

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

Minutes of the Parochial Church Council

held in Church.

Monday 18th March 2024, 7.30 pm

		Actions
	Present: Canon Rob McLaren (Vicar and Chairman), Janet Chettle, Rachel Copley, Peter Cotton, Tim Fryer, Stephen Haigh, William Hall, Yvonne Janvier, Trevor Jenkins, Wendy MacDonald, Fiona Pulle, Alan Rickards, Barbara Smith, Steve Smith, Allan Whiston	
1.	Welcome and Opening: – Rob welcomed everyone and set the context by focusing on Article 21 from the 39 Articles of Religion of the Church of England – Of The Authority of General Councils. Prayers were said.	
2.	Apologies for absence: – Alison Dale, Jayne Weaver, Charlotte Webb	
3.	Chairman’s Report: - Rob explained that when he came to St Luke’s The PCC had asked for two specific things, Youth Work Establishment and More Community Engagement. These have been Rob’s priorities. Exodus has been set up but one of the challenges is that they don’t come to Church. This will continue to be tackled. Good links have been made with schools, with a welcome from the primary schools however, this has not been the case with the secondary school. The toddler group is going well with numbers increasing. We are looking to set up a craft group on a Tuesday evening with Steph Kirkham leading this on a similar vein to the Community Choir. There is a challenge for us regarding Children’s work going forward. At the next meeting in May, it will be time for the PCC to set some goals for the next 12 months.	
4.	Minutes of the meeting Monday January 8th, 2024. These were accepted by all those present as a true record.	
5	Matters arising from the previous meeting (not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda). The permanent cameras will be installed week commencing 22 nd April. There will be training for Steve, Tim, and Simon. However, we may need more people trained to operate the cameras. Regarding the repairs to the curtilage wall and DAC permission. They asked for more information which has been provided and they are satisfied with it.	
6.	Treasurer’s Report – A report outlining the current financial position had been circulated.	

	<p>Income and expenditure (General Funds). The deficit to the end of February will be resolved by the gift aid due. We are still running with a slight surplus on the General Fund</p> <p>Other Funds</p> <p>Organ and lighting fund -the deficit has now reduced to £2726. The IE agreed to leave for this year, but we will have to resolve this before the end of 2024.</p> <p>Ms Project (AV) Fund balance if £6,383. The remaining bills =£7123 including architects fees.</p> <p>Church Fabric Fund has a balance of £91,023. See item below on investments and cash flow.</p> <p>Available reserves these are in line.</p> <p>Energy Use – Gas The chart circulated shows the effect of the increased tariff despite more efficient boilers and careful management of heating schedules. The energy needed to heat the Church is very dependent on the outside temperature. We were overcharged on VAT in December, January and February but this has now been repaid (£223).</p> <p>Investments (EFAS)</p> <p>PCC £20,000 1-year fixed deposit account with Charity Bank at 4.86% £45,000 Investment with Quilter CAI.</p> <p>Cranage Church of England School Religious Education Fund Transaction (instant access saving account) with Unity Trust bank now approved. We can now proceed to open the Quilter CIA account - £130,000. We are also proceeding to register Cranage with the Charities Commission.</p> <p>Cash Flow</p> <p>Upcoming Bills – AV equipment = £7123. Electrical Condition reports = £4710, Wall repairs and stump removal = £19,280 (No response from the Diocese regarding the funding application)</p> <p>Also – Tree Removal Knutsford Road = £1320, Audio Cabinet Church Hall £2,628, Stained Glass Window repairs = £25,874 + VAT. It was noted that we do not need to do all these at once.</p> <p>2023 Year End Accounts – The independent examiner has finalised his examination of the 2023 financial statements and will sign them off this week. Signed copies will be emailed to trustees for approval in advance of the APCM.</p>	Janet
7.	<p>Standing Committee and Church Warden’s Report – a report had been circulated.</p> <p>The Standing Committee has met twice since the last PCC to discuss ongoing developments and future projects:</p> <p>Audio equipment in church – the rear of the cabinet for the upgraded mixer desk has been boxed in to enclose the cabling securely.</p> <p>Church video streaming cameras with monitors for Gallery users - the faculty to install the church video streaming cameras with monitors for Gallery users has now been granted and the contractors - Piranha AV - will install and commission the system in April.</p>	

