

St Luke's Parish Church - Holmes Chapel

Minutes of the Parochial Church Council meeting held on Monday 29th April 2019

7.30pm, Massey Room, Church Hall

	Actions
<p>Present: Alastair Cragg (Chairman), Rachel Copley, Peter Cotton, Val Cragg, Alison Dale, Ray Davies, Tim Fryer, Stephen Haigh, William Hall (Treasurer), Trevor Jenkins, Wendy Macdonald, Bill Paton, Fiona Pullé, Alan Rickards, Anne Smith, Steve Smith (Secretary), Jane Thomson and Jayne Weaver (Vice-Chairman).</p>	
<p>1 Welcome and Opening – the Chairman welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the new Church Council after the Annual Parish Meetings on 7th April and set the context by reading from 1 Corinthians 15 v3-7, followed by prayer.</p>	
<p>2 Apologies for absence – John Oram and Barbara Smith</p>	
<p>3 Co-option of members to the Church Council – as already explained at the previous Council meeting and the APCM, we are now only permitted to have twelve elected lay members following the fall below 200 on the new Parish Electoral Roll. Peter Cotton and Ray Davies who retired in April 2019 are willing to be co-opted and following a proposal by Fiona Pulle, seconded by Bill Paton, were unanimously co-opted as members of the Council until the next APCM in April 2020.</p>	
<p>4 Appointment of Council Officers following the APCM – the following were willing to continue to serve as Officers of the Council until further notice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Chairman – Alastair Cragg b) Vice-Chairman – Jayne Weaver c) Secretary – Steve Smith d) Treasurer – William Hall e) Electoral Roll Officer – Wendy Bond f) Safeguarding Officer – Anne Smith g) Parish Giving Officer – Jayne Weaver h) Health & Safety Officer – Jayne Weaver i) Church Fire Safety Officer – Peter Cotton j) Data Protection Officer – Jayne Weaver 	
<p>A proposal by Tim Fryer, seconded by Alison Dale, that all these appointments should be made, was unanimously approved.</p>	
<p>5 Minutes of Council meeting on Monday 4th March – there were no amendments and the minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting on a proposal by Trevor Jenkins, seconded by Jane Thomson, and were then signed by the Chairman.</p>	
<p>6 Matters arising from previous meeting, not dealt with elsewhere in the agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Organ and Music Festival – Wendy Macdonald reported that she is now in touch with the Diocesan Organ Adviser (Revd Andrew Manning) concerning repair and refurbishment of the pipe organ and will report on his advice in due course. The recent Music Festival weekend was another success and produced an overall profit of £389 which will go to the Organ Fund. She thanked all those who had taken part and helped with the organisation. The Chairman also added his own thanks to Wendy and the other musicians and singers on behalf of the Council. Wendy is meeting with the organising group to review this year's Festival and plan next year's event including wider publicity to gain more support from the local churches for the Festival Concert. b) Retirement Party – the Secretary confirmed that he had written letters of thanks to Jane Rudd and Rich Jepson for their help with Paul's retirement event. c) New Electoral Roll – the Secretary informed that the final number on the new Roll is 187 but hoped that further enrolments would be made to take the number over the 200 threshold. 	<p>Wendy</p>

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<p>7 Update on the Interregnum – Jayne Weaver reported that the majority of our Sunday services during the Interregnum have so far been taken by Revd Rick Gates. Rick will be assisting with an Interregnum close to his home parish and so we will not be seeing him so regularly in the coming months. During May, Sunday services will be taken by Revd Graham Joyce and Revd Canon Howard Eales. Wednesday services will be led by the Revds Alan Overend, Sue Wilkins and David Page.</p> <p>Two applications were received in response to our advert and one applicant was chosen for interview. It is disappointing that the advert did not generate a larger response, but this is typical in the current climate with many vacancies and more clergy retiring than are being ordained.</p> <p>The selection interview will be at St Luke’s on Friday, 3rd May. The panel will be one of the Archdeacons, Revd Thomas Shepherd (our Patron), Revd Steve Clapham (Rural Dean) and Jayne and Alastair, as the Church Council’s representatives. If the panel reaches a positive conclusion, an extraordinary meeting of the Council will be called sometime during the week commencing 6th May to explain the decision. There will still be a delay of several months for notice to be served before a new incumbent can be installed at St Luke’s.</p> <p>Jayne invited questions and comments and there was then some general discussion. The Chairman concluded this by emphasising that, should the applicant be judged as not right for St Luke’s, the vacancy will then be re-advertised at no further cost to the Council and the Interregnum continued.</p> <p>Jayne continued by informing that the Diocese has submitted an outline planning application to Cheshire East Council to build a purpose-built vicarage in front and to the left of the existing vicarage. The Diocese owns the property and feels that a smaller house, designed so that the family’s personal space is separate from the church business area, would be more suitable for a future incumbent. The Parish Council has reviewed the plans and has no objection to the development. The Church Council’s views are also sought, and we have the right to appeal if we disagree with the Diocese’s premise. The Secretary circulated a copy of the outline plan for the proposed new vicarage which is also available in detail on the CEC planning website¹.</p> <p>Jayne concluded by thanking William and Judith Hall who have expended considerable efforts in emptying the vicarage and arranging for serviceable items to be donated to various charities, including Barnabus and St Luke’s Brinnington. These thanks were enthusiastically echoed by the rest of the Church Council.</p>	
<p>8 Churchwardens’ report – Jayne Weaver reported for the Wardens’ Team:</p> <p>8.1 Standing Committee Report - The Committee has met twice since the last March Council meeting to conduct routine Church business and manage aspects of the Interregnum.</p> <p>8.2 Church Lighting – The Church architects, Bench Architects, have assisted us with some additional queries raised by the Diocesan Advisory Committee in connection with our application for faculty approval for the lighting works.</p> <p>8.3 Church Heating – Both church boilers are now fully operational following a full service and some repairs.</p> <p>8.4 West end development project update – Bench Architects have prepared some initial, high level conceptual drawings/designs to help shape our thinking for our possible ‘big’ project to improve access to church. They are due to complete their evaluation of options with a written summary report. Things are still very much in the early stages and we will be sharing the report and conceptual plans with the Church Council in due course. We also plan to visit the Chester Archives Office to investigate the records held there of previous major changes to St Luke’s church fabric. The aim is to provide heritage context and support for any of the proposals we may decide to follow up.</p>	

