

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

## Minutes of the Parochial Church Council

### held in The Massey Room

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023, 7.30 pm

		Actions
	<b>Present:</b> Canon Rob McLaren (Vicar and Chairman), Janet Chettle, Rachel Copley, Tim Fryer, Stephen Haigh, William Hall, Trevor Jenkins, Wendy MacDonald, Alan Rickards, Barbara Smith, Steve Smith, Jayne Weaver, Charlotte Webb, Allan Whiston.	
1.	<b>Welcome and Opening:</b> – Rob welcomed everyone and set the context by focusing on Article 18 from the 39 Articles of Religion of the Church of England - 18. Of Obtaining Salvation only by the name of Christ. Prayers were said	
2.	<b>Apologies for absence:</b> – Peter Cotton, Yvonne Janvier, Fiona Pulle	
3.	<b>Chairman’s Report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) It is an encouraging time as there is good momentum for both Church life and growth groups with newcomers at our services and also joining the growth groups. We need to be thankful that God is giving us life and growth as this is not the case in many other parishes.</li><li>b) There is a planning group of twelve people including Wendy, Rob, and Jayne who are working on setting up a toddler group with the aim of starting this in September. It will be weekly on a Thursday between 9 and 10 am in the Church Hall. A small budget will be required for this, but this can be dealt with under finance. More information on this venture will be included in the Link.</li><li>c) It is great to have the new hall chairs and the trolleys for them now. Thanks to Trevor for all his hard work on this which has resulted in everything now being in place.</li><li>d) It has been a difficult time for the bell ringers with their numbers dwindling. However, it is now looking more positive as they try and add to their numbers. At the open belfry on 7<sup>th</sup> July, 120 people looked at the tower. This was well received with a lot of very positive feedback. 180 people came through the Church. The Parish Council and Holmes Chapel Partnership expressed their gratitude for this. It was noted that Dave Philips has done 65 years as a bell ringer and that</li></ul>	

	we should mark and celebrate this in some way. A suggestion was made that we invite the bell ringers into the service to commemorate this.	
4.	<b>Minutes of the meeting Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023</b> – these had been circulated. The Minutes were adopted by those present as a true and accurate record of the meeting. The Minutes were signed by the Chairman.	
5	<b>Matters arising from the previous meeting (not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda).</b> Nothing was raised.	
6.	<b>Post-Covid review of our Service Pattern and Communion Arrangements</b> It was agreed to discuss this to agree on how we go forward. It is important that we keep overseeing the pattern of services and liturgy. a) It was noted that one or two people have asked when we will have the chalice again. Rob explained that it is the same symbolism of having individual wine cups as we have individual bread. Some people would also like to kneel at the altar rail. It was noted that our current system of forming a line rather than kneeling at the altar allows people to distance themselves. It was felt that the majority of people are happy with our current system. A vote was taken and unanimously agreed that we should maintain the status quo.  b) <b>Services.</b> It was asked if Rob is on holiday should we bring in retired clergy, particularly for the 9 am Communion service? This is not always possible as it is not easy to find people. It was noted that morale is not high amongst the clergy with pressures increasing and volunteering is not as prevalent. We are fortunate that we are capable of maintaining the ministry and our outreach. An occasional evening service was suggested with the possibility of this being a choral evensong. This will could be a possibility if numbers warrant it.  c) With the 10.30 o'clock service it is quite onerous to prepare the screen. Tim mentioned that Harry is now helping along with Simon who works in IT. This support is good as it is helping to share the burden.	
7.	<b>Treasurer's Report</b> – A report outlining the current financial position was given out. Trevor went through the reports and highlighted the following:- Our spending is ticking along and there is nothing much to say about the income. We are now paying the insurance monthly rather than annually. On the upkeep of the churchyard, there will be more to pay before the end of the season. After 6 months we are £6500 up but we have increased energy costs from next month. We are	

	<p>however using less gas due to the new boiler. We will continue to monitor this as the weather gets colder.</p> <p>This year we have not given any charitable donations so this needs to be taken into consideration.</p> <p>A start-up fund is required for the toddler group. A suggestion of up to £1K was suggested this was voted on and approved unanimously.</p>	
8.	<p><b>Warden’s Report</b></p> <p>Since the last PCC meeting in May the Standing Committee has met twice and has discussed and agreed on the following:</p> <p><b>Broadband connection in church</b> Trevor Jenkins and the Comms team are pursuing the options for a broadband connection in the church. Open Reach will seek agreement for the routing of the cabling.</p> <p><b>New Audio/Visual equipment for the church.</b> The new audio/visual equipment for the church is on order and is due to arrive in August with installation planned for September.</p> <p><b>Surge Protection for church</b> Following the annual inspection of the lightning protector on the church tower we received a quote for surge protection and equipotential bonding. Trevor Jenkins investigated whether either of these items was required. We will conduct a Risk Assessment to examine whether surge protection would be beneficial, but we were advised by our insurers that equipotential bonding was not required. The insurers also advised that an annual visual inspection was sufficient with a full inspection only required every 3 years.</p> <p><b>New Church Hall Chairs</b> The stacking frames to house the new church hall chairs have now been delivered, albeit many months late. Thank you to Trevor Jenkins for pursuing the company so diligently and achieving delivery of both chairs and stacking frames.</p> <p><b>Car Park Signage</b> New signage will be installed in the car park outside the Church Hall to remind those wishing to park that the spaces between the Church Hall and Church Walk are the property of the church and must be kept clear when required for church use.</p> <p><b>Collection</b> Following Rob’s suggestion and some requests from members of the congregation it was agreed that we would return to bringing the collection plate to the altar for a blessing during the hymn which follows the sermon.</p> <p><b>Litter Picking equipment</b> Charlotte will purchase some litter picking equipment which can be used during the working party mornings at the Knutsford Road Churchyard.</p> <p><b>Open Church and Belfry tours</b> Church will be open from 6pm – 9pm on Friday 7th July during the Parish Council’s Village Celebrations. The Captain of the Bellringers has also offered to provide tours of the ringing room, clock room and bell chamber to raise funds. Stewards will be in church to welcome visitors and assist with the belfry tours.</p> <p>The following points were highlighted. Regarding the Broadband in Church. Openreach has identified a way to go into their box. This has the support of the Red Lion manager, but we would need to get</p>	

