

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

## Minutes of the Parochial Church Council

### held in The Massey Room

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024, 7.30 pm

		Actions
	<b>Present:</b> Canon Rob McLaren (Vicar and Chairman), Janet Chettle, Peter Cotton, Stephen Haigh, William Hall, Trevor Jenkins, Wendy MacDonald, Alan Rickards Steve Smith, Jayne Weaver, Charlotte Webb, Allan Whiston	
1.	<b>Welcome and Opening:</b> – Rob welcomed everyone, and prayers were said.	
2.	Apologies for absence: – Rachel Copley, Tim Fryer, Yvonne Janvier, Fiona Pulle, Barbara Smith,	
3.	<b>Chairman’s Report</b> Christmas Numbers were up slightly on last year with the Carol Service and Crib service particularly seeing increased numbers. This is very encouraging and as such there is no need to change the pattern of services for next year.	
4.	Minutes of the meeting Monday November 13th, 2023 – these had been circulated. Their acceptance was proposed by Steve with one absentee and accordingly adopted by those present as a true and accurate record of the meeting. The Minutes were signed by the Chairman.	
5.	Matters arising from the previous meeting (not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda). a) Once a cheque has been received by Rob from BT for the rent of the telegraph pole in the vicarage garden, he will be donating this to Church funds. b) It was noted that that our charitable giving has increase by £2K from last year. c) Thanks was given to all those who produced the Tesco window display.	
6.	<b>Treasurer’s Report</b> – A report outlining the current financial position was given out. Trevor went through the reports, invited questions, and highlighted the following: -  a) December was okay due to gift aid. Also, we had a generous donation of £2K. b) We had the first bill for gas at the higher cost. However, our use is going down due to the new boiler and being able to manage it more efficiently with the new controls.	

	<p>c) We have received notification of the Parish Share increase which is £4K, a 5% increase overall.</p> <p>d) Charitable Donations have increased from £4K to £6K</p> <p>e) The reserve policy of three months has crept up to four and a half months currently. However, we have lot of work to do, e.g. electrical work, work on the wall and trees so it is felt to be prudent to leave this now.</p> <p>f) The organ fund started the year with a deficit of £5760 which has now reduced to £2900 so it is expected that this will reduce again over the next year.</p> <p>g) The budget for the Audio-Visual work was £16500 of which we have spent £10500. This leaves £6000 for the work still to be done, however this is likely to be £6500.</p> <p>h) A meeting is being arranged with Ecclesiastical to look at the Investment process.</p> <p>i) It was suggested that when we look to replace the trees we can ask for sponsorship.</p>	
<p><b>7.</b></p>	<p>Standing Committee and Church <b>Warden's Report</b> – a report had been circulated.</p> <p>Audio equipment in church - the planned upgrade to the existing audio equipment (replacement mixer desk, amplifier and media centre, plus associated connections) was carried out in the week of 20th Nov and is operating satisfactorily. Some minor adjustments are still being made as we get used to the system. The old projector was also replaced at the same time with an up-to-date model as part of the upgrade. Although not in the original budget, the Standing Committee agreed that this was prudent since the old model was redundant and parts such as replacement lamps are expensive and difficult to get. (Steve Smith)</p> <p>Church video streaming cameras with monitors for Gallery users - the application for faculty permission to install these has now been approved by the DAC (subject to architect supervision of the wiring routes etc) and is now in the formal legal approval stages. However, it may still be several months before the faculty is granted and the contractors - Piranha AV - can install and commission the system. The associated provision of a broadband link from the church hall to the church needed for video streaming has been completed and approved by the Archdeacon following input from Duncan Sanderson, Church Architect. The link is now in use for the church security CCTV system. (Steve Smith)</p> <p>Church boundary wall - the Archdeacon has now given permission for us to remove the beech trees beside the damaged boundary wall either side of the gate on the South churchyard path. The related required application for planning approval from Cheshire East Council (the trees are within the village Conservation Area) is pending but is now closed for public comment. HC Parish Council was notified with our reasons for removing the trees and is believed to support our application. The required application to the Diocese for permission to reinstate the damaged portion of the boundary wall and also to remove the stone step by the gate and lower the churchyard path is being filed following an</p>	

