

St Luke's Parish Church - Holmes Chapel

Minutes of Special Parochial Church Council meeting held on Monday 10th May 2019

7.30pm, Massey Room, Church Hall

	Actions
<p>Present: Alastair Cragg (Chairman), Rachel Copley, Val Cragg, Alison Dale, Ray Davies, Tim Fryer, Stephen Haigh, William Hall (Treasurer), Trevor Jenkins, Wendy Macdonald, John Oram, Fiona Pullé, Alan Rickards, Anne Smith, Barbara Smith, Steve Smith (Secretary), Jane Thomson and Jayne Weaver (Vice-Chairman).</p>	
<p>1 Welcome and Opening – The Chairman welcomed everyone to the special meeting of the Church Council and opened proceedings with prayer.</p>	
<p>2 Apologies for absence – Peter Cotton and Bill Paton</p>	
<p>3 Introduction – The Chairman explained the purpose of the meeting was to communicate to the Council the outcome of the interview process for our new incumbent which took place on Friday 3rd May 2019. He was delighted to announce that he and Jayne, and the others on the interview panel¹, were unanimous in their decision to offer the appointment to the candidate who has now accepted.</p>	
<p>4 Outline of the Process on 3rd May – The candidate and his wife arrived in Holmes Chapel at about 11.30am and were first given a tour of St Luke's church by the Secretary and Stephen Haigh. Stephen then took them to view the Vicarage and explained the Diocese's plans to build a smaller house within the grounds and sell off the old building. The candidate and his wife were then hosted for lunch at the George & Dragon by Val Cragg, Peter Cotton and Stephen Haigh. The interview took place in the Massey Room at 2pm and the candidate's wife was entertained to coffee by Val Cragg.</p> <p>The interview started with the candidate delivering an excellent five-minute homily on a theme notified to him in advance by the Archdeacon. He then answered questions from each of the panel members addressing points in our expectations for the kind of vicar we are seeking as set out in the Parish Profile. He was well prepared and had clearly read the Profile from his responses and the questions he asked. He set out clearly why he was looking to move from his present parish and take up the challenges which parish ministry at St Luke's will provide. In summary, the panel felt he was a very strong candidate and after a short deliberation decided to offer him the post of incumbent at St Luke's.</p>	
<p>5 Next Steps – The candidate accepted the offer after discussing it with his wife and family but, for personal reasons connected with arrangements within his existing parish, wishes to delay announcing his move to St Luke's if possible until early July. Consequently, his name and current parish must remain confidential until then. It is likely that he would take up his appointment in the late autumn.</p> <p>A short announcement will be made before the services this Sunday and included in the Interregnum update in the Magazine. A reserve Press Release will be prepared in conjunction with the candidate in case the information appears to be becoming public knowledge.</p>	Churchwardens Secretary
<p>6 Discussion – the Chairman then asked for questions and comments from the Council. He concluded the open discussion, by saying that he and Jayne were convinced that the new incumbent was right for St Luke's and would bring additional drive and experience to address the challenges we are facing in the parish.</p>	
<p>12 Date and time of next meeting: Monday 1 July 2019, 7.30pm in the Massey Room</p>	
<p>13 Close of Meeting – there being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.00 pm with the Grace.</p>	

¹ **Interview Panel:** Archdeacon of Macclesfield, Venerable Ian Bishop; Rural Dean, Revd Steve Clapham; our Patron, Revd Thomas Shepherd; and Alastair Cragg and Jayne Weaver, representing the Church Council.