¹ <http://planning.cheshireeast.gov.uk/applicationdetails.aspx?pr=19/1787C>

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<p>8.5 Annual Inventory – the annual Church inventory will be carried out on 10th May. Please advise Val Cragg of any books etc which may have been borrowed and not yet returned.</p> <p>8.6 Parish Weekend September 2020 – We have booked the whole of Willersley Castle for the next Parish Weekend from 25-27th September 2020. We are very pleased that Peter and Brenda Shackleton have volunteered to manage the organisation of this event, which will include arranging the evening entertainment and confirming numbers. They will be meeting shortly with Alastair and Karen Cragg, who have organised the past two Parish Weekends.</p> <p>9 Treasurer’s Report – William Hall reported as follows:</p> <p>The first four months of the year produced a surplus of income over expenditure (I&E) of about £12,300, due largely to Gift Aid tax repayments in February and April, totalling £17,876 against a budgeted figure of £17,000. We have also received £975 from the Diocese reimbursing us for the fees we paid to visiting clergy during February and March.</p> <p>Reviewing the pattern of I&E since 2016, we have consistently managed to be in surplus at the end of April (£9K in 2018) although our first four month outgoings continue to increase significantly year on year (£34.8K in 2016, £37.5K in 2017, £45.5K in 2018). Over the same period, our income from refunded Gift Aid has decreased (£19.4K in 2016, £17.4K in 2017, £17.8K) in part due to increases in personal tax allowances taking some givers out of income tax payments.</p> <p>Following changes announced in the Autumn 2018 budget, the maximum level of individual cash donations made under the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS) has been increased from £20 to £30 from 6th April this year. Currently there are few individual cash donations above £20 which will benefit from this welcome increase. However, it may be worth mentioning this beneficial change at the next Planned Giving Review since claims under GASDS do not require a Gift Aid declaration to be in place from the donor.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked William for his report and invited questions. None were forthcoming.</p>	
<p>10 Deanery Synod Matters –The next meeting of the Synod is scheduled for 13th June 2019 at St Bertoline, Barthomley.</p> <p>Deanery Synod representatives have been notified about a casual vacancy on General Synod for a candidate from the Macclesfield House of Laity. The candidate does not need to serve on Deanery Synod, but must be aged at least eighteen, a communicant and on a church electoral roll in the Diocese. The closing date for nominations is 12noon on Thursday, 23rd May followed by issue of ballot papers in early June, voting in the Macclesfield Archdeaconry Deanery Synods and a count on 1st July 2019.</p> <p>If anyone is interested in applying, please contact William or Barbara who can give more details and have nomination forms.</p>	
<p>11 Any Other Business</p> <p>11.1 Heating Control in Church Hall - Alison Dale raised the difficulty of controlling the temperature of the warm air heating system in the Church Hall. Several complaints had been received of excessive heat levels. The Chairman advised that she should raise the matter at the next meeting of the Church Hall Committee.</p> <p>11.2 Harvest Festival – On behalf of the Social Committee, Rachel Copley enquired whether the date and format of the Harvest Festival services had yet been fixed since they wanted to know when/if the usual Harvest Supper could be arranged. The Chairman said that Harvest services had provisionally been set for Sunday 29th September, but the format is not yet agreed pending discussions with representatives of Girlguiding and the Scouts.</p>	<p>Alison Dale</p>

	Actions
<p>11.3 Retirement of the Bishop of Chester - Bishop Peter has announced that he will be retiring on Monday 30 September after more than 23 years in the post. The Bishop of Birkenhead, the Rt Revd Keith Sinclair, will become Acting Bishop from 1 October. A service of farewell is planned for 20 July.</p> <p>11.4 Other Matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Access to organ – the Chairman confirmed that access to the church pipe organ was at the sole discretion of the Director of Music. b. Refreshment time after Sunday Services - the Chairman emphasised that this is a time for continued Christian fellowship. As such, all are welcome to take part irrespective of whether they have attended a Church service. Consideration will be given to stating this in the Sunday Link. c. Church Website – the new website being developed by the Secretary and Trevor Jenkins is available at https://stlukesholmeschapel.uk or the old web address of http://holmeschapelchurch.com. Additional pages, notices and other information are being added to the new site and the interim site at http://stlukesroof.net is no longer being updated. <p>12 Date and time of next meeting:</p> <p>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 8.35 pm with the Grace.</p>	