

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

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at the Kings Way Café, at 8pm.

<b>Present</b>	Pete Rugen (Chair)		Anne de Reybekill
	Martin Smith		Andrew Evans
	Peter Caldwell		Derek Taylor
	Ali Gibbons		Chris Jones
	Alan Gray		Alison Friery (Secretary)
	Rebekah Benson		
	Anne Stockdale		
	John Stockdale	<b>Apologies</b>	Steve McKew
	Andy Thorne		Ruth McKew
	Peter Webster		Steve Powell
	David Blackmore		Phil Roberts

Ref	Item	Notes	Action (req'd)	Who and by when
	<b>Welcome &amp; Prayer</b>	Pete welcomed everybody and opened the meeting with a Bible reading from Luke 5 and a prayer.		
	<b>Minutes from May PCC Meeting</b>	The minutes were discussed and approved (subject to some specified amendments) by members of the PCC.		
	<b>Matters Arising</b>	<p>From May PCC item 2326, representations have been received from members of the Christian Aid team that they wish to carry on with door to door collections. It was observed in the meeting that some people had found collecting door-to-door to be frustrating and depressing, and did not feel it was the same as spreading the Christian message. It was not all about the amount raised, but some have an issue with St Michaels knocking on doors asking for money. It was also mentioned that it is Christian Aid who are actually collecting. It was agreed that it is normal for a church to have a Christian Aid representative, rather than for it to be an official church activity. Therefore, if the team are happy to carry on with the collections as individuals within the parish, and the management of them, that would be fine. Envelopes can be left on seats in church to encourage individuals to give. Pete will respond to Jackie Hockley's representations by email.</p> <p>Staging – Pete has found out from the Diocesan Advisory Committee that a faculty would be needed to use the proposed staging instead of the existing dais, and that we “may want to involve the Church Architect”. The next stage is to get photos to show how the proposed change would look, which would</p>	email	Pete R

		<p>probably be similar to the previous view. It was questioned why a faculty was needed, and it was explained that this is because it covers furniture and fixtures as well as buildings. In practical terms, a trolley will not be needed. The set-up would not be changed weekly, and changes can be made by four people in approximately ten minutes.</p> <p>A letter has been received from a member of the congregation expressing concern over the proposed changes. Chris Jones suggested a field trip to Chester Cathedral to observe the staging in situ and this was taken up, initially by three people.</p> <p>“Living in Love and Faith” – Pete presented his paper, which had previously been circulated to PCC members. He said that this is happening nationally, there are different opinions, and no-one sees eye-to-eye. It seems that the prayers of blessing on “same-sex marriages” will happen. There is aggressive rhetoric on both sides and Pete is not convinced to “nail down” a policy, feeling that it is better to welcome all, and work through the implications, holding different opinions in a spirit of love and fellowship. The new Vicar will be asked to confirm that they comply with the Diocesan view of sexuality, and also Resolution A or B regarding a female Vicar. The orthodox view in the C of E is not changing, but there is a lot of discussion on the significance and definition of blessing, which traditionally was a Catholic sacrament. Pete said that we can pray for people we disagree with, without endorsing their behaviour, and he does not think it is a problem, as we may, in any case, not be approached to carry out such blessings.</p> <p>It was raised whether the Simeon Trust have a stance on this, and Pete replied that it was not a hardline one.</p> <p>Pete’s presentation was regarded by PCC members as helpful. It was discussed that youth leaders, for example, need to be people who accept that views differ. Currently, clergy are awaiting guidance from bishops. If they are unwilling to do it, they may have to allow it to be done by someone else in the church instead. Bishop Sam is putting something together. At present, there is nothing more for the PCC to do.</p>		
2326	<b>Building</b>	We referred to Steve Powell’s report, which was circulated before the meeting.		

