

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

Minutes of the meeting held on Saturday, 21st May 2022 via Zoom

Present	Peter Rugen (Chair)	Andrew Wynn-Evans
	David Blackmore	Andy Thorne
	Anne de Reybekill	Peter Webster
	Steve Powell	Sas McConville
	John Allan	Alison Friery (Secretary)
	Peter Caldwell	
	Ali Gibbons	Apologies
	Andy Harrison	Alan Gray
	Anne Stockdale	Martin Smith
	John Stockdale	

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 in prayer.		
	Minutes from March PCC Meeting	Pete asked members of the meeting if there were any amendments required to the minutes for February. No revisions were requested and so approval of the minutes was proposed by Ali Gibbons and seconded by John Stockdale. The minutes were approved by all present.		
	Matters Arising	There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.		
2232	Election of Sidespeople	Pete explained that sidespeople, also known as stewards (which is what it says on the badges provided to them) have not been needed during the COVID-19 restrictions. There followed a discussion of their duties, including that two would be needed to count and verify the collection amount. It was pointed out that if one sidesperson were present, it is possible for them to ask somebody else to verify the amount. It was agreed that their instructions still need to be clarified.		
2233	Building	There was a further discussion on the possibilities for improvements to the toilets to make them each a self		



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		<p>contained unit with a separate entrance and their own hand washing facilities. It was clarified that they would be gender neutral in the sense that they could be used by either sex as needed, but only by one person at a time.</p>		
2234	Vicar's Report	<p>Land Pete shared with the meeting that the church has received a letter from the owners of 52 Coniston Road wanting to buy some of our land, and this offer was turned down. The householder is now requesting access to this passageway, as they are building an extension and the building contractor would like to go in through their garden at the back. Andy Thorne said that we would need to be very explicit as to what we would be prepared to allow. Peter Webster pointed out that allowing this access would make the church's land insecure. It needs to be secure when children from various groups including the Scouts are using the church garden. It was mentioned that they are our neighbour, and it would be good to help them if possible.</p> <p>Scouts Pete explained that with regard to HM the Queen's Platinum Jubilee at the beginning of June, the Scouts wish to plant a tree in the church grounds to mark the occasion. Various issues were discussed regarding the siting of this without compromising any future plans, and it was concluded that the back of the church garden was a possibility.</p> <p>Other garden issue There is a tree already in the garden which is causing an issue. The Diocesan Tree Officer has been out to advise on this. The willow tree near the building needs either taking down (at a cost of £2,000, including disposal of wood, which is not good for taking home and burning), or pollarding, because the roots are causing a problem. Pollarding was decided upon.</p>	Talk to them and clarify what they need	Pete R



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2235	Safeguarding	Anne Stockdale reported that there had been no safeguarding issues needing to be reported this month.		
2236	Praying together	<p>Anne de Reybekill asked if we want to pray together in person again now, in addition to sharing our prayer needs on the WhatsApp group, as she is concerned that we no longer do what we did pre-pandemic. David Friery's stream group on Revival was mentioned as an example of what can happen if God's people pray. Some of the congregation have been put off attending prayer meetings, because they are unable to hear what is being said.</p> <p>Andrew Harrison mentioned the low take up rate for stream groups at the moment. Are people less keen to meet together in person?</p> <p>Pete said that COVID-19 decimated a lot of things, and some people are still reluctant to be in close proximity to others. Hopefully in the autumn, stream groups will be back on track. Anne de Reybekill said that a couple of "whole-church" prayer meetings had been held, which were well- attended, but that they had then tailed off and nobody else had organised one. It needs to be made an official church meeting.</p> <p>Sas suggested that each month we could have a different leader and focus on a different issue. Not everyone likes to pray out loud in a large group, some prefer to split into small groups or do a prayer walk.</p> <p>"Focus on the Future" to be discussed further at the staff meeting.</p>		
2237	AOB	None		
	Prayer	Pete thanked everyone for their contribution and David Blackmore closed the meeting with a prayer.		
	Next Meeting	PCC Meeting on Monday, 27 th June 2022 at 8.00 pm.		

