

St Michael's, Aughton
Parochial Church Council Meeting
Church 7.30pm Thursday, 9th July 2020
Minutes

Item 1 Reverend Andrew Housley opened the meeting in prayer.

Item 2 Apologies for absence were received from Adrian Ball, Bill Gilpin and Winifred Pemberton.

There were 15 attendees – Rev. Andrew Housley, Anthony Bearon, Brian DeVonald, James Parsons, Ann Barnes, Ray Hampson, Paul Moss, Jeff Smith, Andrea Connelly, Margaret Ellams, Peter Garrett, Denis O'Brien, Janice Sheel, David Snape and Peter Fogden (Observer).

Item 3 Minutes of the last meeting on Thursday, 5th March 2020, were accepted. Paul Moss proposed, and Jeff Smith seconded. PCC members agreed unanimously.

Item 4 Matters Arising. There were no matters arising.

Item 5 Treasurer's Report. Brian DeVonald circulated Appendix 1 which described the current financial state of St Michael's and the drastic effects of the Coronavirus epidemic. Although we have received advice of a recent legacy of approximately £21,000 to be received in the future, the financial position of St Michael's is likely to deteriorate further in 2021 under our current arrangements and financial obligations.

Item 6 Review of Church Employee Roles. Andrew read out a proposal drawn up by the Standing Committee in order to begin to address the financial difficulties facing St Michael's Church.

Proposal.** To address the financial deficit, it is proposed to create a single post of Church Buildings Manager. The duties and hours of this new post are listed on the job description. The duties **NOT** included in this new post will be undertaken by a team of volunteers under the direction of the Incumbent. Both current employees are eligible to apply for this new post which would be advertised internally. Savings to the church if this proposal is adopted: **£9,194.52.

Andrew read out a proposed job description for the role of Church Buildings Manager which would consolidate current roles into one new one. He said this will be reviewed after 12 months and the 10 hours may be revised if hall bookings increase. The annual saving is just over £9,000 per annum if PCC agrees to implement the replacement of current roles with the creation of a new Church Buildings Manager role. He asked PCC to accept the proposed Church Buildings Manager job description. Andrea Connelly proposed, and Margaret Ellams seconded. There were 12 votes in favour, none against and two abstentions. There was one observer at the meeting who did not vote.

Item 7 Standing Committee Role. Andrew proposed that PCC delegate authority to the Standing Committee to implement the replacement of current roles with the creation of a new Church Buildings Manager role, together with arrangements for re-opening Church in accordance with Diocesan and Government guidelines. Paul Moss proposed, and Andrea Connelly seconded. PCC members agreed unanimously.

Item 8 Health & Safety and Fabric Report. Peter Fogden circulated Appendix 2 and agreed to investigate concreting the path in the Church graveyard as requested by PCC.

Item 9 Deanery Plan. Andrew said a meeting was held on Zoom with Standing Committees on 8th March 2020 which looked at the financial and future viability of all churches within Ormskirk Deanery. This assessment by the Diocese was shown in a traffic light system of red, amber and green. St Michael's was one of five churches assessed as green, with five amber and eight red.

Item 10 Safeguarding. Anthony Bearon said all videos of children appearing in YouTube services are sent to Andrew or Anthony by the parents, which is treated as sufficient permission to be used. Children's names are not mentioned in the service.

Item 11 Church Opening. Andrew said Government guidelines currently recommend that people over 70 do not attend services in Church unless all participants in that service are over 70. Taking communion is not permitted, nor is singing in any Church. No Bibles or hymn books may be used. Andrew suggested opening St Michael's Church once a week for a 2-3 hours perhaps on a day to be agreed. This would require volunteers.

Other suggestions were to screen the previous Sunday YouTube service in the Church Hall or have two large TV monitors in Church showing this service. Andrew proposed to open Church between 2pm and 4pm on Thursday, 6th August, on a trial basis. This will enable future plans to be assessed.

Item 12 Any Other Business. There was none.

Item 13 Dates of Future Meetings. Andrew said these will be confirmed nearer the time in the light of Diocesan and Government guidance.

Item 14 Closing Grace. The meeting closed with prayer and the Grace.

Minutes subject to the approval of PCC at the next meeting.