

PCC MINUTES FOR THE PARISH OF ST MICHAEL'S PLAS NEWTON, CHESTER

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 28th June 2021 via Zoom

Present		Apologies
	Peter Rugen (Chair)	
	David Blackmore	Anne de Reybekill
	John Allan	Andrew Evans
	Steve Powell	Ruth McKew
	Ali Gibbons	Steve McKew
	Peter Webster	Martin Smith
	Phil Roberts	Andy Thorne
	John Stockdale	
	Peter Caldwell	
	Stu Davies	
	Anne Stockdale	
	Sarah Batchelor	
	Magdy Fahmy	
	Fiona Prichard (Secretary)	

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	Welcome and Prayer	Pete welcomed everyone to the meeting and read from Romans Chapter 14.		
	Minutes from May PCC Meeting	Pete asked members of the meeting if there were any amendments required to the minutes for May. No revisions were requested and so approval of the minutes was proposed by John Stockdale and seconded by Steve Powell. The minutes were approved by all present.		
	Matters Arising	<p>Building Group – Pete reminded the members of the PCC that this group had originally been set up to look into having an extension to the church built but that the plans had been shelved due to Covid. The group had instead been tasked with looking at what improvements could be made to the existing building. Pete went on to say that the group had met on 9th June and had looked at the possibilities of improvements including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the toilets • Insulating the church, particularly the worship area • Improving the insulation of the windows • The heating system and whether there were alternative systems • Replacing the chairs and other furniture • Improving the decoration and lighting 		



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The possibility of creating spaces for children and young to meet (bearing in mind there may be a shortage of volunteers). <p>The group is now prioritising these projects and looking at the possibility of grants and giving particular consideration to ensuring that the church becomes “greener”. The group will report back to the PCC in due course with recommendations and suggestions.</p> <p>Doors – Steve Powell said that a quote had been received for composite doors which would cost £3,000 each. He said that Andy Thorne was getting a further quote and so he was still waiting to see which was the best option. He explained that the matter was urgent as the frame of the fire door was soft at the bottom and hard to shut. This door was the priority but the other door also needed attention or replacement. It was agreed that once the other quote had been received that the replacement of the doors should go ahead. All present at the meeting agreed.</p> <p>Notice Board – Pete said that he had had a quote from a company called Church Signs for £395 for the Notice Board with posts. A further quote had been received for £398 from another company and another quote had come in at just over £400. The quote from Church Signs had been for a Notice Board which had included a lot more details than were being proposed now and he had asked them for a revised quote so that the sign would only give minimum details and point people to the notice board by the door for more specific information (eg times of services). Pete said he was still waiting for the revised quote.</p> <p>Pete was asked what would happen if changes to the information were required. He said that at his previous church where a similar notice had been installed, changes were easily made with a heat gun and cost less than £100.</p> <p>A query was raised whether it would be better to have more information on the board as, in the past, the notice board had been used to advertise services. Pete said that it was hard to know how effective the notice board was as a way of advertising church events and he felt that there was a detrimental effect when notices were left too long and got</p>	Doors to be replaced once quote received	Steve P



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		<p>damaged by condensation. He added that he felt that a greater impact could be made via social media and the website.</p> <p>A further query was raised as to whether a QR code would be included. Pete confirmed that it could be but there may have to be a further discussion about layout.</p> <p>Pete proposed that he would give the go ahead to Church Signs once the revised quote had been received. All agreed.</p>	<p>Notice Board to be ordered once revised quote received</p>	<p>Pete</p>
2189	Living in Love and Faith	<p>Pete explained that there had been a group within the Church of England which had been looking at the issue of changing attitudes to sex and marriage and sexuality and the Church's response to it. A document had been produced but had not been finally approved yet. The information provided in it was impartial but churches were being asked to think about the issues raised regarding sexuality and same sex marriage. Pete went on to say that the Diocese was encouraging churches to do a course to train people so that they would be able to run courses within their own churches on the issues. He added that Ruth McKew has already done such a course.</p> <p>Pete said that he felt that it was important to discuss these matters and not to bury our heads in the sand although he understood that the issue was going to be contentious as people were likely to have very different and opposing views. He said he wanted the help of the PCC Members in deciding the best way to proceed. The options were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PCC could do a course. • Stream groups could be run which would need 4/5 people to run them. • A meeting could be held for all church members in order to discuss the matter. <p>Pete said that there were new courses being run by the Diocese and it would be good for people to attend.</p> <p>A comment was made that small groups would be a better way of enabling the church members to discuss the matter so that no one could dominate the discussions.</p> <p>Pete was asked how other churches were dealing with the matter. Pete replied that he knew that some churches were</p>		



