

# Parish Church of St Luke – Holmes Chapel (Church Hulme)

## Minutes of the Parochial Church Council

held in The Massey Room

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023, 7.30 pm

		Actions
	<b>Present:</b> Canon Rob McLaren (Vicar and Chairman), Janet Chettle, Tim Fryer, William Hall, Trevor Jenkins, Fiona Pulle, Alan Rickards, Barbara Smith, Steve Smith, Jayne Weaver, Allan Whiston.	
1.	<b>Welcome and Opening:</b> – Rob welcomed everyone and set the context by focusing on Article 17 from the 39 Articles of Religion of the Church of England - 17. Of Predestination and Election Prayers were said	
2.	Apologies for absence: – Peter Cotton, Stephen Haigh, Yvonne Janvier, Wendy MacDonald, Charlotte Webb	
3.	<p>Church Council appointments and Sidesmen</p> <p>Appointments: - Vice Chair - Jayne Weaver Electoral Roll Officer – Steve Smith Secretary – Janet Chettle Treasurer – Trevor Jenkins Safeguarding Officer – Allan Whiston Data Protection Officer – Steve Smith Health &amp; Safety Officer – Jayne Weaver Fire Safety Officer – Peter Cotton These were all duly proposed and seconded.</p> <p>Standing Committee: - Chair Vice Chair Secretary Treasurer Assistant Wardens William Hall Steve Smith</p> <p>Sidesmen Geoff Bond Glen and Sandra Jackson Trevor Jenkins Anne and Alan Lane John Land</p>	

	<p>John Oram Jean Paton Rod Pickles Pat Pye Lucy Suchland David Thompson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was suggested that we could consider including some young people as sidemen</li> <li>• There have been some volunteers who have come forward to help with audio-visual.</li> <li>• Val Cragg has been a member of the PCC for some years. However, on reflection, she has decided not to stand this year. It was agreed to send her flowers to thank her for her service.</li> <li>• A suggestion was made that another member of the PCC could go on the Church Hall Committee.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>Chairman’s Report</b> It is encouraging that we are having more people join us. Many of these are people who have moved into the area and have been regular church attendees. However, if we want to be a thriving church, we need to encourage people who are new to the church to join us. We need to nurture people through the different fellowship groups. We also need to be looking to the future to encourage more families to come to church e.g., through Genesis.</p>	
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p>Minutes of the meeting Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023 – these had been circulated. Jayne proposed and Steve seconded. The Minutes were adopted by those present as a true and accurate record of the meeting. The Minutes were signed by the Chairman.</p>	
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p>Matters arising from the previous meeting (not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda). It was noted that the bell ringers are having a difficult time and it may not be possible for them to always ring the bells for each service.</p>	
<p><b>7.</b></p>	<p><b>Treasurer’s Report</b> – A report outlining the current financial position was given out. The following were highlighted: - It was commented that our finances are breaking even. The General Fund is looking positive but there are charges still to come in e.g., Insurance policy and the first bill from C. Nash for gardening. The deficit from the Organ and Lighting fund is going down. There have been some donations from the Community Choir subscriptions. There is also a bill for the electrical work undertaken in the Gallery to come in.</p>	
<p><b>8.</b></p>	<p>Warden’s report: –</p>	

	<p><b>Standing Committee and Churchwardens' report</b></p> <p>Since the last PCC meeting in March, the Standing Committee has met twice and has agreed on the following: Church magazine We discussed the recommendations from the group who had been reviewing the production of the church magazine. It was agreed that the cost should increase to 60p per copy and the number of editions per year should reduce to 10, thereby resulting in no overall cost increase for annual subscribers. The July/August and December/January editions will be combined as there is less content available during these months. The new charge for a fullpage advert was also agreed at £200. Thank you to Alan Rickards, Gill Brickwood, Trevor Jenkins, Steve Smith and the Vicar for reviewing the production of the church magazine.</p> <p>New Church hall chairs The new church hall chairs have now <b>been delivered after several months' delay. The frames to house the</b> chairs are still outstanding but delivery has been promised. Thank you to Trevor Jenkins for pursuing the company so diligently and achieving a successful result.</p> <p>Coronation Weekend Thank you to everyone who made the Coronation Weekend such a success. Church was open on Sunday 7th May during The Big Lunch, and we had people on hand to welcome visitors.</p> <p>QR codes for donations Our Treasurer, Trevor Jenkins, has had cards printed with a QR code for direct donations to the church bank account, and general fund. These have been placed in the pews and will be particularly useful for visitors attending baptisms and special church services. They can be taken away for use later if required.</p> <p>Energy Contract The energy contract for the church is due for renewal on 31st July. We have benefited from a 3- year fixed term contract with SSE during a period of rapidly rising prices and uncertainty in the market. Trevor Jenkins presented a number of options from various providers. The standing committee discussed the various contracts and agreed to go ahead with a 2-year fixed-price contract with Energisave.</p> <p>Plastering in the Church Porch Thank you to Steve Smith who arranged for the re-plastering in the church porch where the existing plaster had crumbled and deteriorated. This has significantly improved the appearance of the entrance to the church.</p>	
9.	<p>Safeguarding:- Despite writing to certain PCC individuals in January regarding the need to take Basic and Foundations training there has been a limited response. It may be that response has been poor because individuals may have received safeguarding training provided by their employer and do not see the need for taking the Diocesan training modules. This is a point I raised with the Diocesan Safeguarding Training and Policy Officer back in January when he fed back the following and clear response <b>"No accreditation is given against</b> the core safeguarding learning pathways for prior learning, including in other denominations (except For the Methodist Church Foundation module). This is due to Church core</p>	

