

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

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 28th February 2022 via Zoom

Present	Peter Rugen (Chair)	Fiona Prichard (Secretary)
	David Blackmore	
	Steve McKew (joined 8.35pm)	
	Peter Caldwell	
	Peter Webster	
	Magdy Fahmy	
	Anne de Reybekill	
	Stu Davies	
	John Allan	
	Ali Gibbons	Apologies
	Martin Smith	Anne Stockdale
	Andy Thorne	John Stockdale
	Sarah Batchelor	Steve Powell
	Andrew Wynn-Evans	Phil Roberts

Ref	Item	Notes	Action (what)	Who and by when
	Welcome and Prayer	Pete welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming to the meeting. He apologised for the late change from holding the meeting in person to meeting via Zoom but this had been so that those not able to attend in person might be able to connect remotely. He opened the meeting with a prayer.		
	Minutes from January PCC Meeting	Pete asked members of the meeting if there were any amendments required to the minutes for January. The figure of £9,600 was queried under Matters Arising and it was clarified that this figure referred to the deficit for the year. No revisions were requested and so approval of the minutes was proposed by John Allan and seconded by Peter Caldwell. The minutes were approved by all present.		
	Matters Arising	Garden – Pete explained that Les Ellison had stood down as garden coordinator and it had been decided that, rather than one person being tasked with managing the grounds maintenance, a work party be created. It had further been suggested that this would be a good project for the curate, Chris Jones, to be involved with as it would give him experience of organising a team, setting up a rota and overseeing the work. Pete said that a meeting was to be arranged with Steve Powell, Chris Jones and Les Ellison so that work could start.	Meeting to be arranged	Steve Powell



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		<p>Building – Andy Thorne explained that three main potential projects had been identified by the Building Group and these were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements to the room used by Scramblers • Improvements to the toilets • Replacement of the screen between the hall and the church <p>Andy went on to say that the screen between the Scramblers room and the hall was seen as the highest priority as on Sundays the noise coming from the room when Scramblers were using it could be heard by those attending the service in the main hall. Andy outlined the plan as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The room would be separated off to open up to the garden from that room • The 2 windows would be replaced with bifold doors giving additional light • The blue screen would be replaced by a stud wall with 2 wide doors which would fold back • The extension wall would be insulated and would act as a fire break too (also giving additional sound proofing) • The décor would be improved as the wall would be plastered giving a more finished look • The floor would be carpeted with hard wearing carpet. <p>The estimated cost of the project was between £15k and £20k (it was likely to be around £18k).</p> <p>The response to the outlined plan was generally positive with views such as follows being expressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It sounds great! • It would be a good solution as the room could also be used as part of the hall (although not as easily as at present) • It would be good to make the room more usable. <p>However, some concerns were raised such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Toddler Group had previously been against such a configuration. However, it was argued that the way 		



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		<p>that the Toddler Group was now organised meant it was less likely that there would be a problem</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drawings were requested so that PCC members could envisage the proposed modifications more easily • A written proposal was requested so and more time requested so that consideration could be given to the proposal. However, it was argued that the point of tasking a small group such as the Building Group to research and propose a project was that the Group had already done all the research and decided whether it was a feasible proposal. <p>The discussion concluded with the following being agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andy T would send out a written proposal with drawings which he would email round to PCC members and a decision would be made by email within the next fortnight • Peter Caldwell would assist him in producing the drawings • The financial implications of the project would be checked with Phil • Grants would be researched. It was suggested that a grant might be obtained as the project would give disabled access to the garden • The congregation would be approached and an initiative launched to raise money to fund the project. <p>Andy concluded by saying that with regard to the other proposed projects, the improvements to the toilets were still being discussed as there were some issues to resolve and the replacement of the screen was being deferred for the moment until the other two projects had been tackled.</p>	<p>Andy T and Peter C to liaise and issue written proposal.</p>	
2223	Missionary Report	<p>Hugo and Tech Support – Pete explained that Steve M had been going to give a Mission report but he had been delayed. However, Steve had sent out an email prior to the meeting saying that St Michael’s support for Hugo and Tech was to be reviewed in the light of changes to the work being done. Steve had explained that Hugo was due to retire in May 2023 and so the proposal was that support would continue until then when</p>		



