

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

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 15th November 2021 via Zoom

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

Ref	Item	Notes	Action (what)	Who and by when
	Welcome and Prayer	Pete welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming to the meeting. He opened the meeting with a reading from Mark, Chapter 6, Verses 1-6 and by saying a prayer.		
	Minutes from October PCC Meeting	Pete asked members of the meeting if there were any amendments required to the minutes for October. No revisions were requested and so approval of the minutes was proposed by John Stockdale and seconded by David Blackmore. The minutes were approved by all present.		
	Matters Arising	<p>Budget – Phil proposed that the budget, as discussed at the previous meeting, be approved and Ali Gibbons seconded the proposal. There were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 for the proposal • 1 abstention • 2 against <p>The budget was formally accepted and Pete thanked Phil for all his work on the budget.</p>		
2112	Funding Group Update	The minutes of the meeting of the Funding Group which had taken place on 8 September 2021 had been circulated prior to the meeting. Andrew E said that if anyone would like to make any suggestions, particularly with regard to the Action Plan (item 4 of the minutes) then he would welcome these and proposed that, any such suggestions were made via email so		



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		<p>that he could discuss them with the Group prior to reporting back to the PCC.</p> <p>A question was raised as to when an appeal would be made to the congregation regarding a review of giving. The following responses were given:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We needed to be realistic about our expectations. The last 20 months had been extremely difficult due to Covid and as we were only just emerging from that it did not seem appropriate to make an appeal to the congregation. • The Funding Group had been set up to review giving and the members of the group were working as fast as they could. • Although Phil had wanted to make an appeal to the congregation before the end of the year this may not be possible this year for the reasons above and because the budget had only just been approved. • A suggestion was made that, rather than making a big appeal, that a notice could be put on the notice sheet asking people to review their giving. However, it was argued that people were unlikely to give without a clear objective in mind and, if they did respond to it, this could undermine any attempts to set out a vision and a larger appeal at a later date if people have just increased their giving. • Any appeal should be Mission led and not budget led. <p>A question was raised as to how the Funding Group and the Finance Group worked together. A member of the Funding Group said that there was liaison between the Funding Group and the Treasurer. The Treasurer said he would speak to Pete regarding the aims of the Finance Group and would then convene a meeting of the Finance Group.</p> <p>It was queried whether the Finance Group would have the opportunity to review the budget as, previously, the budget would have been reviewed by the Finance Group before being presented to the PCC. It was explained that the budget had already been approved and there had been ample opportunity for all members of the PCC to review it prior to its approval. It was reiterated that, as the past 20 months had been so</p>	Phil to speak to Pete	As soon as possible



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		difficult, that we needed to have realistic expectations and encourage each other.		
2113	Garden Maintenance	<p>Pete explained that there had been a suggestion following the last meeting that instead of employing one person to take care of the garden maintenance that a “men/people in sheds” group be set up. The group would be volunteers and the aim would be that besides addressing the maintenance/gardening needs there would also be the opportunity for fellowship within the group. Pete said that he had spoken to Less Ellison and he would be happy to be part of such a group. Pete said he would email others who had been involved in the garden work and see if they would be interested in being part of the group. The jobs required could be decided from week to week.</p> <p>It was suggested that the group would require someone to manage it but it was argued by another member of the PCC that, at their local church, a group such as this had run very successfully for 30 years without having an overall manager.</p> <p>It was also suggested that we would need to “sell” the idea of being in the group. It was proposed that some kind of enticement (such as bacon butties) could be an enticement.</p> <p>All were in agreement with going ahead and trying to set up a group. Pete said he would send out some emails.</p>	Church members to be emailed	Pete
2114	Christmas Charity	<p>A member of the Mission Committee said that, besides Pete thinking about which charity the church should support this Christmas, the Mission Committee had also addressed the matter when they had met the previous week. The Mission Committee’s proposals were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That they should be delegated the responsibility of choosing the charity each year; • That the money which was left over from supporting our Mission Partners which previously would have been split between lots of different charities, would this year be split between the local hospice and the local Food Bank. • The local Food Bank would also be the focus of the church’s Christmas appeal and church members could give either cash or practical items. The fact that 		



