



## PARISH OF CHURCH HULME – ST LUKE

### 2022 Annual Parish Meetings Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2022 – In Church Minutes

The Vicar, Canon Rob McLaren, welcomed everyone to the Annual Meetings that he would chair. This was the first meeting being held in the Church in two years due to the pandemic. Participants would be asked to vote by raising their hands.

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#### Annual Meeting of Parishioners for the election of a Churchwarden(AMP: Vestry Meeting)

1. **Attendance and Apologies** – see appendix
2. **Minutes of the previous meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2021:** the minutes had already been circulated and published on the Church website. No corrections were needed. These were duly proposed and seconded that they were adopted as a true record of the meeting. This was agreed upon by all those who were present at the online meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2021. Rob signed these. There were no matters arising.
3. **Election of a Church Warden** – Alastair Cragg had completed his 6<sup>th</sup> and final annual term. Jayne Weaver was willing to stand again for her 6<sup>th</sup> annual term. She had been duly proposed and seconded and no other candidates are now possible. Rob thanked both Alastair and Jayne and the other Church Officers for their help and hard work supporting the ministry in St Luke's. He expressed his gratitude for their support. He asked for approval of Jayne Weaver's election which was given unanimously by those present. Jayne thanked Alastair for all his hard work and support and also expressed her thanks to Karen Cragg.

There being no other business Rob closed the meeting at 11.15 am

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

1. **Attendance and Apologies** – see appendix
2. **Minutes of the previous meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2021:** these had already been circulated and published on the Church website. No corrections were needed nor were there any matters arising. Tim Fryer proposed, and Alastair Cragg seconded that they are adopted as a true record. This was agreed upon by all those who had been present at the online meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2021.
3. **Report on Church Electoral Roll (ER) after the 2022 revision:** Steve Smith the Church ER Officer explained that the roll lasts for a 5-year period but is revised once a year and is then published. He confirmed that the roll now stands at 223 members. People can still fill in a form and be added to the roll in 2023. As a result of the numbers on the roll, it is possible to elect the maximum permitted number of 15 lay members to the Church Council.
4. **Election of lay members to the Parochial Church Council (PCC):** Rob explained that Councillors are elected for a three-year period and as mentioned by Steve our ER numbers now permit us to have 15 elected members with 5 normally retiring each year. This year there are 5 vacancies. Existing PCC members **Alastair Cragg, Alison Dale, Trevor Jenkins, and John Oram** are retiring but are available for re-election. **Paula Lavin** resigned earlier in the year. However, Alastair and John have decided not to seek re-election this year. Rob recorded his sincere thanks to them both on behalf of St Luke's for their Christian Ministry within the parish including extensive service in the PCC and to Alastair in particular for his service as Churchwarden.

Duly proposed and seconded nomination forms for the re-election of Alison and Trevor have been received. Rob asked for any new nominations of which there were none. He then asked for general approval by a show of hands of the election of Alison Dale and Trevor Jenkins. This was provided unanimously by those present eligible to vote.

Rob explained that, following the Church Representation Rules, our women and men Sidemen and other Church Officers (including the Secretary and Treasurer) are now appointed by the PCC at its first meeting on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May. Our Assistant Churchwardens will also be appointed at that meeting.

5. **Report on the PCC Financial Statements for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021**

Copies of the summary Financial Statements for the calendar year 2021 have been circulated and published on the website before the meeting. Paper

copies are still available in the church porch and copies of the fully examined statements are available on request from the Hon, Treasurer William Hall (HC 535497).

William explained that Our finances in 2021 really resembled the traditional curate's egg, namely "good in parts".

At the start of the year, we experienced a further period of lockdown which severely restricted our day-to-day income. This was followed by a return to worship with weddings and funerals again taking place. Despite the welcome return of services our expenses have continued to rise and by the summer it became clear that an appeal for funds would be required if we were to avoid another annual deficit. The result of this appeal was extra donations of over £11,000 in August which were very welcome.

The annual rate of increase in our Parish Share was reduced in the first few months of 2021 but has since resumed its upward path rising by 2% to £82,936 this year. For many years we have paid 25% more than the basic share because our parish is one of the 25% of parishes in the Diocese with the greatest ability to pay and we thereby support a quarter of parishes with the least ability to do so. We are fortunate to be able to assist our Christian brothers and sisters in this way.

Following the sale of the Old Vicarage at 74 London Road we were fortunate in obtaining a one-off grant of £16,459 from the sale proceeds. This sum is not intended to meet our day-to-day expenditure but to support future church projects. It has to be used for a "missional aspect" and must have some impact locally.