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		<p>the situation would be reassessed and a revised proposal be put to the PCC depending on the situation at that time.</p> <p>There was a show of hands and all were in favour of continuation of support for Hugo until May 2023.</p>	Steve to report back to the Mission Committee	
2224	APCM	<p>Format – Pete said that the format of the presentation of the Annual Report at the APCM was to be revised and a more creative approach with videos would be used instead of the reports being read out. However, he confirmed that the format of the written report was to remain unchanged except more succinct reports were to be encouraged.</p> <p>Secretary - Pete confirmed that Alison Frierly had agreed to take on the role of PCC Secretary following the APCM.</p> <p>Warden – Pete confirmed that Steve Powell would stand again as Warden. He asked that people email him if they had any suggestions as to who should be approached with a view to becoming a Warden (in place of Steve McKew).</p>	PCC members to think about possible candidates for warden	
2225	Church Weekend	<p>Andy Thorne said that the church weekend was booked from 29th April to 1st May. 17 people had booked already and bookings had only been open for 2-3 days. Andy requested that if anyone was thinking about booking that they would please do so sooner rather than later.</p> <p>Andy went on to say that the children and youth workers were arranged and were largely the same as at the last church weekend. The pre-school age would be entertained by existing staff or helpers. Pete said that he had asked Simon Chesters to speak at the House Party but he had not yet received confirmation from him.</p> <p>A query was raised as to whether the church would need to subsidise the House Party. Andy said that in previous years that £2k to £3k had been set aside but the subsidy required had never been as much as that as church family members had given donations to cover much of the shortfall.</p>	PCC members to think about signing up for House Party	
2226	Vicar's Report	<p>Staffing – Pete said that he had received an email from Jackie Hockley in January explaining that she wished to give notice of her intention to retire in July 2022. Pete had confirmed with Jackie that she was happy for him to mention her retirement to the PCC members that night.</p>		



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		<p>Pete went on to say that he had had an idea that Jenny Davies could expand her role as lettings coordinator and become the office administrator. He was checking with Liz Geddes whether, if this happened, there would be any need to advertise the job as it would simply be a change of role. However, it was suggested that when jobs were not advertised it could cause bad feeling. The job could be advertised on the Notice Sheet as the Bookkeeping Job had been.</p> <p>Pete said he would ask Jackie to prepare a job specification and he would also find the old one. However, it might be necessary to write a new one to reflect the change in role. Pete added that the matter would need to be discussed again at next month's PCC meeting.</p> <p>Work Party – Pete said he was proposing that on the 12th March a work party of volunteers be set up to do outside work on the grounds and to do a deeper clean on the inside of the church building. He would ensure that the day was advertised on the Notice Sheet.</p> <p>Easter Plans – Pete set out the plans for Easter were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easter would start with the Lent series the following week. There would be 3 weeks of meetings and then on the 4th week people would be encouraged to go the Bible Focus relaunch where Bishop Mark was to be a speaker. • On Good Friday the church would be open for reflections round the cross • There would also be The Passion in the city centre on Good Friday to which people would be encouraged to go • On the afternoon of Good Friday, between 2pm and 3pm there would be 3 meditations of 20 minutes each • On Easter Sunday there would be a morning service. <p>Steve McKew joined the meeting.</p> <p>Pete was asked whether there would be a Maundy meal but he replied that he was not sure whether people were ready for such an event in the light of the aftermath of the pandemic. It was suggested that to organise a meal on Maundy Thursday</p>	<p>Pete to hear back from Liz Geddes</p> <p>Matter to be put on the agenda for next meeting</p> <p>Notice to go on Notice Sheet</p>	<p>Pete</p> <p>Pete/ Fiona</p> <p>Pete</p>



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		<p>Pete said we would need to make a decision as the café was normally closed on Bank Holidays.</p> <p>It was proposed that the church should hold an event to which the local community could be invited such as a strawberry tea or a barbecue (especially as the church owned a gas barbecue). A discussion ensued and the following views were expressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern was raised that the church might be seen to be in competition with the Hub but it was argued that the church should be able to have its own event too • If the event was held in church, then we would need to work hard so that the community felt comfortable to enter the church • There should be a poll of people to see what they were already committed to as there would be a lot of Jubilee events • Sunday would be the best day to hold an event <p>It was agreed that there should be a poll to find out people's availability.</p> <p>It was suggested that whatever was decided regarding the Jubilee, there should, in any event, be something organised in the summer at the church which would include the local community.</p> <p>Hearing Loop – A query was raised as to whether the Hearing Loop was working in church as difficulties had been encountered by some who rely upon it. It was agreed that it should be investigated as to whether it was still switched on and the problem rectified if not.</p> <p>Office Computers – Stu said that he was having to revamp the office computers as recently there had been some data failures. The time limit to take advantage of the charity status with Microsoft would run out at the end of March so Stu was having to work quickly to get the computers switched over. He asked how he should go about getting the payment of £100 paid. Pete said the payment was a reasonable price and he advised him to send an invoice to Dave Hollins requesting payment.</p>	<p>Decision on café opening</p> <p>Poll to be carried out. JH to be contacted about email addresses</p> <p>Ideas to be given to outreach group about summer event</p> <p>Loop to be tested</p> <p>Stu to send invoice to Dave Hollins</p>	<p>Pete/ Ruth R</p> <p>Martin/ Anne de R</p> <p>Anne de R</p> <p>Andy T</p> <p>Stu</p>
	Prayer	Pete thanked everyone for their time and asked Peter Caldwell to close the meeting with a prayer.		



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	Next Meeting	PCC Meeting on Monday, 21 st March 2022 at 8.00 pm (hopefully in person).		

