

PCC AND SECTION 11 MEETING MINUTES, FOR THE PARISH OF ST MICHAEL'S PLAS NEWTON, CHESTER

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 15th January 2024, at the Kings Way Cafe, at 8pm.

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

Ref	Item	Notes	Action (req'd)	Who and by when
	Welcome & Prayer	Ali welcomed everybody, and the meeting was opened with a reading from Philippians 2 and a prayer.		
	Minutes from December PCC Meeting	The minutes were approved by members of the PCC. Proposed by Peter W, and seconded by Peter C.		
	Matters Arising	One member had not received the email sent out to the congregation about selection of Parish Representatives, and this was to be rectified. Item 2355 from December - the Finance Report section which mentions appealing to the congregation to increase giving – this has been discussed by a couple of members, but they have been too busy to meet with others to take it further at present. This is likely to be brought up again as a subject for discussion in May, after the APCN.		
2401	PCC Approval	John Allan left the room and it was voted that he be co-opted onto PCC during his time as Parish Representative. Proposed by Ali, seconded by Andrew E.		
2402	Mission Committee Update	Anne de R reported that the visit from the team from Argentina, led by Rev Dany and Flavia Lescano, was a success. They brought with them their daughter as well as a small group of young people who have potential for future church leadership. Dany is responsible for a large geographical area. About 40 people attended a meal Saturday night, and team members spoke in the service Sunday morning and in youth group on Sunday night, also attending the Monday night prayer meeting, and going		

		on a trip around the parish, as well as for days out. There is the suggestion of possible internships in the future, and this being the beginning of a partnership. Originally, the relationship was established through SAMS, now Latin Link is used.		
2403	Safeguarding Report	The forthcoming training session was highlighted, but there were no other matters requiring attention. Anne S had already circulated her January report to members.		
2404	Christmas	The Christmas and New Year appeal initially raised £324, with an additional £500 coming from Stewardship members. The donations are continuing to come in, with an additional £350 at the time of writing. £321 each has so far been sent to Save the Family and Chester Aid to the Homeless. Additionally, the funds remaining in the Church Mission budget at the end of the calendar year have been split between these two charities, giving an overall total from all sources of £7,218.38. Alan G has written a report on the activities of the Church at Christmas, and this is attached as an appendix to these minutes.		
2405	Sunday Services	Andrew E had sent out the future-focused plan by email before the meeting. The future programme includes the Five Marks of Mission series, an Easter Series, the church weekend away, and the miracles in John's Gospel, taking us through to 23 rd June. Rev. Ken Owen has responsibility for the All Age Services, and is encouraging others to develop their gifts for leading. A lunch is to be held on 4 th February for those preaching and leading. The format of Easter services is to be decided upon soon and the possibility of another postcard drop, similar to the one at Christmas, was discussed.	To be discussed further	AE
2406	Buildings & fabric	Steve P reported that the Diocese has approved paying for Chris J to clear out the back garden of the Vicarage, and also possibly paying for the fencing. A quotation for the dias in the church is being obtained from Gopac. A new handheld microphone is being looked into, and the redevelopment of the toilets has not progressed at present.		
2407	Finances	It was proposed by Phil R and seconded by Anne de R that new signatories be appointed to authorise transactions on the Kingdom Bank account, to update those currently in place. All were in agreement.		

		Moving to a Gift Aid recording system was discussed, and members were asked to consider a suitable person who could be the Gift Aid secretary. Capital expenditure of £30,000 is required this year and we need to consider how this is to be raised. This subject can be returned to in May/June after the APCM.	Minute for May/June	PCC Secretary
2408	Café Management	Steve McK said that Ruth, the café manager, needs more support at times. People with the right skills are needed from St Michaels. No financial input is received from Kingsway Chapel. The week before this meeting showed a high turnover at the café. The issue was raised as to whether the café needs to be a separate entity from St Michaels.		
2409	Parish Representatives	Ruth McK reported that the Parish Profile is in progress and will need statistical information soon. We are in the consultations phase, and the PRs will visit all housegroups very soon and invite to a meeting all those not covered by this. Both an email address and a box in Church have been set up for suggestions. Ruth and John are working on this and will take it to the Standing Committee and then to PCC. Alan Gray has had an email from Kevin at Simeons Trust. The part relating to s.11 was covered in the December and January PCC meetings, and a Form 34 requires completion.		
2410	AOB	Alan G is to be hospitalised and will be out of action for a while, but will have his mobile phone with him. Ali G expressed the thanks of Mill View Primary School to the Church for having the children in before Christmas. Two people have been asked to consider taking on the role of PCC Secretary, and both have declined. Further suggestions are needed. The question was raised of whether there could be a cheaper venue next year, for the Church weekend away.		
		The meeting concluded with the sharing of the Grace and a prayer.		
	Next Meeting	Tuesday 20 th February 2024, 8pm, at the Kings Way Café.		

APPENDIX

Churchwardens Report (January 2024) – Christmas Services

Since Pete retired last October, our congregation numbers have remained constant compared with the similar period of October 2022-Jan 2023 and now.

Services have continued to be excellent and several folks have made complimentary comments about the high standard of our Services.

A big thank you to all who lead or preach – also to all our teams of musicians, singers, sound & vision, the army of volunteers and our staff who all ensure that the various rotas, children/youth groups and general church life carry on as normal.

Teamwork is essential in also ensuring our church functions properly and another team worthy of mention is our PCC for their hard work, much of which is behind the scenes.

Christmas was very busy with all the various Services and we hosted Mill View School's Nativity – big thank you to Peter W and his team of helpers in putting up & decorating the Christmas Trees – as ever, very much appreciated.

And what a coup! having the Bishop speak at our Christingle Service – well done Andrew.

Couple of things to note: we had almost double the number at the Christingle Service (132 in 2022 and 234 this last Christmas) –hopefully it was the cards produced and distributed by the congregation to the whole parish which encouraged folks to come to church.

The initiative for having a 9am Communion Service and then sharing a brew & mince pie at 9:30 so both the early and the 10am Congregations could spend a short time together was quite inspirational and worth considering in the future.

Attendance at this Communion Service more than quadruple compared with last year's 8am Service from 6 to 28.

We would also like to say a massive thank you to Andrew for not only putting a Service programme together until next September – not an easy task when trying to accommodate leaders & speaker alongside the CofE calendar and visiting speakers etc – but also a big thank you for lightening our load.

Alan Gray
(January 2024)