



Vicar's Report

From PCC Minutes – 15 February 2026 (v1)

Summary

This document contains sections of the minutes of the extraordinary PCC meeting on 15 February 2026.

Vicar's Report

Core Concern: The church is in a difficult position — going in circles, unable to make clear decisions, with staff and volunteers under unsustainable pressure. Piecemeal conversations with individual ministries have not produced the needed clarity.

The Proposal: That Christ Church observe an **extended Sabbath period** focused on rest, prayer, fellowship and discernment. Key elements include:

- **Most midweek ministries would stop** — Toddlers (Mon/Thu), Bereavement Group, Lunch Club, Coffee Mates, Walking Group, possibly Alongsiding
- This is framed as a **stop, not a pause** — no presumption that anything will automatically restart
- **Continuing:** Life Groups (unless they choose to pause), Renew Wednesday, Warm Welcome Tuesday (with possible simplification)
- **New provision:** A midweek service on Thursday followed by refreshments, to maintain contact with isolated members
- **Prayer focus:** A call for the church to be 'devoted to prayer' — through prayer team resources, home groups, and potentially a gathered monthly prayer meeting (possibly 4th Sunday evening)
- **Research phase:** Alongside the prayer period, investigate how the parish has changed, what other churches are doing, and identify gifts/passions within the congregation
- **Future ministries:** Whatever restarts should have clear vision, defined leadership, and a review process

Staffing Implications: Stopping Toddlers has implications for the employee leading it. HR advice must be sought from the diocese before any announcement is made to the congregation regarding this proposal, and the member of staff must be informed before the wider church.

Initial Responses from Members:

- Broadly supportive of the principle
- Strong affirmation of the Sabbath/fallow ground metaphor
- One member shared a recent experience of a silent retreat and highlighted the need for listening prayer rather than 'shopping list' intercession
- Concerns raised about: those who rely on weekday groups socially (especially older members); keeping contact with toddler families; the costliness particularly of stopping toddlers
- Suggestion noted for a PCC WhatsApp group for prayer and communication during this period — **agreed in principle**
- Desire for a timeline to avoid ongoing uncertainty