

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

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 24th May 2023 at the Kings Way Café, at 8pm.

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

Ref	Item	Notes	Action (req'd)	Who and by when
	Welcome & Prayer	Pete welcomed members of the PCC including new and returning ones, and opened the meeting with a Bible reading from Psalm 46 and a prayer.		
	Minutes from March and April PCC Meeting	The minutes were approved by members of the PCC. For March, approval was proposed by Ali Gibbons and seconded by Alan Gray. For April, approval was proposed by Anne de Reybekill and seconded by Peter Caldwell.		
	Matters Arising	<p>From March PCC, it was mentioned that Pete was to put together a paper to inform PCC members of issues arising from the Living in Love and Faith debate. Pete confirmed that he will do this for the June PCC meeting.</p> <p>Proposed staging: The only feedback reported back from the congregation so far is that one person commented that they like the rails. It is possible to get temporary rails as add-on accessories to the package. Some people find them useful as a mobility aid, although if not kneeling down, there would be no need of assistance with standing up again. During COVID-19, people were asked not to kneel, so it has been done this way in the church previously. The possibility of consulting Caroline Hilton, the Church Maintenance DAC Secretary, was mentioned.</p> <p>The question was raised as to whether the staging would be a similar size to existing arrangements and it was confirmed that it is a different, flexible format.</p> <p>Pete suggested that we now push on with it and he will check whether a faculty is required. It was agreed that we provisionally go ahead, in which case a decision will be needed on what to do with the existing dias. The original email from Chris</p>	Report	Pete R

		<p>Jones last November will be recirculated for ease of reference.</p> <p>Kings Way Café: In the March meeting, the anniversary celebrations were discussed and it was decided to celebrate the 21st anniversary of opening instead. However, the 20th anniversary celebrations went ahead regardless, and it was agreed that there appeared to have been a communication problem between PCC and Café.</p>	Email	AMF
2321	Co-opted members	<p>Pete suggested that John Allan, who has recently resigned from PCC, and Matt Hilsden, be co-opted for certain PCC activities, John in the area of Finance and Matt for CYSG activities. It was agreed that they can be part of smaller groups to take advantage of their experience and willingness to volunteer, without having to formally be on PCC.</p>		
2322	Financial matters	<p>The letter to CAF Bank drafted by Phil Roberts, confirming the resolution 2313 set out in the March meeting minutes, was signed and approved for sending. The latest Financial Report, previously circulated to members, was discussed.</p>		
2323	Vacancy matters	<p>In the light of Pete's announcement at the APCM that he intends to retire later this year, the following link was included in the agenda: https://www.chester.anglican.org/vacant-parishes2.php This relates to information from the Diocese of Chester on what to do when a parish is vacant. The view was expressed that the lack of a Vicar or youth worker would put a lot of pressure upon some members of the congregation and that we should aim to appoint a new youth worker/children and families worker as soon as possible, not waiting until there is a new incumbent.</p> <p>With regard to the parish vacancy, DB pointed out that the Archdeacon has a key role to play, is a safe pair of hands, and that the advertisements go out under his name. We are agreed there is a national shortage of youth workers and children and families workers. Do we want one or two and what do we want? Within the diocese and deanery, other such vacancies exist. Pete commented that the person is more important than their skillset. The CYSG, although already very busy, will go away, discuss and report back, and the PCC will go with their recommendations, so any views, suggestions or possible contacts should be emailed to them.</p> <p>A Parish Factsheet needs completing re: the future Vicar vacancy. Pete will complete this,</p>		PR, A Gray, SP

		<p>together with the Wardens and Treasurer, ready for September PCC.</p> <p>The Parish Profile is a key document for any Vicar looking at a church. It is a big task, which Pete suggested we have ready for October. Ruth was involved last time and is to be approached about doing it again.</p> <p>Other discussion points regarding handover: Service rotas are done to end of Jan 2024. Following a discussion of what was involved in this, Andrew Evans volunteered to take over doing these whilst the vacancy exists, and his offer was gratefully and unanimously accepted. The amount of work involved in the 8am communion service was discussed, given the low attendance, and a decision was made to carry on with it. Encounter and Dwelling Place services have not been happening due to the workload, but it was pointed out that whilst we are one of the few local Anglican Churches who still put on evening services, this is appreciated by those who come, including some from other churches. Gareth, at the PCC Awayday, said that it is good to be regular with patterns of services, and to do things in blocks, so that people know what to expect. We will still have three members of the clergy available to do communion services (two retired) and a period of change is a good time to try new ideas.</p> <p>Legally, during a vacancy, Hennie Johnson, the Rural Dean, becomes Priest-in-Charge and will deal with any legal issues as first point of contact. Chris Jones is able to deal with weddings, baptisms and funerals. Lay readers can also do funerals, and for these we can also call on the Rural Dean, if within the Parish. Chris, from information passed on by Jenny, will decide upon the possible pastoral consequences of not taking on a funeral, based on whether or not the family is known to the Church. Trisha Shuler and Sarah Batchelor may be able to help.</p>		<p>PR</p> <p>AE</p>
2324	Communications Group	<p>Improving communications was a subject discussed at the recent PCC Awayday, including the welcome given to those attending the church for the first time, rotas, signposting, and communications with the local community. It was acknowledged that Jenny already does good work in this area, and should be supported in this. Anne de R and Becs Benson, together with some co-opted people, will look at comms within church, and how we communicate outside, whilst liaising with Jenny as Administrator.</p>		<p>AdR, RB</p>
2325	Safeguarding Report	<p>Ali G commented on the report circulated prior to the meeting. PCC members are encouraged to complete any outstanding training.</p>		

2326	AOB	<p>The issue was raised, of the Children’s Society collection boxes, which were said to involve a disproportionate amount of work, administration and difficulty to collect, bank cash, and then pass on the money to the charity. Only £204.40 was, by this stage, collected this year. It would be much easier to ask donors to send money directly to the charity themselves. Martin is to talk to the donors, to thank them and explain, and also the Children’s Society.</p> <p>Another member mentioned that Christian Aid door to door collections also have a low response, and it was agreed that this method of raising funds for charity is ineffective. It was said that more is raised by selling cakes in church and other such events. As Jackie Hockley has kindly been involved with Christian Aid collections, Alison F was asked by Pete to write to her on behalf of the PCC, to thank her and explain our decision to change the way we support the charity.</p> <p>The connection with Christingle Services can also, in the future, be managed by encouraging direct donations.</p>	Letter	MS AF
		The meeting concluded with the sharing of the Grace.		
	Next Meeting	Wednesday 28 th June 2023, 8pm, at the Kings Way Cafe.		