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		<p>already discussing it and he would be meeting other church leaders at a Deanery Chapter meeting the following day so would find out more then.</p> <p>It was suggested that in September, Stream Groups could be started to discuss the matter (that would be the only topic offered so all Stream Groups would be doing the same). Sarah Batchelor volunteered to be a facilitator and leader of a Stream Group. Ali Gibbons said that, other commitments allowing, she would also be happy to do a course and lead a Stream Group. It was suggested that other leaders of previous Stream Groups could be approached to see if they would agree to leading a Stream Group on the topic.</p> <p>Pete asked members of the PCC to pray about the matter as it was a contentious issue. He said he would report back to the PCC if there was anything to add after his Deanery Chapter Meeting.</p>	PCC Members to pray	
2190	Diocesan Synod Report	<p>John S gave the Diocesan Synod Report and explained that the Diocesan Synod had last met on 12th June. He went on to outline the five topics which had been discussed at the meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Suffragan Bishops - Julie Conalty for Birkenhead and Sam Corley for Stockport had been appointed although there were no dates set for when they would be installed. Bishop Mark was adopting a much more flexible way of working with the bishops. 2. Safeguarding – Pauline Butterfield gave an update and it was announced that she was to have an assistant as the workload had increased so dramatically. Bishop Mark had been extremely supportive. 3. Living in Love and Faith – there had been encouragement at the meeting for this to be dealt with by churches and the matter raised as a subject for discussion. 4. Recovery and Rebuilding through the pandemic – there was a web page with suggestions and resources for churches to use. 5. Clergy Wellbeing – this was another initiative but an important one. This matter needed to be discussed 		



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		<p>by the PCC by Easter 2022. It had been suggested at the meeting that, as it was not a matter the Incumbent could easily lead, that someone such as a retired person should be appointed to facilitate discussion of this matter.</p> <p>A member of the PCC said that the Church Pastoral Aid Society is about to start a pilot course to help churches coming out of the pandemic. Pete asked if he could be sent the link for that.</p> <p>Pete suggested that he spoke to the Standing Committee about how the matter of clergy wellbeing should be addressed but he was told that the matter has already been raised with the Wardens who would take the matter forward.</p> <p>Pete thanked John for his report and also thanked the Diocesan Synod representatives for their ministry. David Blackmore confirmed that he would not be standing again after serving for 41 years on the Deanery Synod. Pete expressed his deep thanks to David for his ministry and commitment.</p>	Link to be sent to Pete	Peter C
2191	Deanery Synod Report	<p>Anne S presented the Deanery Synod Report. She said that there had been a meeting at St James's Church, Christleton on 24th June. There had been an amazing attendance with about 50 laity and clergy present. They were welcomed by the Reverend Hennie Johnston who then read a deeply reflective prayer based on Isaiah 40 v 28-31. This was taken from the PCC Member's Essential Guide which was written by Mark Tanner. The main matters discussed were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members were encouraged to be engaging with Living in Love and Faith and the five-session course. Feedback was required by the end of 2021. • Members were told that they should be involved with the well-being of their clergy. • Members were told there would be place of welcome at St Mark's Saltney, Holy Trinity Blacon and the Cathedral. This was to help people coming out of lockdown. <p>Anne went on to say that Dr Stefan Collier had introduced his semi-rural parish of St James's, Christleton.</p> <p>Bishop Mark then went on to speak briefly, the main points of which were:</p>		



