

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

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 22nd March 2023 at the Kings Way Café, at 8pm.

Present	Pete Rugen (Chair)		Anne de Reybekill
	Martin Smith		Andrew Evans
	Peter Caldwell		
	Ali Gibbons		Alison Friery (Secretary)
	John Allan		
	Ruth McKew		
	Steve Powell	Apologies	John Stockdale
	Anne Stockdale		Chris Jones
	Andy Thorne		Sas McConville
	Peter Webster		Alan Gray
	David Blackmore		Phil Roberts

Ref	Item	Notes	Action (req'd)	Who and by when
	Welcome & Prayer	Pete welcomed members of the PCC and opened the meeting with a Bible reading from Mark 14 and a prayer.		
	Minutes from November PCC Meeting	The minutes were approved by members of the PCC. Proposed by Peter Caldwell and seconded by David Blackmore.		
	Matters Arising	<p>Living in Love and Faith: Pete reported that discussion on this issue has gone fairly quiet, as a further decision is expected at the General Synod in July. Pete is putting together a paper for discussion at the May PCC meeting.</p> <p>Staging: Chris demonstrated the proposed staging for the front of the church one Sunday morning, with quite a few PCC members present. There are many options for configuration. The impact upon the communion area needs to be considered. Pete said that one can take a pragmatic or theological view of this area. If the congregation kneel, the rail can assist with standing back up, and the rail historically has been viewed as a barrier making a separate area. Some churches do not kneel but take communion standing up, so there does not need to be a rail. The existing table could be repurposed but some would like to see it retained.</p> <p>This can be mentioned one Sunday morning, or at APCM, and views obtained, with a decision to be made by PCC in the light of these views. The proposed staging would give more opportunities and flexibility with visits from schools, Riding Lights Theatre Company, conferences, worship events, etc. The desire is to retain simplicity.</p>	Report	Pete R

2313	Financial matters	<p>The financial report was formally approved. Proposed by Peter Caldwell and seconded by Peter Webster, with thanks to Phil for all of his hard work in preparing it.</p> <p>Salary increases were approved in line with the increase in the Living Wage from 1st April 2023, for staff to whom this applies, and 6% for all other salaried staff, in line with the increase being given by the diocese. Proposed by John A and seconded by Ali G. An indication of how this will affect the budget is that salary costs were £78,000 last year.</p> <p>The bank needs to be given a list of the current trustees, who are the PCC members.</p> <p>It was proposed and approved by the PCC on Wednesday 22nd March that the working name used by CAF bank for account numbers 00012388, 00012389 and 00012390 of St Michael's Church Plas Newton - Kings Way Fund be changed to - St Michael's Church Plas Newton.</p> <p>Proposed by John A, seconded by Anne S, all in favour.</p> <p>PCC members were reminded of the policy that expenditure exceeding £1,000 needs to be authorised in advance, and it was suggested that it may be time to increase this limit.</p>		
2314	APCM	<p>A similar format to last year is envisaged, if possible to include our youth. The PCC members who are due to retire at this meeting are JA, Ali G, P Roberts, AE, PW. Andrew Harrison already stepped down in January 2023, making six vacancies in total. The wardens both intend to stand for re-election. Ruth and Ali will do a short presentation in church to encourage potential new PCC members to come forward.</p> <p>The meeting will be on Monday 24th April in the church, at 7.45pm, preceded by the Vestry Meeting at 7.30pm.</p>		
2315	CYSG Report and Staff Update	<p>(Children and Youth Strategy Group)</p> <p>The group have been looking at resources available for 7 to 11 years. AE is now the MCYC contact for our church, and we have had a record number of young people going to the camps.</p> <p>Sas, our Children and Families worker, has been dealing with a difficult situation at home and a number of people in the church have been helping and supporting her. She is struggling to return to work, and needs to plan for the future.</p> <p>We discussed what to do now that we are two members of staff down. It is not an urgent situation, but puts pressure on the volunteers.</p> <p>This can be considered further at the PCC awayday. How do we want to see the church and</p>		

		the community work served by whoever we employ?		
2316	PCC Awayday	This is likely to be on Saturday 13 th May. Date and venue TBC.		Pete R
2317	Safeguarding Report	Anne S commented on the report circulated prior to the meeting. New posters have been put up in church, with updated telephone numbers, more user-friendly, and inclusive of men who may need assistance. PCC members are encouraged to complete any outstanding training.		
2318	AOB including Cafe	<p>It was proposed and approved that: Without further recourse to the PCC, the World Mission Committee shall have general delegated authority to, at its discretion, pay or contribute towards expenses connected to the visit to St Michael's of a Mission Partner, including expenses incurred by the Mission Partner. Proposed by Anne de R and seconded by Anne S.</p> <p>The Fountain of Life Hospice is to be allocated a further £1,000 in support, making £2,000 per annum in total.</p> <p>Both of the above items are within the missionary budget.</p> <p>The cafe has been open for 20 years on 19th May 2023. The Hub has also been open for 20 years, and so perhaps to avoid a clash, the café could celebrate reaching 21 years instead, in 2024. Pete to discuss with Ruth, café manager</p>	PR	
		The meeting concluded with the sharing of the Grace.		
	Next Meeting	Monday 24 th April 2023, at the Church, immediately following the APCM.		