

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

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 27th June, 2022 at the Kings Way Café, Newton, Chester, at 8pm

Present	Peter Rugen (Chair)	Andrew Evans
	David Blackmore	Andy Thorne
	Anne de Reybekill	Peter Webster
	Steve Powell	Sas McConville
	John Allan	Alison Friery (Secretary)
	Peter Caldwell	
	Ali Gibbons	Apologies
	Andrew Harrison	Ruth McKew
	Alan Gray	John Stockdale
	Martin Smith	Anne Stockdale
	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 opened the meeting with a Bible reading and prayer.		
	Minutes from May PCC Meeting	Pete asked members at 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 Anne de Reybekill and seconded by John Allan. The minutes were approved by all present.		
	Matters Arising	<p>Scouts: Pete reported that the tree planting in the church grounds will take place in the autumn. He has discussed with them that we need to take care over the positioning, with an eye to the future.</p> <p>Extension next door: Pete told us that he has visited Kier, the next door neighbour, in his home. The proposal is to take out a panel of church fence every time they need access for the works, and to replace it at the end of the day. We would need to ensure that the church grounds remain safe and secure. The work takes place next spring. Peter C suggested barriers to be erected by the neighbour and a written agreement to avoid any potential boundary dispute in the future.</p> <p>Monthly prayer meetings: now starting from September.</p>		
2261	Staffing	<p>Church Administrator: Jackie Hockley retires next month after many years. The position was advertised, and Jenny Davies was the only applicant. She was interviewed by Pete and Alan G, met the criteria for the position, and accepted the job offer. She already works for the church doing 4 hours on lettings and 9 on cleaning. She will absorb the lettings work into the new</p>		



Ref	Item	Notes	Action (what)	Who and by when
		<p>role, but we need a new cleaner. Jackie would like to leave with the minimum of ceremony.</p> <p>Cleaner: Pete suggested advertising now at the end of the summer. Opinions varied on this. It is not a requirement for the person doing this job to be a Christian, so we could use the Jobcentre if needed, as well as other avenues such as social media, Link Up etc</p> <p>Youth & Young Adults Worker: Liz Geddes and Johnny Masters (Diocesan Youth Worker) were consulted on the wording for the advertisement, which was put out nationally on Premier Jobsearch for £200 and Churchdrum for £70, also Link Up, the Diocesan website, Northwest Partnership (all free). Two enquirers so far, Pete has met with one. Deadline 15th July. Salary £25-27k with no provision of accommodation, and a part-time option.</p> <p>Sarah: Is being ordained at the Cathedral service this Sunday morning, Centurion pub booked for the afternoon. It is hoped that the church can say a formal goodbye in the afternoon.</p> <p>Rob: Leaving 17th July, with a barbecue after the service, Margaret Gordon is speaking in the service about her work, and Rob is preaching.</p>		
2262	Building/fabric update	Steve P reported that the quinquennial inspection to the building by an architect took place in June. Possibly there should be a lintel in the exterior brickwork. The roof work was finished last Friday and used a further £465 worth of tiles.		
2263	Safeguarding	<p>Anne Stockdale's report was read to the meeting. There had been no safeguarding issues needing to be reported this month. Time had been spent chasing in information needed for DBS certificates.</p> <p>There followed a discussion initiated by Andrew E on whether we are complying with the law. Preachers have to meet a frequency test before a DBS is needed, and it is a criminal offence to DBS someone who doesn't need one. This also, as it involves the necessity for safeguarding training, is having a negative effect on retired clergy in many parishes, who might otherwise be prepared to preach. The trustees (PCC members) will be in trouble if they get the requirements wrong, and it is causing concern that the requirements of the Diocese currently appear to go over and above what other guidance requires.</p> <p>Pete pointed out that our processes are more important than our policies, in that it is how we behave to other people that matters.</p>	PR, AS, AG & AE to meet to discuss further	



Ref	Item	Notes	Action (what)	Who and by when
2264	Youth and Children's Support Group	<p>To be reinstated in autumn term? Ali G said the previous one was intended to be short term but lasted longer. It is a sub-group of the PCC. Sas and Ali to discuss further and come back with their findings. It could take a while to assemble a group. Peter to check with Rob K what the priorities would be.</p> <p>Julie Bryant and Peter Caldwell are "senior friends" of the youth. There is Bible teaching on Friday and Sunday nights but Sunday night tends to be the older ones.</p> <p>Pete suggests that he get involved temporarily on Sunday nights, together with existing leaders Kath and Louise. It can be made clear that Pete is choosing to do this and that he is good at it.</p>		
	Church services	<p>Pete asked what PCC members think of evening services. Currently we are holding one per month, alternately Encounter and Dwelling Place. It was discussed that other people can make the evening service happen if Pete is working with the youth.</p> <p>Peter C suggested a group from St Michael's might attend Rob K's inaugural service at Maitland Church.</p> <p>Jenny Davies and Ken Ball are taking over Churchsuite from Rob. If online services come back there will be a need for somebody to do that. Rob's departure also leaves a gap in the worship team.</p>		
2265	AOB	<p>It was discussed whether the PCC meetings could start earlier, and could they be still sometimes on Zoom. It was concluded that it still needs to be 8pm for some people to be able to make it. After querying the legality of meeting on Zoom now as trustees, it was felt that it is better generally to meet in person.</p> <p>PLR explained that the coffee machine lease in the café was finishing soon and it was more economical to buy one at £3,200. The café cooker blew up, and this has therefore been replaced and a second chest freezer was also purchased. The turnover of the café is now back to pre-pandemic levels, and we should consider how we are fulfilling ministry to those who come in.</p> <p>Sas raised the possibility of changing the layout of the front of the church to allow for improvement for visiting groups, including theatre groups and schools. What is there currently has to be moved at such times.</p>		



Ref	Item	Notes	Action (what)	Who and by when
		<p>Pete raised the matter of a budget for Jenny to improve the furnishing and appearance of the church office once she starts the job.</p> <p>Phil R suggested a nudge to the congregation to increase giving and Pete said that September would be a good time to talk about this in church.</p>		
	Prayer	Pete thanked everyone for their contribution and we closed by saying the Grace together.		
	Next Meeting	PCC Meeting on Monday, 18 th July 2022 at 8pm, at the Kings Way Café, which has since been amended to Tuesday 26 th July on Zoom.		

