informed the meeting that Jon Wood had recently been made redundant. KF will follow up the possibility of his taking on the task, as a paid position.

Next meetings: Wednesday 10th September and Friday 14th November, both starting at 7pm in the Vesper Bell Room at St. Katharine's.

DQ brought the meeting to a close with the Grace

DRAFT



21 August 2025

PCC Meeting of Bournemouth St Katharine

In attendance: Archdeacon of Bournemouth, the Ven Jean Burgess
Pastoral Secretary, Jayne Tarry

The Archdeacon opened the meeting in prayer.

Archdeacon Jean provided a brief re-cap of the journey taken to arrive at the current proposed pastoral re-organisation; reiterating that the overriding goals for any re-organisation must be growth of mission and ministry. She explained that the recent public consultation period had resulted in more comment on the leadership and style of the Revd Mike Powis than on the re-organisation itself. Hence the decision to pause the process for up to 6 months in order to allow for further discussion to take place.

Archdeacon Jean stated her deep concern for the welfare of Mike in this process; of the potential impact that the publication of those personal comments (all will be available on the national CofE website) will have on Mike and his family.

PCC members were quick to express their own concerns for Mike at this news.

Archdeacon Jean took the opportunity to confirm that if the current proposals do not go forward, the result will not be the appointment of a new incumbent to the existing benefice; that change would still be required albeit in a different format. That the decline in both benefices, St Katharine's and All Saints', over the past ten years was ample evidence that a new approach would be needed. Archdeacon Jean reiterated that there was no desire to suppress or limit the Anglo Catholic tradition of St Katharine's, and abundant evidence from other places that differing traditions could thrive together.

If the current proposals were not to progress then alternative plans which might be considered include:

- A union of St Katharine's (church) with St Ambrose (parish) under the leadership of Father Adrian Pearce (St Ambrose & Father Adrian would need to be consulted);
 - St Nicholas could move to unite with All Saints' under the leadership of Mike Powis, or
 - Receive support/a plant from St Swithun's/LoveChurch BMO, with All Saints remaining a single parish benefice in the interim.
- Division of the benefice into two; creating two half time incumbencies, one each at St Katharine's and St Nicholas'. This would result in increased diocesan costs and possibly less viable candidates, less likely to result in growth across the wider area.

Archdeacon Jean shared with the PCC the extent of the wider diocesan subsidy to the parish over the past six years:

Bournemouth St Katharine			
	Requested	Paid	Deficit
2019	£77,604.02	£43,000.00	-£34,604.02
2020	£82,317.60	£9,000.00	-£73,317.60
2021	£73,649.64	£17,500.00	-£56,149.64
2022	£77,323.09	£20,000.00	-£57,323.09
2023	£73,545.16	£24,000.00	-£49,545.16
2024	£69,233.33	£24,000.00	-£45,233.33
Total	£453,672.84	£137,500.00	-£316,172.84

NB, the agreed cost of an incumbent post is circa £75,000 per annum, including stipend, national insurance, pension, housing costs, statutory legal costs and a contribution to the ongoing cost of training the next generation of clergy.

Archdeacon Jean reiterated the support of the senior leadership team for the two parishes, and their belief that the proposed re-organisation was the best outcome for all, despite that some of the congregation remain unhappy at the prospect.

Questions and comments from the PCC included:

- A union with St Ambrose was looked at previously and put aside as it only took the footprint of St Katharine's into St Ambrose.
- It was felt that St Swithun's would not be a good fit with St Nicholas.
- If it is possible to assign a 0.5 to each of the churches, why not a 1.0 to the benefice? [Jean: cannot continue the current pattern of decline.]
- The change in school admissions policy a few years ago decimated the congregation.
- Why not a union with St James or St Christopher? [Jean: those parishes are in different positions, having different conversations.]
- Concern at proposal re St Swithun's which has a history of sidelining the original congregation at St Clement's. [Jean: would need careful management.]
- Concern that all alternatives lead to a split of the two church congregations. [Jean: change is needed, a way forward to grow the congregation must be found.]

Archdeacon Jean emphasized that if maintaining the current tradition was the most important part of St Katharine's, then a suitable way forward would be found. However, it would need to be a solution that provided for growth. Provision could be put in place to protect existing congregation and traditions if there was a desire from St Nicholas to enter into conversation with St Swithun's. Albeit that some things may need to be laid down to make room for new. St Mary's Southampton were a good example of blending the old with the new.

Archdeacon Jean recommended to the PCC that they revisit the origins of the current proposal, what was the draw? What were the advantages and benefits of this way forward? Are they still there? Are they still of primary importance? For the PCC to weigh the current proposal against an alternative way forward.

The PCC expressed concern for Mike Powis. They reiterated that Mike has been working well with the PCC and service leaders at St Katharine's; that he does not want to strip away the liturgy. There was a sense that St Katharine's leadership could do more to communicate with the congregation both regarding Mike's informal/interim leadership and the way forward. Archdeacon Jean encouraged the PCC to be public facing in their support of Mike, to reassure the congregation and to emphasize that personal attacks were not acceptable in any church family.

The PCC felt that they had explored all of these questions and concerns several years ago at the start of the current proposals to join with All Saints'. They had acknowledged the differences between the churches and congregations but had agreed to move forward in fellowship and love. Since then, there had been a coming together. There had been a growing of friendship and sharing. There was concern from the PCC as to whether Mike would be willing to continue in light of the personal comments included in the public response to the consultation.

Informal comment from PCC members indicated a commitment to the current proposals. Archdeacon Jean advised the PCC to discuss formally after her departure and to advise her by email of the outcome. If the PCC wished to continue, a letter of support for Mike and for the current proposals would go some way towards giving public reassurance to the congregations and to the Church Commissioners.

The Pastoral Secretary offered a summary of the process moving forward. The Church Commissioners (specifically the national Mission & Pastoral Team) had written to the Bishop, with copy of all the responses received during the public consultation, both for and against. The M&P Team had posed a series of questions to the Bishop based on the concerns raised by those who wrote in.

If both PCCs wish to move forward with the current proposals, the Pastoral Secretary will draft a formal response to send to the Commissioners. A letter of support from the PCCs would be useful if the outcome of the current discussion is to continue.

The Commissioners will send the diocesan response to all those who submitted comments during the public consultation. They will be given the opportunity to comment further on the diocesan response.

The Commissioners send that further comment to the diocesan team for a final opportunity to comment.

All comments, for/against and all the responses, would then be taken to the national Mission & Pastoral Committee for a decision (potentially before Christmas 2025, but possibly January 2026). All paperwork, including comments for/against, and the diocesan and supplementary responses would be made available on the national church website.

The national Mission & Pastoral Committee is made up of a range of experienced clergy and laity from across the country who will weigh up the proposals against opportunities for growth in mission and ministry while balancing a need to respect current traditions. The Committee may ask

for further information, but are more likely to simply make a decision either for or against the making of the scheme.

If their decision is to go ahead with the scheme, all those who objected will be notified and offered the opportunity to appeal the decision if they feel that there has been a procedural error or discrimination. At the end of the appeal period, if no appeal proceeds, then the scheme would be signed and come into effect on the first of the following month.

Archdeacon Jean offered some reflections on the future of Bournemouth Deanery in general and the upcoming Strategic Mission & Ministry Investment bid which is currently being prepared by the senior leadership team. She offered hope of a brighter future, encouraging the PCC to embrace the possibilities as they become available.

The meeting closed in prayer.

Jayne Tarry
Pastoral Secretary
September 2025