	<p>estimate received by specialist stonemasons Midland Masonry. Again, architect supervision will be required, and Duncan Sanderson has been briefed. (Steve Smith)</p> <p>Organ cleaning During the recent servicing of the organ Philip Cartwright advised that the organ was covered in dust and required the pipes to be removed and thoroughly cleaned.</p> <p>Tesco Window display Thank you to Gill Brickwood, Alan Rickards, Steve Smith, Peter Cotton and <b>Rob for the display publicising St Luke's in the Tesco window from 12<sup>th</sup> December – 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024.</b></p> <p>Christmas market – Open Church Thank you to everyone who helped provide hospitality in church during the Christmas Market on 3<sup>rd</sup> December.</p> <p>Closure of passageway to London Road The annual closure of the passageway between the church hall and London Road was carried out on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> December 2023. The walkway is private property and owned by the PCC.</p> <p>An input was given by Steve on the wall and trees. We are waiting now for permissions regarding the repair of the wall and removal of the trees from Cheshire East. The last date for the public to object was the end of <b>December and it doesn't look as though any objections have been made.</b> Informal Contact has been made with the Parish Council and they are supportive. Steve suggested in February we may need to speak to our immediate neighbours about the work being undertaken. We are looking at what of the old A/V system could be used in the Hall and it was suggested that there was liaison with Fiona and Wendy over this.</p>																										
<p><b>8.</b></p>	<p>Safeguarding Allan stressed the need for people to update their training. He has contacted those concerned to inform them of the need to do this. This is the current situation regarding training: -</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="268 1570 1257 2018"> <thead> <tr> <th>Group</th> <th>Basic</th> <th>Foundation</th> <th>Awareness of Domestic Abuse</th> <th>S. Handbook read</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>PCC</td> <td>76% (100%)</td> <td>94%</td> <td>94%</td> <td>88%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Parent and Toddler</td> <td>100%</td> <td>75%</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Genesis</td> <td>100%</td> <td>100%</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Exodus</td> <td>67% (100%)</td> <td>67% (100%)</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Group	Basic	Foundation	Awareness of Domestic Abuse	S. Handbook read	PCC	76% (100%)	94%	94%	88%	Parent and Toddler	100%	75%	N/A	N/A	Genesis	100%	100%	N/A	N/A	Exodus	67% (100%)	67% (100%)	N/A	N/A	
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	Allan reported that there had been no safeguarding issues.	
<b>9.</b>	<p>The Vision of the Diocese of Chester</p> <p>A Leaflet had been produced by the Diocese entitled Together in Christ, Sharing Hope. PCC members had all been given a copy of this. The leaflet identifies what is felt to be important to the Diocese. Rob went through the background to this and explained why the Diocese needs a vision, which will enable them to access funding/project money from central Church coffers. There are seven bullet points included which are: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We believe in the Gospel.</li> <li>• We believe in the local and seek transformation.</li> <li>• We care about the environment, locally and globally.</li> <li>• We want to engage with <b>young people and the "disconnected"</b>.</li> <li>• We want to do bigger, better, bolder things together, simply.</li> <li>• The 1.5 million people in our Diocese matter.</li> <li>• We want to build new communities of faith.</li> </ul> <p>There was a general discussion around these with everyone being asked their views. The general feeling was that while there were some helpful statements in the leaflet that we all agreed with they were overall very vague, lacked detail and could be interpreted in different ways. The point was made that each Parish should be setting their own vision and actions for the future as needs would be different depending upon the Parish situation/environment. It was agreed to come back to these at a future meeting and discuss the development of a vision for the future in our Parish.</p>	
<b>10.</b>	<p>Prayers of Love and Faith from the House of Bishops</p> <p>A letter from Bishop Mark, along with a letter from the Vicar of Brinnington, who is the General Synod representative, had been circulated in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>Rob went through both letters and explained the background to them. The letter from the Vicar of Brinnington expressed his view that there had been an abuse of process by the House of Bishops. It was noted that our Bishops had abstained when the vote was taken. The letter from Bishop Mark stated that <b>The Synodical Government Measure 1969 states that "it shall be the duty of the incumbent and the parochial church council to consult together on matters of general concern and importance to the parish,"</b></p> <p>Rob feels that his conscience will not allow him to use these prayers and he gave his reasons for this. He also explained that if a couple approached him and asked for these prayers, he would offer them spiritual guidance but then refer them to Bishop Mark.</p>	
<b>11.</b>	Any other Business: - There was none.	

<p><b>12.</b></p>	<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: -  18<sup>th</sup> March 2024 (note change of date.) Annual Church Meeting  Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2024</p> <p>Future Dates: - 6<sup>th</sup> May 2024, 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024, 9<sup>th</sup> September 2024,  11<sup>th</sup> November 2024, 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025. Annual Church Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> May 2025</p>	
<p><b>13.</b></p>	<p>Close of Meeting – there being no further business the meeting closed with Prayer.  The meeting closed at 9.00pm</p>	