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He spoke of his extra joy in being at the meeting in 3D after nearly a year in post. • He said that conversations were important and that certain people do not have all the power. • He urged people to listen to each other. • He said that he fell in love with Jesus at 8 years old and that that driving conviction was still there. • He said that we had all been through a deeply dehumanising situation, to be cut off from one another, but Jesus brought hope and calm. • He said that that night, as 1.6 million people lay their heads for sleep in our Diocese, 100,000 knew the peace of God so that meant that 1.5 million would lie down without the peace of Jesus and that was why they (members of the meeting) were there. <p>The Bishop was asked about what the Diocese was doing about Black Lives Matter and that was answered by both the Bishop and Jeremy Dussek, Canon Precentor at the Cathedral. This resulted in a brief discussion.</p> <p>The Bishop then went on to ask “what should we be doing?” to which he answered that we should be working together to discern the voice of God calling and taking up the Cross daily, reflecting on our priorities, saving the lost, praying together, caring about the community, sitting next to just one person and getting alongside them, lowering our expectations and focusing on the one to one relationship, one life at a time.</p> <p>Anne concluded that the meeting was closed with a prayer led by Stefan and that it had been a fitting and wonderful occasion. She said that Bishop Mark had described himself as “a bloke who just loves Jesus”. Pete added that he was very pastoral and had a vision for the Diocese.</p> <p>Pete thanked Anne for her report.</p>		
2192	Hong Kong Arrivals	<p>Prior to the meeting a document by Anne S was circulated informing members of the PCC that many families were expected to arrive from Hong Kong in the near future and the Mission Committee were looking into how the church could get involved in providing a welcome to the people arriving. The task was to provide support and friendship (but not housing as</p>		



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		<p>that would be dealt with by another party). As the Parish had little housing available, it might be there would not be many people in this Parish.</p> <p>Anne S reiterated what would need to be done to get involved (as set out in her document). It would mean Pete signing up to the scheme on line. Chris Blunt, Vicar of St Luke’s Huntington, had already signed up and Anne de R and Anne S had spoken to him about the process. Pete said that the Mission Committee had brought the matter to the PCC to ask them to gauge what level of support could be expected from the church family. A member of the PCC who was absent from the Meeting had emailed the PCC in advance regarding his views on the matter and the email was read out. A discussion ensued and the following views were expressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was a good thing to support. • It might be disappointing if not many people arrived but it would be good to have an eye on the migrant situation as there were likely to be migrants arriving from other places in the future. • The church family should be consulted prior to signing up to the scheme. <p>Pete was asked how migrants were being made aware of the scheme and he said this was happening in Hong Kong. He added that the main intention would be to provide friendship and not to try to convert people.</p> <p>Pete said that communicating things to the wider church had been very difficult during the pandemic which made discussing matters harder. He felt it was better and quicker for the PCC to make the decision regarding signing up to the scheme and then help from the church family could be sought if needed.</p> <p>It was agreed that the process of signing up to the scheme would start and a notice would be put on the Notice Sheet informing the members of the church family and asking for people to come forward to provide support.</p> <p>Pete thanked the PCC for their support.</p>	<p>Signing up to commence Notice to be drafted for Notice Sheet</p>	<p>Pete Anne</p>
2193	AOB	<p>Trees – Sarah Batchelor said that the Climate Action Group had met last week and had discussed planting some trees. The Woodland Trust would provide 15 trees for planting and Sarah</p>		



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		<p>asked for the PCC's approval. The trees were Rowan, Crab Apple and Hazel and only 60cm in height but were likely to grow to head height in eight years. Sarah had already consulted Les Ellison who was happy for the trees to be planted.</p> <p>A discussion ensued and it was agreed that Sarah would obtain more information regarding the growing heights and then report back at the next PCC Meeting.</p> <p>Stewards – Numbers of people attending services were increasing so more stewards were needed. There were only five on the rota at present. Pete said that he was doing a lot of the work which the stewards would normally do. Someone did volunteer after the service on the 27th June but they were not able to help until September. A notice had appeared on the Notice Sheet requesting volunteers and people had been approached. Pete would check with Jackie H to see if there has been any response.</p> <p>Damaged Sign – A member of the PCC said that the speed sign outside the church had fallen down. She had reported it to CWAC who had immediately put the sign back up and she urged others to act if they saw something similar which needed attention.</p>	<p>More information on heights of trees needed</p> <p>Pete to check if any responses received to additional Stewards request</p>	<p>Sarah B</p> <p>Pete</p>
	Prayer	The meeting closed with saying the Grace.		
	Next Meeting	PCC Meeting on Monday, 19 th July 2021 at 8.00 pm via Zoom		