	<p>permission to sign the wayleave for this work from the actual owners who are a large organisation.</p> <p>For the audio-visual process, we are putting the faculty through for the mixer desk. However, this will not be available until August. It was noted that the DAC will only be concerned if we are making significant changes. The only part it will be needed for is the cameras which the DAC is in favour of so we are hopeful that these will be installed in the Autumn.</p>	
<p>9.</p>	<p><b>Safeguarding:-</b> A report had been circulated</p> <p>During the 15 May meeting, I stressed the need for PCC members to take the training courses prescribed by the Diocese. Training is a requirement of the Diocese which requires PCC members to hold the necessary valid training certificates in order to be and remain, a member of the committee. There are no exceptions to the Diocesan's requirements to sit as a PCC member. During that meeting, Rob made a call that if individuals wished to continue as a member of the committee, all outstanding training must be completed prior to the September PCC meeting. In addition to the above requirements, Rob also requested that PCC members read the Parish Safeguarding Handbook Unfortunately, to date, there has been a very poor response for both training and confirmation of having read the Parish Handbook. This situation is very disappointing and something not acceptable to the Diocese if we are to continue to function as a PCC. If this status is to remain, then I feel I cannot continue in my role as Safeguarding Officer in the knowledge that the PCC continues to operate in a way that is non-compliant with the requirements of the Diocese and its regulations. Moving on, there was one apparent safeguarding issue that was brought to my attention during June. Upon investigation, the issue was simply a dispute within a family and with no evidence of a safeguarding issue. Even so, I wrote up my notes which are now on file.</p> <p>Allan noted that since this report there is some positive news as people are now coming forward and doing the necessary training. This needs to be recorded and it may be that some training has been done and not recorded on the system. On completion of a course, this can either be downloaded as a PDF and emailed to Allan but preferably they can automatically send the record to Allan. If anyone is unsure about their record, they can check with Allan. The four elements need to be completed by the end of July. These are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The basic safeguarding training</li> <li>• The Foundation Safeguarding training</li> <li>• Raising Awareness of domestic abuse</li> <li>• Reading the Parish Handbook</li> </ul>	
<p>10.</p>	<p><b>Any other Business:-</b></p> <p>a) Barbara attended the Deanery Synod Meeting and went through her report</p> <p>Congleton Deanery Synod met on Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> June at All Saints,</p>	

	<p>Church Lawton, and was chaired by Rural Dean, Rev Ian Enticott. Two readers from All Saints led opening devotions before handing over to speaker, Jared Brown, Youth Minister at Holy Trinity, Hurdsfield.</p> <p>An enthusiastic and inspiring presenter, Jared explained his role of five years. The ecumenical outreach team engages with 30 young people of primary age and 30 of secondary age, in addition to a toddler group catering for 20 families. Young people are encouraged to lead services, taught the basics of the Christian faith and encouraged to question older worshippers about their faith. He and his team are welcomed into local schools, including a high school where a student led Christian Union has been established. By leading services, organising Easter trails' helping children to read more confidently, providing breakfast and lunch clubs, the team builds valued links with staff, pupils and parents.</p> <p>In response to questions from the floor Jared advised parishes initiating youth work to begin by building relationships with young people before inviting them to a club or event, where they have the opportunity to belong, believe and become who God wants them to be. He referred to resources such as 'Youthscope' and 'Urban Saints'.</p> <p>Treasurer, Albert Crew, stated there was over £2,000 in the savings account. He encouraged parishes to approach the Rural Dean for £100 grants towards the cost of clergy and reader training. Rev Heather Kemball suggested that the deanery could purchase resources for youth work to be loaned to parishes. Deanery Synod awaits further clarification and information from General Synod about the provision of communion to youngsters prior to confirmation and matters relating to Living in Love and Faith (LLF).</p> <p><b>Elected to Deanery Synod for the next 3 years:</b>  Lay Chair: Margaret Crupton  Secretary: Shirley Jones  Treasurer: Albert Crew  Standing Committee: Clergy reps. - Bee Boyde &amp; Angela Speedy  Lay reps Kath Cliffe &amp; Anthea Buxton</p> <p>Rev Heather Buckley died, shortly after retiring as vicar of Goostrey  Rev Steph Morris has been licensed as a curate at Astbury.  Margaret Ward paid tribute to Rev Ian Arch, who is leaving &amp; stepping down, for his valued service in several parishes.  Deanery Synod will next meet at St. Mary's, Sandbach on Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 7:30pm.</p> <p>b) A lovely note had been received from Val Cragg thanking the PCC for the flowers Jayne took to her in recognition of her long service on the PCC. Janet read this out to members.</p>	
11.	<p><b>Future PCC Meetings</b> (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><b>Dates of Future Meetings:-</b></p> <p><b>11<sup>th</sup> September 2023, 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023, 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024, 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024</b></p> <p><b>Annual Church Meeting Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2024 – note change of date</b></p>	
12.	<p><b>Close of Meeting</b> – there being no further business the meeting closed with Prayer. The meeting closed at 8.33 pm</p>	