	<p>safeguarding learning pathways situating safeguarding practice within the unique context of the Church of England and providing participants with the opportunity to relate <b>their learning to their faith.”</b></p> <p>Further, following my last report regarding additional training (<i>Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse</i>) is now required for PCC members (Ref; Communication from THE BISHOP OF BIRKENHEAD dated 31st January 2023), there are only four PCC members who have taken this additional training.</p> <p>In addition to the above requirements, Rob would like all PCC members to read <b>“The Parish Safeguarding Handbook”</b> (<a href="https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-10/ParishSafeGuardingHandBookAugust2019Web.pdf">https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-10/ParishSafeGuardingHandBookAugust2019Web.pdf</a>) prior to the September PCC meeting and confirm to me in writing once you have read the document.</p> <p>To summarise, it is a clear requirement of the Diocese that to become or continue to be, a member of the PCC, evidence of completion of the following is required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic training (certificate of completion required)</li> <li>• Foundations training (certificate of completion required)</li> <li>• Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse training (certificate of completion required)</li> <li>• Having read The Parish Safeguarding Handbook (confirmation required in writing to <a href="mailto:sfgd@stlukesholmeschapel.uk">sfgd@stlukesholmeschapel.uk</a> )</li> </ul> <p>Access to training modules is via <a href="http://cofeportal.org">Safeguarding Training Portal (cofeportal.org)</a> from where you can access your account or create a new one if you have not entered the portal previously.</p> <p>Rob and I have agreed that the above requirements must be satisfied prior to the September PCC to allow for ongoing membership.</p> <p>It was confirmed that there had been no safeguarding issues recorded.</p>	<p><b>Janet will circulate this after the meeting.</b></p>
<p><b>10.</b></p>	<p><b>Any other Business</b></p> <p>a) A Health and Safety issue was raised by Barbara. During the Big Lunch, unsupervised young children had been allowed access to the balcony along with others running up the stone steps outside without parental supervision. The next event is on 7<sup>th</sup> July when the church will again be open to the public. It was suggested that stewards need to be briefed on their health and safety responsibilities and some measures to be put in place e.g., closing off the balcony.</p>	<p><b>Jayne</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b) The safeguarding information in the Church Hall needs updating</li> <li>c) During a recent burial, a mourner suggested that they would like to put a bench in the new part of the churchyard. This was agreeable to the PCC in principle with the details to be confirmed and brought to a future PCC meeting.</li> <li>d) Items from the Annual Meeting. James Pulle raised the issue of the Barclays Bank building. It was noted that Barclays owns the building so will be selling it. However, it is part of the village conservation area, so the Parish council has said that they want a say in what it is used for. Rob noted that it was very unlikely that we would have the funds to buy it.</li> <li>e) It was agreed to change the date of the next APCM to May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024</li> </ul>	<b>Allan</b>
<b>11.</b>	<p>Future PCC Meetings (normally 7.30 pm 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday in the month – the venue will be confirmed when the agenda is sent out)</p> <p>Dates of Future Meetings: -</p> <p>10<sup>th</sup> July 2023, 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023, 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023, 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024, 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024</p> <p>Annual Church Meeting Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2024 – note change of date</p>	
<b>12.</b>	<p>Close of Meeting – there being no further business the meeting closed with Prayer.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 8.50 pm</p>	