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		<p>practical items could also be donated would help to involve children.</p> <p>To clarify, the Food Bank would receive:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Money via the budget; 2. Cash from people who wished to donate; 3. Food from practical donations. <p>All present were happy with the proposals and Pete thanked Steve M and the Mission Committee. He added that he liked the idea that the choice of charity would be reviewed each year.</p>		
2115	Safeguarding	<p>Anne Stockdale said that a safeguarding concern has been raised but she was not permitted to reveal any details and we have followed diocesan policy and protocol and informed the DSA. She added that she had not yet arranged upgraded safeguarding training for the church but she would do so in the new year.</p>	Safeguarding training to be arranged	Anne S in the New Year
2116	Vicar's Slot	<p>Standing Committee Appointment: Pete explained that he had omitted to appoint the Standing Committee members following the APCM. However, David Blackmore now wished to stand down from the Standing Committee. Pete added that 5 people were needed (2 Wardens, the Treasurer, the Vicar and one other). Pete proposed that Ali Gibbons be appointed to the Standing Committee and all present at the meeting were happy with the proposal.</p> <p>Vision/Strategy: Pete said that he was not a great believer in the bureaucracy of strategy and vision making. He reminded members of the GAP process which had run for 4 years and had involved much energy and debate but Pete questioned what effect it had had. Pete went on to say that he did not want to put something down on paper just for the sake of it and he liked to think that there was a strong vision shown in the work done in the church.</p> <p>He went on to say that prior to the pandemic he had laid out 7 main areas to focus on and these were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discipleship • Children and Youth • Older People • The building • Outreach • Prayer 		



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worship (technical and musical) <p>He reminded members of the meeting that since he had set out those areas there had been a period of upheaval and then at the beginning of 2020 we had just been back at a point where we could go forward when Covid had struck. Prior to Covid there had been a PCC Away Day where the vision had been discussed but since Covid the PCC had been pragmatically focused. Pete went on that now that we were emerging from the crisis, we needed to articulate our vision.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it needed to be easily understood and snappy. • We needed to think about what was crucially important. • We needed to think about the things we were good at and how we could enhance/build on/grow them. • We needed to work to our strengths and articulate what we were about. <p>It was queried whether it would be possible to have another Away Day. Pete said he thought that was a good idea provided any talk resulted in action. It was suggested that there was also an Away Day for people in staff groups as discussion via Zoom had its limitations.</p> <p>It was suggested that what was needed at this stage was not a strategy but an action plan.</p> <p>A suggestion was made that 4 of the focus areas be taken by a group of 3-4 people and discussed. Pete said that smaller groups had already been established (eg the Building Group, Community and Outreach Group and the Worship Group) and these groups could suggest action plans.</p> <p>A member of the PCC said that any Vision Statement needed to be no longer than a paragraph.</p> <p>Another member of the PCC reminded the members of the meeting that the PCC, as Trustees, had legal responsibilities and the budget wa a deficit budget. He asked what plans there were for evangelism within the Parish and whether there would be a leaflet drop in the Parish, as had happened in previous years. It was explained that there were several activities which involved reaching out to the local community, eg the walking nativity (involving all local schools), other</p>	<p>Away Days to be looked at</p>	<p>Pete</p>



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		<p>connections with schools, Scouts, Cubs, the Café. With regard to the leaflets, it was felt that more traditional methods of communication were costly and not as effective as using social media platforms such as Facebook. A member of the PCC said that it was important to think about how we challenge each other as we go forwards.</p> <p>It was suggested that Pete and the staff team came up with a strap line but Pete said he did not feel that a strap line was the answer.</p> <p>It was suggested that if we had a clearly defined vision then it would help us to decide what we were not going to do ie it would help us to focus.</p> <p>Prayer: It was questioned why prayer meetings had not recommenced following the pandemic. It was argued that some people were still reluctant to come back to church. The point was reiterated that we needed to remind ourselves that we had been through an extremely difficult 20 months and expectations needed to be realistic. Andrew E volunteered to set up a monthly prayer time which could be in person and also streamed. Anne de Reybekill offered to assist him.</p> <p>Another member of the PCC reminded members that PCC prayer meetings prior to the pandemic had not been well attended and PCC members needed to lead by example.</p> <p>Christmas: Pete asked members of the PCC to show support for the carols on 8th December and the walking nativity on the 12th December.</p> <p>Yearly PCC Agenda: Pete said that it had been suggested that there was a set yearly agenda for the PCC with reports from different groups as set times in the year. Alongside this, there would be time to discuss special items.</p> <p>It was agreed that a set yearly agenda would help to keep the PCC focused and it was generally agreed that it was a sensible idea. Pete said he would put something together with the Standing Committee and email round their proposed agenda.</p>	<p>Monthly Prayer meeting to be set up</p> <p>Support for Christmas events</p> <p>Yearly Agenda to be drawn up and emailed to PCC</p>	<p>Andrew E/Anne de R</p> <p>PCC</p> <p>Pete/ Standing Committee</p>



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2117	AOB	There was no other business.		
	Prayer	Pete thanked everyone for their time. David Blackmore closed the meeting with a prayer. Pete thanked David.		
	Next Meeting	PCC Meeting on Monday, 17 th January 2022 at 8.00 pm.		

