

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

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023, at the Kings Way Café, at 8pm.

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

Ref	Item	Notes	Action (req'd)	Who and by when
	<b>Welcome &amp; Prayer</b>	Pete welcomed everybody, and opened the meeting with a prayer.		
	<b>Minutes from July PCC Meeting</b>	The minutes were approved by members of the PCC. Approval was proposed by Alan Gray and seconded by Anne de R.		
	<b>Matters Arising</b>	A member asked for clarification on July agenda item 2333 regarding CYSG. It was clarified that the church is not obliged to advertise job vacancies, for example if there is someone suitable who is already doing the job on a voluntary basis. Any contracts at the moment are temporary, so as not to restrict any changes that the new incumbent may wish to make. They also asked whether it was within the rules for Pete to act as mentor to church staff after retirement. As this has already been decided, that decision stood.		
<b>2340</b>	<b>Vacancy matters</b>	The Parish Factsheet is now completed, ready to advertise the vacancy for a Vicar. The Parish Profile is partly done. The Parish Representatives (when appointed) will need to have input into this. The design is being worked on, and input from all ages is welcomed. Pete explained that Parish Representatives need to be on the Electoral Roll. Members need to think of names for the October PCC meeting. For example, they could be one male, one female, one with children, one younger than the other, and need to have interviewing skills, be able to liaise with the Bishop, and can attend PCC meetings during the selection period. They drive the process forward, and should be well known in church, so that others will approach them.		

		<p>David Bailey from The Simeon Trust recently retired, and his replacement who will deal with St Michaels has not yet been appointed. Pete has a meeting with the Archdeacon soon, regarding our readiness to appoint a successor, and the Wardens may need to follow up on this.</p> <p>A PCC member should keep in touch with Rod and Val Smith who run the Pastoral Team. Chris Jones is suggested, but someone else is needed, members are asked to think of somebody.</p> <p>The PCC can, in the interregnum, turn to the Wardens (initially), and the Rural Dean. Andrew E is looking at service patterns.</p>		
2341	<b>Cafe</b>	<p>The café is a missional opportunity, which is subsidised by the Church. The number of customers has increased in the last few years, but due to an increase in costs, this has not led to a reduction in church contribution. There are a number of church-based and other community groups who meet at the café regularly, and it provides work experience for young people as well as a meeting point for the local PCSO (“Coffee with the Copper”). As discussed previously, the average age of volunteers is high, and they are few in number. The café needs four people to run, which is an issue when Ruth is ill or on holiday. Requests for help in the Church newsletter have not worked.</p> <p>There are spiritual developments, and a great value in people being able to walk in and feel that they are known. It increases the visibility of St Michaels in the area. It was felt that there is less separation now between peoples’ physical and spiritual needs, than there was when the café started, and that there has always been some separation between the church and café. An outside person may be needed to do a business review and plan, and the church needs to provide more volunteers for this valuable resource, which needs to be retained and improved.</p> <p>The local shops are becoming run-down, and the pub, not open all the time, is the only other place to meet locally. An appeal is to be made in a church service for volunteers, hopefully not at the expense of resourcing another church activity. We should consider the whole mission of St Michaels and the giftings of new people coming in. We can look at other churches, and how getting people to volunteer may have changed in today’s society. A</p>		

		<p>volunteer fair is a possibility. John Truscott has written papers on the issue of volunteers.</p> <p>Action plan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Push for volunteers</li> <li>2. Consider mission</li> <li>3. Outside review</li> </ol>		
2342	<b>CYSG</b>	<p>Ali G explained that a temporary role is still being looked at, being 10-12 hours/week to lead and support volunteers in running primary school age provision. One person is interested, and is being followed up. The role could be fashioned to suit the person. There are high demands on the current CYSG team of four.</p>		
2343	<b>Safeguarding Report</b>	<p>Anne Stockdale's report was circulated before the meeting. She explained that the church is not yet fully compliant. Those in leadership roles need to complete the Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse module, and nobody should preach unless they have the Leadership module. There is a lack of clarity from the Diocese, and Pete is to seek clarification on the definition of a "person of significant influence". Then those who need the further training must do it. Pete thanked Anne for her work on safeguarding for the Church, which has been carried out for 25 years.</p>	Clarify	Pete
2344	<b>Mission Committee Update</b>	<p>Anne de R shared that Hugo and Tech in Argentina have now retired. Their son-in-law Dany, married to their daughter Flavia, is now Vicar General, over the Diocese of 187 churches. This is not far removed from being a bishop. Most church members are from the indigenous population. A number of them were lost to the church during the COVID-19 pandemic. Dany is doing a lot of travelling. There are "Fifth Generation Christians" who need re-evangelising, and the aim is to start a student seminary. New pastors are needed and there is a need for churches to accept younger and indigenous people, and women, in these roles. There are very few salaried positions. The Mission Committee recommends moving support from Hugo and Tech to Dany and Flavia for the next two years, at £3,000 p.a. This is done through Latin Link. The PCC were happy with this, Anne de R proposed and Andrew E seconded.</p>		
2345	<b>Comms group</b>	<p>The report from the group makes suggestions, including to employ someone to deal with this area. Peter is to double-check on what they are suggesting. Anne de R clarified that with regard to the screens, the suggestion is to leave them as they are but to change some of their</p>		

		wheels. The PCC are happy for the group to do what they can on this.		
<b>2346</b>	<b>AOB</b>	PCC members stand for three years, and then need re-electing. Should they be made to take a year off, or limited to serving a maximum of two terms of three years? It was pointed out that it is not in our power to change national rules. If allowed, we could restrict PCC membership to a maximum of two terms of office, then take a year off. This would not apply to those on the Diocesan or Deanery Synod, which have no term limits. It applies to directly elected members of PCC, not to ex-officio members, but ex-officio members are also encouraged to take a break after 6 years. We need to look at a copy of the Church Representation Rules. Steve McK proposed this and Andy T seconded. All were in favour except for one abstention. It should be also made known that you can take a break from PCC whilst a member. Any change would need to be made at the APCN.		
		The meeting concluded with the sharing of the Grace.		
	<b>Next Meeting</b>	Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> October 2023, 8pm, at the Kings Way Cafe.		