

Q
01/06/2026



Standing Committee Meeting

Monday 13 April 2026, 7:30pm

The Vicarage

Present: Revd Tif Ewins (Chair - TE) James Cunningham (JC)
Connie Parker-Dhinakaran (CPD - minutes) Justin Walford (JW)

Opening prayer

1. **Apologies:** Fiona Holmer (FH)
2. **Minutes of the last meeting**

Approved by JC and seconded by JW

3. Treasurer's Report (for the 3 months to 31 March 2026)

- Discussion of ongoing maintenance costs and future of upper hall maintenance: TE, Sarah Taylor and Toby Costin (Crewe Energy) had a positive meeting recently with Luke at the DAC.
- Funding for Sparkle: we might need the PCC to consider increasing Sparkle to a second day as we now have a waiting list. Emma has been developing protocols including a safe maximum number of guests. It would roughly double the costs if we extended to 2 days per week – something to be discussed at a future PCC meeting.

ACTION – Sparkle to be discussed at PCC meeting.

4. Application for Benefact Mission money

- We have been successful in previous applications for funding e.g. noticeboards.
- This application is for the maximum available (£2000), for work we already do with schools' outreach.
- Standing Committee are all in favour. This requires a PCC resolution (to be confirmed at the end of this meeting).

5. National Emergency Briefing screening

- SMWC has been invited to host a screening of the National Emergency Briefing (NEB).
- Proposed date would be Thursday 28 May. The screening event would be a 45-minute film and then Q&A, co-organised by Green Jobs Alliance, Transition Town Tooting, Balham Climate Action, Christian Climate Action & XR Wandsworth.

- TE shared that Crewe Energy (Toby Costin) would be supportive of us hosting it. The film takes a solutions-focused approach but doesn't water down the climate crisis.
- Discussion of SMWC's role as a host / sponsor:
 - It is clear SMWC would be the host/venue but would not otherwise have any influence on or leadership of the event (e.g. selection of panel or speakers).
 - The SC decided it would be comfortable hosting the event but prefer not to have SMWC's logo alongside the co-organisers' logos (if they are to appear on any publicity).
 - JW expressed caution about bringing politics into the church. CPD suggested that the event be communicated or advertised to the congregation alongside an articulation of the faith basis for creation care and climate action, and leaving room for disagreement on political choices.
 - The SC were in agreement that we do not wish to alienate or exclude anyone. Those with differing political opinions are always welcome.
 - The SC agreed that it would be acceptable for co-organisers to bring materials/leaflets as there would likely be a 'call to action' for attendees at the event.
 - The SC agreed that no community charge would be applied.

ACTION – TE to take this forward

6. Discussion on draft statement from PCC regarding CofE Synod's recent decision

- TE read out the draft statement.
- JW suggested that we add some wording around everyone being welcome in Christ; making room for those who disagree and that those who may be in agreement with the CoE's recent decision are still welcome.
- Discussion of how this would be presented at the APCM and made available on the SMWC website (with a date)

ACTION – JW to edit/draft based on the discussions above and send something to TE. Next draft to be shared with the PCC before being read out at APCM.

7. APCM elections

- a. Church Wardens: candidates are JW and John Babalola
- b. PCC: We have permission for up to 9 elected PCC members plus *ex officio* members and up to 2 co-opted members. Those standing in the upcoming APCM are:

PCC: Mike Bankole, Ebenezer Appiagyei, Connie Parker-Dhinakaran, Fiona Holmer, Lara Haggard, Mark Horley, Kristian Noll, Sherene

Deanery Synod Rep: JC