In October 2020 we opened an appeal fund to raise £80,000 to enable us to replace our pipe organ and upgrade our church lighting system. By the end of the year, we had raised over £75,000 and expect to reach our target early in 2022. The completion of the new organ was celebrated in early October with a splendid recital by Dr. Ian Tracey, of Liverpool Cathedral.

Our lighting project continues, and we anticipate receiving official approval enabling us to carry out the work next year. In 2022 we will be carrying out some improvements to the entry system, windows, and seating in our church hall. To enable us to do this we have received a generous donation from one of our members.

Finally, we are grateful for the efforts of Mr. Jeremy Bostock in examining our 2021 accounts.

William expressed his gratitude to everyone who helped maintain parish finances in a difficult year and to all the people who had supported him in this role. He explained that this was his last year as Treasurer and that he would be laying down his "quill pen and calculator" and handing these over to Trevor Jenkins.

Rob offered his thanks to William for his 14 years of service as Treasurer and for the gracious and helpful way he has undertaken this.

Rob then asked if there were any questions about the accounts and commented that we had achieved a slight surplus which was a cause for thanksgiving given the current circumstances.

Answering a question from John Oram, on whether the church hall donation was included in the accounts or if there would have been a deficit without it, William explained that yes there would have been. We had earnings of £193,920.57 and expenditure of £178,390.48 giving us a surplus of £15,530.09. Without the Hall donation, there would have been an overall deficit of £4,469.91

A question was asked about how much had been allocated for the lighting. This was confirmed as £33K but we would be able to claim the VAT back. However, we are not certain about the actual amount until work starts as due to delays and inflation this may increase.

A question was asked over the sale of the vicarage and it was confirmed that we had received the sum from Chester Diocese. This amount has not been allocated but as mentioned above it cannot be used for general work e.g., maintenance.

A comment was made about whether the pew covers could be replaced. This was duly noted.

#### **6. Appointment of independent Examiner for Financial Statements –**

William proposed that Mr. Jeremy Bostock FCA be reappointed as independent Examiner of the PCC Financial Statements for 2022/3. This was seconded and approved unanimously by all those present and eligible to vote.

#### **7. Reports on parish activities, proceedings of the PCC and of the Deanery Synod, and Churchwardens' report on the Fabric, Goods, and Ornaments of the Church**

Rob explained that, under the Church Representation Rules, these reports are required to be considered at the APCM. However, they have all been included in the consolidated 2022 Annual Report. He thanked everyone who had contributed to its preparation and content; it has been circulated and published on the website and paper copies made available in the church porch. He, therefore, proposed that its content (including the reports required for the APCM) should be taken as read but was open to any questions from those present. This proposal was approved.

Alastair offered the opportunity to ask any questions regarding the fabric of the Church. He explained that we had recently had the Quinquennial Inspection which helps us to see what needs to be done.

Thanks were given to Alastair by all those present for his 6 years of service as Churchwarden. He acknowledged this and said it had been an honour, had been a very interesting 6 years and he thanked everyone for their support. He asked that we all support Jayne going forward.

Jayne stressed the importance of the Warden's Team and thanked all the Assistant Wardens. She gave particular thanks to Stephen Haigh, who is stepping down as an Assistant Warden.

**8. Any other business** – No other items of business had been received.

**9. Vicar's Closing remarks**

We thank and praise the Lord for the progress we have made. It has not been an easy year for anyone. However, I am pleased that at St. Luke's we have persevered and kept going. Often it is hard to know the right thing to do but we have made some good progress. Rob thanked everyone for their support in moving forward.

We have stuck to two aims:-

- a) To improve the buildings
- b) To build God's people

There has been a grateful season of improvements to the buildings and fittings. In improving the buildings, we have achieved the organ project thanks to generous giving. We are making progress with the lighting project, which is gathering pace, and should be achieved this coming year. In the Church Hall, there are plans to redecorate and replace the chairs along with other improvements due to a generous donation.

To build God's people we must make everyone welcome and reach out to different generations to help build spiritual life, This will involve different styles of worship and social events as people need more ways in. There is a plan to have more events with invitations. The Knitted Bible event and the open Church for Christmas Markets were very well received.

We pray that the Lord will add to our number those whom he is saving and bring to completion the good work he is doing among us

Rob closed the meeting at 11.45 am and invited everyone to join in saying the Lord's Prayer.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Appendix One – Apologies:-**

**Judith and Derek Copley**

**Carol and Martin Elliott**

**Linda and Stuart Gammon**

**Lise and Mark Hopwood**

**Anne and Alan Lane**

**Jean McLaren**

**Pat and Malcolm Pye**

**Alan Rickards**

**Appendix Two – There were 50 Attendees, and the names of these were recorded with signatures. The list can be inspected on request.**