



## WOODBIDGE COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2026 held at Garsdon Church at 10.00 am.

Present: David Briggs, Chair; Rev Mike Graham; Roger Sherhod, Brinkworth; Bridget Beardshall, Lea; Anna Kent and Richard Wood, Great Somerford; Liz Walker, Garsdon.

1. **Prayers** – Mike opened the meeting with the Collect and prayers.
2. **Apologies** – Rev Steve Wilkinson, Cec Smith and Michael Bromley Gardner.
3. **Minutes of last meeting** – held on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2026 were approved.
4. **Matters arising** – The secretary will circulate the diocesan 10-year plan with these minutes – item 9 iv of the minutes of the meeting 15<sup>th</sup> April refers. PCCs are encouraged to read this plan in order to understand the position and respond to the situation.

It is now understood that Roger Hunton will be undertaking Benefice Worship Leaders training.

### 5. **Pastoral** –

- a. **Woodbridge Group of Churches – Revised Governance Scheme** – Voting figures from Parish APCMs

**Brinkworth** – 9 present; 9 in favour; none against and no abstentions. Meeting date 22<sup>nd</sup> April

**Garsdon** - 15 present; 14 in favour; none against; and 1 abstention. Meeting date 19<sup>th</sup> May

**Lea** – 13 present; 13 in favour; none against and no abstentions. Meeting date 5<sup>th</sup> May

**Great Somerford** – 7 present; 6 in favour; none against and 1 abstention. Meeting date 11<sup>th</sup> May.

- b. **Departures and Re-arrival** –

Mike thanked most warmly all those involved in making Christian's farewell service at Lea so memorable. Christian had already received a leaving gift of a ground coffee machine – please see attached photo and was also presented with a framed colour copy of the North Wessex Way; a hydrangea plant was presented to Janina who also received, for Cassian and Caiah, a complete set of Beatrix Potter Peter Rabbit books. After the service Christian was also sent a cash gift of £420, with more likely to follow. Photos of the presentation, kindly narrated by Mike, are also attached. It was suggested that PCCs might wish to display these photos for the benefit of their congregations.

Christian expressed his and Janina's grateful thanks for all their gifts.

He subsequently wrote the following note:

*'It has been a great privilege and joy to serve in Woodbridge over the last three years, and I am deeply grateful for the friendship, support, and encouragement that I have received from so many people.'*

*We would certainly love to keep in touch.*

*My new address is:*

*Cottage 2*

*St Mary Abbots Centre*

*Vicarage Gate*

*Kensington*

*London W8 4HW*

*My personal email address is: [csaguyan@gmail.com](mailto:csaguyan@gmail.com)*

*Please do feel free to share these details with anyone who would like to stay in contact. It would be wonderful to hear from people from time to time.'*

It was noted that all those who had expressed an interest in going to St Mary Abbots on 28<sup>th</sup> June for a reception and Evensong will be contacted by Maggie regarding a mini bus which had been hired for this trip.

Donations for a gift for Ann-Marie on the occasion of her ordination as a Deacon close on 21<sup>st</sup> June so please contact your parish treasurer if you wish to contribute.

Bookings have now closed for transport to Ann-Marie Tuck's ordination on 5<sup>th</sup> July at Bristol Cathedral at 10.30 am.

- c. **Summer Rota** – Mike tabled an updated copy of the Summer which was noted. There are a small number of gaps still to fill.
- d. **Safeguarding** – No issues.
- e. **Reports from parishes on items of interest** –

**Brinkworth** – please see attached note from Roger.

**Dauntsey** – Cec reported, via the secretary, that thanks to the excellent efforts of Stephen Tuck, it was hoped that some £40,000 might be raised to help with the installation of a 6<sup>th</sup> bell and a bell ringing platform.

A recent Open Gardens event had raised £3,437 of which £1025 will go to the church. Cec expressed his grateful to all those involved.

**Lea** – Bridget was pleased to report on the excellent attendance at Christian's farewell service and where it was good to see so many people across the group telling each other of their appreciation of Christian's ministry. She said that Gill and Dave Smith had stood down at their APCM as had James Withers as churchwarden. However, two additional people had joined as members of the PCC and that they were working hard to ensure a full pattern of services continues.

- f. **Men's Mental Well Being Event** – no report on this occasion.
- g. **PCCs Priority Project** - Steve had asked that PCCs start to consider one priority project that they would like to achieve over the next 12 – 18 months and for this to be their main PCC meeting item until achieved. This was accepted by those present and will be worked on.

**6. Administration –**

- a. **Appointment of Group Safeguarding Officer** – no progress, so carried forward to next meeting.
- b. **Administrators Salary Review** – the secretary confirmed that all the approvals were now in place and that the agreed salary increases were implemented.
- c. **Consider appointing an Organ Tuner for the group** – The secretary reported that he was still waiting for a second quotation so this item will be carried forward to the next meeting,

**7. Treasurers Report –**

- a. Accounts for the quarter to 30th June 2026 are not yet due.
- b. Reserves Policy – it was noted that some PCCs had introduced policies while others were considering one.

**8. Any other business:**

- i. Garsdon, Lea and Cleverton Newsletter – It was noted that serious efforts are being made, by both PCCs and the Parish Council, to continue, in some form, production of this much appreciated newsletter.
- ii. Richard Wood reminded everyone that the Great Somerford Fete takes place this Saturday at 4.00p.

**9. The meeting closed** at 11.00 am with The Grace.

**10. Dates of future meetings** - Wednesday mornings at 10.00am. - 12<sup>th</sup> August at Garsdon; 14<sup>th</sup> October at Great Somerford; 9<sup>th</sup> December at Lea Church Room.