

# St Luke's Parish Church - Holmes Chapel

## Minutes of the Parochial Church Council meeting held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020

7.30pm, Massey Room, Church Hall

		Actions
	<b>Present:</b> Revd Rob McLaren (Vicar and Chairman), Alastair Cragg, Val Cragg, Rachel Copley, Peter Cotton, Alison Dale, Ray Davies, Tim Fryer, Stephen Haigh, William Hall (Treasurer), Trevor Jenkins, Wendy Macdonald, Fiona Pullé, Alan Rickards, Steve Smith (Secretary), Jane Thomson and Jayne Weaver.	
<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome and Opening</b> – Rob welcomed everyone to the meeting and set the context by reading from Mark 1v 32 ff (the importance of having a strategy) followed by an introductory prayer.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Apologies for absence</b> – received from John Oram, Bill Paton, Anne Smith, Barbara Smith.	
<b>3</b>	<p><b>Formal Matters</b> – the Secretary informed Council that new Church Representation Rules 2020<sup>1</sup> applying to all C of E Churches are now in force from 1 Jan 20. These have been fully revised to simplify and clarify governance arrangements and include a new set of rules for parishes. Our vicar is now automatically also Chairman of the Church Council.</p> <p>Rob thanked Alastair Cragg and Jayne Weaver for leading the Council during the interregnum. Alastair has agreed to stand as Vice-chairman and to continue to chair the Standing Committee. The Council approved this change unanimously as proposed by Alan Rickards and seconded by Rachel Copley.</p>	
<b>4</b>	<b>Minutes of meeting on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019</b> – these had been circulated in December and no amendments were proposed; the minutes were adopted as a true record of the meeting (as proposed by Peter Cotton and seconded by Val Cragg) and were signed by the Chairman.	
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Matters arising from previous Council meeting</b></p> <p><b>a) Church Organ</b> – the Chairman invited Wendy Macdonald to speak to the detailed paper<sup>2</sup> prepared by the Secretary bringing together the current position regarding our existing pipe organ and its possible replacement. After a short discussion including questions about the extent into the NE nave/chancel area to be taken up by the replacement organ, there was broad agreement to go ahead with the acquisition of the Heswall organ and the Chairman expressed his own support.</p> <p>Wendy proposed that the Council should give formal notice to Heswall PCC of its intention: (a), to proceed with the acquisition for a total donation of £1,000 of the redundant pipe organ, currently installed in the Church of the Good Shepherd, Heswall, and (b), to seek diocesan faculty approval for the removal, refurbishment and installation of the Heswall organ by David Wells Organ Builders Ltd of Liverpool in the NE corner of the nave of St Luke's Church, Holmes Chapel, to an agreed timetable and specification of works.</p> <p>The proposal was seconded by Peter Cotton and agreed unanimously. It was confirmed that the remaining donation is £700, the sum of £300 having already been paid as evidence of our good faith intention towards the potential acquisition. The Secretary will inform Revd Martin Cannam and David Wetherall of Heswall PCC accordingly and the Standing Committee will agree next steps.</p> <p><b>b) Parish Weekend: 25-27<sup>th</sup> September 2020</b> – the Chairman informed that publicity about this weekend has now been formally launched at Luke's and booking forms are available at the back of church. He has retained the Revd Steve James, until recently minister at Holy Trinity Platt in Rusholme, to be the lead speaker. A leader for the children's activities is still to be secured. Eighty places in all are available and the short video taken at the last Parish Weekend will be shown in church in the next weeks to raise awareness and stimulate bookings at St Luke's. The weekend has also been discussed at the recent Churches Together meeting and has been announced at both the local Methodist and Roman Catholic Churches.</p>	<p>Secretary Standing Committee</p> <p>Tim Fryer</p>

<sup>1</sup> [Church Representation Rules 2020](https://www.churchofengland.org/more/policy-and-thinking/church-representation-rules): <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/policy-and-thinking/church-representation-rules>; a reference copy will be available in the Church Hall Office.

<sup>2</sup> Copy circulated to the Council before the meeting.