		<p>Vicarage - mid-July target finish date. The Bishop has granted permission that from 1<sup>st</sup> July, Pete can live outside of the parish in his newly-acquired retirement home. Work needs to be done with an eye to the new Vicar and what they would prefer. During an interregnum, the PCC is responsible for the Vicarage. Seven rooms have been newly redecorated. The garden needs to be maintained and the Diocese say obtain a quotation. At the back of the garden, a chain-link fence, may need replacing.</p> <p>Mobile screens – The costs of re-covering, replacing, or painting was discussed. This was passed to the communications group to consider further. Maybe something lighter, more versatile and contemporary-looking.</p> <p>Church garden – Chris Jones has not had a good response to getting working parties together. Pete’s mower, previously kindly made available, has now gone to his new home. A new heavy-duty mower is needed and the PCC approved expenditure of £1,500 to £2,000 for a high end domestic one. (A professional one would be in the region of £4,000 to £10,000.) Andy, Chris, and Steve are to source this and go ahead and purchase.</p> <p>Low wall in the Church garden - not safe for children. Andy T will look at this and make recommendations on whether to build it up, or replace it with a slope.</p> <p>Garden shelter – money was raised a while ago, totalling £3,400 (approx.). In total, it is likely to cost about £4,000. Expenditure of £1,600 for the concrete base was approved.</p> <p>Church front window – It was discussed whether a faculty had to be obtained to replace the window frame at the front of the church. Peter Webster obtained a price for it once. Action is needed and it needs securing to make it safe. Pete R will speak to the Archdeacon.</p> <p>Devon Road – socket improvements are recommended, and the cooker needs replacing. Expenditure of £250-£300 was approved and Andy Thorne was asked to go ahead with this.</p>	<p>Report back</p> <p>Purchase</p> <p>Report back</p>	<p>Comms Group</p> <p>AT, CJ, SP</p> <p>AT</p> <p>PR</p> <p>AT</p>
2327	CYSG	Pete explained that because of the shortage of youth workers, we need to look within the		

		church for skills, and pay people for part time roles, such as toddler work, older youth, community engagement, leaving this flexible for the new Vicar.		
2328	<b>Vacancy matters</b>	Ruth is looking at the Parish Profile. Pete is doing the Parish Factsheet. Phil R is to help with the financial information.	Progress	R McK, PR, PLR
2329	<b>Safeguarding Report</b>	Anne S confirmed that there was nothing to report, but that if PCC members have any outstanding training to complete, please do so.		
2330	<b>Stream Groups</b>	Pete started the Stream Groups, which have been a success, but there may not be anyone passionately committed to running them during the interregnum. Would house groups be preferred? Anne de R highlighted a lack of publicity last time, affecting the uptake. It was discussed whether the homegroup factors is happening within church life, or lacking. Housegroups are good for mutual support and prayer, but stream groups can be used for outreach. The feeling was that we keep what we have for now in the interim period. It would be good for there to be various groups or opportunities for people to share and pray together during the vacancy time, especially as people may find the period of change difficult. Pete suggested this could happen at the Church@Prayer monthly prayer meetings.		
2331	<b>AOB</b>	<p>Grants for projects – We need to find out how much money is involved. Possibly we could claim for CAP debt advisory work. We need to think about whether there is anyone to work alongside Phil R in this.</p> <p>PCC name for CAF Bank: There is no need to change the charity’s name at The Charities Commission, just the working name for the bank. The PCC were asked to consider the options set out in a previously circulated email from Phil R. The option chosen was to change the working name to St Michael’s Church Plas Newton from St Michael’s PCC Plas Newton. The motion was proposed by Derek Taylor and seconded by Becs Benson.</p> <p>Andy Thorne is willing to have children/youth camping out in his garden, and the correct procedure is that he will need to specify a date, and then be given written permission by PCC.</p>	Refer back to PLR	AF
		The meeting concluded with the sharing of the Grace.		
	<b>Next Meeting</b>	Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> July 2023, 8pm, at the Kings Way Cafe.		