	<p>Church boundary wall – local businesses and residents were visited to give them prior notice that the beech trees beside the damaged boundary wall either side of the gate on the South churchyard path would be removed. The felling of the beech trees has now been completed. An application to the Diocese is in progress for faculty permission to reinstate the damaged portions of the boundary wall and to remove the stone step by the entrance gate is in progress The work will be carried out by specialist stonemasons - Midland Masonry – under the supervision of our conservation architect, Duncan Sanderson.</p> <p>Organ cleaning The church organ has been thoroughly cleaned by Philip Cartwright as it was covered in dust and required the pipes to be removed for a complete clean.</p> <p>Knutsford Road Churchyard Two large fir trees beside the Chapel of Rest on the road boundary of the Churchyard have grown closer to the building and are impacting its structure. We have been advised that it is now necessary to remove the trees before they cause significant damage to the building. An application to the Diocese for permission to do this is pending.</p> <p>A working party to tidy the area around the cremated remains alongside the Chapel of Rest is being organised for Saturday 20th April between 09.30 and 11:00. All volunteers are welcome.</p> <p>As this would have been Jayne’s last PCC Meeting, the PCC wanted to send her a large vote of thanks and say how grateful we are for her service and for continuing in the role as Church Warden for an extra year. This was proposed by Steve, seconded by Peter, and was agreed unanimously by all those present.</p>	
8.	<p>Safeguarding</p> <p>The training compliance tabulation below paints both a positive and negative picture. Figures in brackets are those from the January report.</p> <p>PCC Basic compliance has improved from 65% to 82% but the other three areas of compliance remain as the January report.</p> <p>Parent and Toddler statistics remain as the January report.</p> <p>Genesis results show a drop in Basic training compliance from 100% to 67%.</p> <p>Exodus results are the same as January’s report.</p> <p>It has been confirmed that the Community Coffee group is seen as a Church supported initiative. As a consequence, and the fact that some attendees are considered vulnerable, the group leaders are required to</p>	<p>Janet will supply the email</p>

	<p>take both the Basic and Foundations training modules in order to meet the compliance requirements of the Diocese.</p> <p>The local "Training Compliance" spreadsheet will be updated to include the group and its leaders once names and e-mail addresses are confirmed.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="268 448 1244 840"> <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>82% (65%)</td> <td>94% (94%)</td> <td>94% (94%)</td> <td>88% (88%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Parent and Toddler</td> <td>100% (100%)</td> <td>75% (75%)</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Genesis</td> <td>67% (100%)</td> <td>100% (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> <p>Since the last report I have not been made aware of any safeguarding issues</p>	Group	Basic	Foundation	Awareness of Domestic Abuse	S. Handbook read	PCC	82% (65%)	94% (94%)	94% (94%)	88% (88%)	Parent and Toddler	100% (100%)	75% (75%)	N/A	N/A	Genesis	67% (100%)	100% (100%)	N/A	N/A	Exodus	67% (100%)	67% (100%)	N/A	N/A	<p>address of the leaders to Allan</p>
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<p>9</p>	<p>Children's Work: - A big thankyou was given by all the PCC to Fiona, Karen and Jayne for 22 years of running Genesis, and also particularly to Fiona for leadership of the team. Fiona said that there are 22 children on the Genesis register with between 12 and 18 on a regular basis. There were 21 children in the Christmas play. There is a regular commitment from 3 families.</p> <p>The pattern has been the same for some time with them coming into the Church service three quarters of the way through. However, she pointed out that we need to be aware that this is a long time for the children. Fiona has spoken to the parents of the children and there is one definite response, but she is not in a position to say who this is at the moment. Issues to consider are: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A possible change of timings b) Leadership c) A need to invest in materials to support a new team. <p>Rob is meeting any interested parties on Wednesday.</p>																										
<p>10.</p>	<p>Annual Church Meeting: - Janet will be contacting those members of the PCC whose term is up this time to check if they wish to stand again and if so provide them with the necessary paperwork. She will be contacting those people whose input is required for the APCM annual report requesting a short input of a paragraph consisting of five sentences. She has asked that these inputs be returned to her by the latest April 18th in order that the report is available in Church the week before the meeting.</p>	<p>Janet</p>																									
<p>11.</p>	<p>Any other Business: - Steve put forward a proposal to undertake a feasibility study for a 2030 Project to provide (a) non-stepped entry to the West door from the South side of the churchyard and (b) reinstatement of</p>																										

	<p>lockable iron gates across the West entrance from London Road - <i>the original gates are still in the church cellar and having them normally locked across the road entrance would prevent the almost inevitable serious accident waiting to happen.</i> Such a project, if feasible, would likely be costly but should attract grant funding and be suitable for a public appeal. This was proposed by Steve and seconded by Alan. A vote was taken on this proposal, and it was unanimous that we should go ahead with a feasibility study.</p>	
12.	<p>Future PCC Meetings (normally 7.30 pm 2nd Monday in the month – the venue will be confirmed when the agenda is sent out)</p> <p>Dates of Future Meetings: - Annual Church Meeting Sunday 5th May 2024</p> <p>Future Dates: - 6th May 2024, 15th July 2024, 9th September 2024, 11th November 2024, 13th January 2025, 10th March 2025. All these will be held in the Massey Room apart from 15th July which will be in Church due to there being a prior booking in the Massey Room.</p> <p>Annual Church Meeting 11th May 2025</p>	
13.	<p>Close of Meeting – there being no further business the meeting closed with Prayer. The meeting closed at 8.45pm</p>	