		Actions
	<p>A proposal from the Standing Committee by Alastair that the Council should again provide up to £1,000 to cover the cost of accompanying children and any single person supplements, was seconded by Jayne and approved unanimously. The subsidy for accompanying children would apply to any adult participant in the weekend and not just those from St Luke's.</p> <p>c) <b>The Knitted Bible</b><sup>3</sup> - Fiona Pullé reported that she has arranged with St George's United Reform Church of Hartlepool to display their collection of knitted Bible scenes at St Luke's from <b>Sat. 13<sup>th</sup> – Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021</b>. No charge is required but St George's would appreciate a contribution from any collections etc made during the displays. We would simply need to collect the Knitted Bible by van from its previous display point in Hartford.</p>	
6	<p><b>Churchwardens' report</b> – Jayne reported on the following items:</p> <p><b>Standing Committee</b> - this has met once since the last Council meeting and has discussed the regular services, baptisms and the Christmas services. Also discussed were the Parish Weekend and a recommendation to cover the cost of accompanying children (see 5b above).</p> <p>The need for additional help with Sacristan duties before and after Communion services has have advertised for volunteers in the Link, the Magazine and on the website. Three people have already volunteered: Janet Chettle, Yvonne Janvier and Abbey Rayner. Janet already acted as Sacristan on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> Jan and Yvonne and Abbey are due to be shown the role on 17<sup>th</sup> Jan.</p> <p><b>Leak in the tower</b> – the gutters on the tower roof have been cleared and there have been no further reports of leaks into the bell chamber.</p> <p><b>Quinquennial Inspection</b> – the mandatory five yearly inspection of the condition of the church building was carried out on Friday 13th December by our architects, Bench Architects. We await their report, but their overall comments during the inspection were positive.</p> <p><b>Portable Equipment Testing</b> – the annual PAT of equipment in the church and the Hall is due to be completed this month<sup>4</sup>.</p> <p><b>Boxing Day Closure of Church Walk</b> – the annual 24-hour closure with tape and bollards needed to maintain our right of way was completed satisfactorily.</p> <p><b>Church Lighting</b> – this project is still on hold for review with the Chairman and our architects but remains a high priority for health and safety reasons.</p> <p><b>Celebration lunch for visiting clergy</b> – Alastair is organising a lunch on 24th January for the ministers who led the majority of our services during the Interregnum. The members of the Standing Committee will host the lunch, along with Rob and Jean, at the George and Dragon.</p>	
7	<p><b>Treasurer's Report</b> – William Hall reported as follows:</p> <p><b>General</b> - Income for November and December failed to cover our expenses with deficits of £2,795 and £3,005 respectively. Receipts from Planned Giving were also down in December, but it was gratifying to see so many people at our church Carol Service where donations were at a record high of over £160.</p> <p>During 2019 income exceeded day to day expenditure in only four months and in two of those we received repayments of Gift Aid tax. So far, a small deficit of £888 against income of £122,000 is anticipated at year-end but this may change once the Church Hall, Social Committee and Bell-ringers accounts are received later this month.</p> <p>During December, we paid £1,300 for a five-year contract to service the tower clock, which fixes the cost until 2025. We also made our annual donation towards the work of St Luke's Brinnington. Their new vicar, Revd Lynne Cullens, is keen for members of our congregation to meet them one afternoon this summer; this last happened in the 1990s when Revd John Eardley was vicar.</p> <p><b>Fabric Matters</b> - we paid the remaining £5,649 of Bench Architects bill for preparing design options for possible changes to the church West end entrance. We also donated £300 to Heswall PCC to secure our interest in their redundant organ and paid £360 to David Wells Organ Builders to carry out a suitability survey of the instrument.</p>	

<sup>3</sup> See details and places where it has been and is scheduled to be displayed: <http://www.stgeorgesurc.co.uk/the-knitted-bible/>

<sup>4</sup> Post meeting note: PAT carried out on equipment in church and hall on 21<sup>st</sup> Jan 20

