

# St Luke's Parish Church - Holmes Chapel

## Matters concerning the vacancy in the parish under Section 11 of the Patronage (Benefices) Measure 1986

### Minutes of a special Parochial Church Council meeting held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019

#### 7.30pm, Massey Room, Church Hall

	Actions
<p><b>Present:</b> Revd Steve Clapham (Rural Dean), Alastair Cragg (Vice-Chairman), Peter Cotton, Val Cragg, Alison Dale, Ray Davies, Tim Fryer, Stephen Haigh, William Hall (Treasurer), Trevor Jenkins, Wendy Macdonald, John Oram, Bill Paton, Fiona Pullé, Alan Rickards, Anne Smith, Barbara Smith, Steve Smith (Secretary), Jane Thomson and Jayne Weaver.</p> <p><b>Apologies:</b> Rachel Copley</p>	
<p><b>1 Introduction</b> – the Vice-Chairman welcomed the Rural Dean and invited him to chair this special meeting of the Parochial Church Council required under Section 11 of the Patronage (Benefices) Measure 1986 (the 1986 Measure) to consider certain formal matters concerning the vacancy arising from the retirement at the end of December 2018 of our vicar, Revd Paul Mason.</p>	
<p><b>2 Outline of formal requirement and process</b> – the Rural Dean explained the background to filling the vacancy. He will be the primary clergy contact during the interregnum but our churchwardens Alastair Cragg and Jayne Weaver now have legal responsibility for running of the parish and arranging for visiting clergy to conduct services until a new incumbent is appointed. The Rural Dean, our Patron (Revd Thomas Shepherd - vicar of St Mary's Sandbach) and the Archdeacon (Ven. Ian Bishop), together with two lay representatives from St Luke's will form the panel to interview candidates to fill the vacancy.</p>	
<p><b>3 Preparation of statement describing the needs and traditions of the parish (Parish Profile)</b> – the Rural Dean emphasised the importance of the Parish Profile. It sets out what St Luke's is looking for in its new vicar, gives the context of the parish and local community and is the basis for recruiting the right person. It's important that it is honest, open and realistic and can be agreed promptly so that it can be used in advertising the vacancy.</p> <p>Alastair explained that some preliminary work has already been done looking at Parish Profiles from other churches in the diocese and elsewhere. As a result, the suggested main sections<sup>1</sup> are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Summary</li> <li>2. The opportunity and challenges</li> <li>3. St Luke's worship, services and Church groups</li> <li>4. Our resources – people who make up St Luke's - Church buildings, Church finances</li> <li>5. Holmes Chapel – the place, activities, other churches</li> <li>6. Our needs - vision for the future</li> </ol> <p>He and Jayne both emphasised the importance of having the Parish Profile owned by the Church Council on behalf of the parish as a whole. <b>They asked members to submit their thoughts and suggestions to the Secretary by Monday 21<sup>st</sup> Jan.</b> The key sections needing input are: "The opportunity and challenges" and "Our needs – vision for the future". Alastair and Jayne then proposed that a draft Profile would then be prepared and circulated to Council members for finalisation and agreement at a <b>special Council meeting on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> Feb.</b> This proposal was agreed by the Council unanimously.</p>	<p><b>Council members</b></p> <p><b>Secretary</b></p>
<p><b>4 Appointment of two lay representatives to represent the Council in connection with the selection of an Incumbent</b> - the appointment of <b>Alastair Cragg</b> and <b>Jayne Weaver</b>, proposed by Peter Cotton and seconded by Alison Dale, was approved unanimously</p>	
<p><b>5 Decision whether to request the Patron to advertise the vacancy</b> – after a brief discussion and a proposal from Tim Fryer seconded by Barbara Smith, it was unanimously decided <u>not</u> to ask the Patron to advertise the vacancy himself.</p>	

<sup>1</sup> These suggested sections had been circulated to Council members with the agenda and an explanatory note before the meeting.

	<b>Actions</b>
<b>6</b> <b>Decision whether to request a joint meeting with the Patron and Bishop under the provisions of Section 12 of the 1986 Measure</b> - after a brief discussion and a proposal from Val Cragg seconded by Alan Rickards, it was unanimously decided <u>not</u> to request a joint meeting with the Patron and the Bishop	
<b>7</b> <b>Decision whether to request a written statement from the Bishop in relation to the benefice about the needs of the diocese and the wider needs of the Church</b> - after a brief discussion and a proposal from John Oram seconded by Fiona Pullé, it was unanimously decided <u>not</u> to request such a statement from the Bishop.;	
<b>8</b> <b>Decision whether to make a request to the Bishop, on grounds of theological conviction, that arrangements be made for the benefice in accordance with the House of Bishops' Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests (concerning women priests).</b> - after reference was made to the parish's established acceptance over several years of women priests during absences of the vicar, it was unanimously decided on a proposal from Alastair, seconded by Barbara, that there was no basis for making such a request to the Bishop for such arrangements	
<b>9</b> <b>General advertising of the vacancy</b> - the proposal by Jayne to advertise the vacancy in the Church Times and other suitable media at the expense of the Church Council (estimated at up £1,000) was seconded by Jane Thomson and approved unanimously.	<b>Wardens</b>
<b>10</b> <b>Close of meeting</b> – this being the only business, the Rural Dean closed the meeting at 8.00pm.	