		Actions
	<p>In 2020 we will have two major fabric projects to finance: the church lighting upgrade and the organ replacement, for which the total cost is estimated at £86,400. We have sufficient funds accessible to start these projects but will require a further £50,000 from an appeal and or grant sources to complete the projects.</p> <p>The projected budget for 2020 is still in preparation but we already know that our Parish Share will rise by £2,000 (another 2.5%) to £80,505 this year. Receipts from Planned Giving increased last year with more people joining the scheme but further substantial increase will be needed if we are to break even on our non-fabric expenses this year.</p> <p><i>The Chairman thanked William for his report and invited questions. None were forthcoming.</i></p>	
8	<p><b>Developing a future vision for St Luke’s</b> – the Chairman invited discussion of this topic by circulating a short paper with his preliminary thoughts and impressions from our Parish Profile and his first two months in the parish.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Although we have good mutual care amongst established regulars, we lack a cutting edge with those beyond, especially amongst new estate arrivals where our contribution is largely within Churches Together with the village Christmas Card.</li> <li>• It’s not clear what route we provide for people to go from unchurched individuals to committed members of St Luke’s.</li> <li>• “St Luke’s C of E” is a much easier brand for people to engage with than “Churches Together”.</li> <li>• The exterior of our building is obvious and attractive to most in the centre of the village but we do not communicate much of what we stand for and are about and we have work to do to make the church interior attractive.</li> </ul> <p>Our Parish Profile<sup>5</sup> set out some clear concerns in the introduction and section on opportunities and challenges typified by:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">“We want to share our faith with the rest of our community, especially younger people, but we struggle to know how best to do this. Our new vicar will help us to grow as disciples who share God’s love with the people we meet and make a real difference.”</p> <p>We need to have a plan to address these opportunities and challenges. The Chairman’s paper set out suggestions for a general strategy with proposed targets for the next six and twelve months and three years. Included in this our “branding” could be made more effective with a punchy strapline such as “Come to Christ, Love to Learn, Learn to Love” and a distinctive website logo, readily identifiable with what we are.</p> <p>Everyone present gave their own immediate thoughts on the paper and agreed to think and pray about the way forward so that our future vision can be developed and targets to help deliver it agreed at the next meeting.</p>	Secretary
9	<p><b>Notices</b> – the Chairman announced:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <b>February Service Bible study series</b> – he will use the Book of Ruth (26 votes) in February; the parables from Mark (16 votes) will be used in a future month</li> <li>b) <b>Lay assistance in Services</b> – Tim Fryer and Lee Hardy<sup>6</sup> will be helping lead services and will preach sermons occasionally while they test their future calling.</li> <li>c) <b>Safeguarding</b> - this is the responsibility of the Council and all church members and not just of Anne Smith, our Safeguarding Officer. The topic will be a regular item on the Council’s meeting agenda and Anne will invited to attend to present on the topic from time to time.</li> </ol>	Secretary

<sup>5</sup> Copy of S1 (intro) and S2 (opportunity & challenges) attached to these minutes

<sup>6</sup> Lee is a potential ordinand on placement with us, having joined St Luke’s with his wife Liz.

		Actions
10	<p><b>Annual Church Meetings 2020 – preliminaries</b></p> <p>The Annual Meeting to elect the Churchwardens and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) were originally scheduled to be held on 19<sup>th</sup> April, the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Easter. However, the Secretary explained that the new Church Representation Rules 2020 now allow both meetings to be held by Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May at the latest. He proposed that we avail ourselves of this change and hold our Annual Meetings later this year that is on <b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020</b>. This will avoid the Easter period and the changed bank holidays this year and give more time to complete the required financial and parish reports. After a short discussion, this was agreed by the Council.</p> <p>As a result of the three-year Church Council election cycle, this year five lay members (Tim Fryer, Stephen Haigh, Bill Paton, Fiona Pullé and the Secretary) will be standing down, and will ordinarily be eligible for re-election; similarly, our two current lay representatives on the Deanery Synod (William Hall and Barbara Smith) will also stand down but eligible for re-election (and if elected would also be <i>ex officio</i> members of the Church Council). In addition, our two co-opted Council members (Peter Cotton and Ray Davies) will be standing down and eligible for election or co-option to the Council for a further year. This year the Diocese has advised that we are entitled to elect three representatives to the Deanery Synod.</p> <p>The Secretary asked those who were standing down to let him know their intentions before the next Council meeting regarding their seeking election/co-option to the Church Council and election to the Deanery Synod at the APCM so that suitable nomination forms could be prepared.</p>	<p>Relevant Council Members</p>
11	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>a) <b>U3A:</b> Fiona reported that discussions continue with Barbara Reeve of the local U3A group about how St Luke's might assist with contacts working with the needy in the local community as part of U3A's wish to celebrate its first ten years. Anyone with ideas about this should contact Fiona.</p> <p>b) <b>Sunday Coffee Arrangement:</b> Stephen Haigh drew attention to problems with the impromptu amalgamation of small tables already set out for coffee after the Sunday morning 10am service. The Chairman emphasised the importance of enabling everyone to move around freely at coffee time to promote fellowship and allow newcomers to be properly made welcome. He asked Council members to do their best to ensure this was possible.</p> <p>c) <b>Lay Conference – 15-17 May: Not Just Sunday:</b> the Diocese is providing one free room for every parish at this conference at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick in Derbyshire. This year the conference will focus on encouraging and equipping living out our faith confidently every day of the week and not just on Sunday. The Secretary has registered for our free room but will need to specify who is to attend from St Luke's by the end of January. More rooms may be available.</p>	<p>Council Members</p> <p>Council to advise Secretary</p>
12	<p><b>Date and time of further meetings:</b></p> <p><b>Monday 9 March 2020, at 7.30pm in the Massey Room.</b></p> <p><b>Annual Church Meetings – rearranged to <b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020</b> 9.30am in church after a short service</b></p>	
13	<p><b>Close of Meeting</b> – there being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.35pm followed by prayers and the Grace.</p>	



# St Luke's Holmes Chapel (Church Hulme)

## 1 INTRODUCTION

*"Making Christ known in the community of Holmes Chapel so that all can share in the joy of God's love."*



Holmes Chapel is a developing Cheshire village, previously known as Church Hulme. Today the name Church Hulme is mainly used for the Ecclesiastical Parish of Church Hulme, comprising the village of Holmes Chapel and the adjoining areas of Cranage and Cotton, and which together constitute the Benefice of Church Hulme for which the present vacancy for an incumbent arises.



Like all churches, St Luke's is on a journey in faith and mission and we have an exciting story to tell. Our previous incumbent was in post for fifteen years. Under his leadership and enablement much has been achieved but, unsurprisingly, challenges remain to be met and new ones have arisen.

We want to share our faith with the rest of our community, especially younger people, but we struggle to know how best to do this. Our new vicar will help us to grow as disciples who share God's love with the people we meet and make a real difference.



## St Luke's Holmes Chapel (Church Hulme)



As you read through the profile, we hope that you will consider prayerfully if God is calling you to fill this key role and help us deliver the next chapter in St Luke's mission. The role is a challenging one, but we know that, for the right man or woman, it has the potential to be deeply rewarding. We are mindful of the challenge of change but excited about the opportunity it brings and what God might have in store for us.

We look to be empowered with the guidance and enthusiasm of an inspirational leader, to deepen our faith in God and enable us to serve the local and wider community.



### ***Notes and Acknowledgements***

- **This profile is best read on screen online; further detail can be obtained by clicking the links.**
- In preparing the profile, we have had much help from the many excellent profiles produced by fellow Churches in their own search to fill their vacancies. We have drawn comfort from the similarity of challenges and opportunities faced in their own future mission as fellow Christians.
- We are also grateful for permission to use some images and text from the 2018 Village Guide produced by the [Holmes Chapel Partnership](#) and from the Neighbourhood Plan produced by [Holmes Chapel Parish Council](#) and adopted by Cheshire East



## St Luke's Holmes Chapel (Church Hulme)

### 2 THE OPPORTUNITY AND CHALLENGES

Christian worship and mission following the Anglican tradition have been centred on St Luke's church in Holmes Chapel in mid-Cheshire for many centuries. Our worship pattern is "lower church" but based closely on Common Worship



liturgy with some less formal services aimed largely at family worship. Our mission statement is: *"Making Christ known in the community of Holmes Chapel so that all can share in the joy of God's love."*



The opportunities at St Luke's are many and varied. Our Grade I listed historic parish church dating from about 1430 is the prominent feature in the heart of the expanding village of Holmes Chapel. We are fortunate to have access to the beauty and stillness of the old church building as well as the flexible facilities of our nearby modern Church Hall.

We are a welcoming and friendly church with 203 members at the last update of the electoral roll. We have a committed congregational base providing good levels of giving in terms of time, talents and money. We are blessed with an active group of talented lay people taking a wide range of leading and supporting roles in the life of the church. The congregation has a desire to see the work of the church grow and has responded generously to requests to support church initiatives. They have given their time and money for the work they believe God wants us to do here.

Regular attendance at church services has stayed more or less the same in recent years but the age distribution has become increasingly skewed towards the more elderly. There is an increasing need to rebuild church membership embracing younger age groups if we are to sustain and expand our future mission.

Baptisms continue at about the same general level (16 in 2017) but there is a need for better follow up with parents. Our Sunday School Genesis group still has 12-14 children in attendance and their presence and participation in services is genuinely embraced by the congregation.



Our challenge is how to keep contact with these children beyond Confirmation now that our own youth group has ended through lack of numbers.



## St Luke's Holmes Chapel (Church Hulme)



Holmes Chapel is a growing community of about 6,000 people with many younger residents and their families moving into the new housing estates.

Yet St Luke's seems largely invisible and unknown to them apart from the Churches Together Christmas card delivery to all households and the Good Friday walk of witness with folk from the local Roman Catholic and Methodist churches.



There is an opportunity for expanded collaboration through Churches Together to reach out to teenagers and younger adults in the village.

Our new incumbent will be key to helping us address these urgent challenges. We see the continuing need for a collaborative ministry and therefore seek a confident incumbent, with a sense of humour, and a track record of building relationships across the Church and community, someone who is family oriented, young in heart (at least) and is able to motivate and direct a supportive congregation.

**If you feel able to help us with these challenges, we really want to meet you!**