

**St Michael's, Aughton**  
**Parochial Church Council Meeting**  
**MS Teams 7.30pm Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021**  
**Minutes**

**Item 1** Reverend Andrew Housley opened the meeting in prayer.

**Item 2** Apologies for absence were received from May Brook, Bill Gilpin, Lorna O'Brien and David Snape.

There were 14 attendees – Rev. Andrew Housley, Anthony Bearon, Brian DeVonald, James Parsons, Margaret Ellams, Adrian Ball, Ann Barnes, Jeff Smith, Andrea Connelly, Peter Garrett, Denis O'Brien, Janice Sheel, Winifred Pemberton and Peter Fogden (Observer).

**Item 3** Minutes of the last meeting on Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> October 2020, were accepted. Adrian Ball proposed, and Winifred Pemberton 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 effects of the Coronavirus epidemic.

Brian also proposed that PCC increase the Building Manager's salary by 2.2% to £8.91 per hour from January 2021 and the Organist's service fee by 2.2% to £21.37 per service. This reflects the National Minimum Wage increase of 2.2% that comes into effect in April 2021. Denis O'Brien proposed, and Jeff Smith seconded. PCC members agreed unanimously.

**Item 6 Church Fees.** Brian DeVonald circulated Appendix 2 with proposed Church fees from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021. These include Use of Church Console for CDs etc. of £25 and optional Sidesperson for £50. This applies to funerals and weddings. The sidesperson will be a volunteer who can either keep the £50 or donate it back to the Church. Andrew said PCC should now be looking for all opportunities to raise funds and will also include a suggested donation to the Friends of St Michael of £25.

Brian asked that these proposed Church fees be adopted by PCC. Andrea Connelly proposed, and Adrian Ball seconded. PCC members agreed unanimously.

**Item 7 Legacies.** Andrew said we received a legacy from Mr Harry Roy Thompson of £20,000 in December 2020 which was used to pay the arrears of Parish Share. The residual amount will be sent when the estate is finalised. We also have another legacy of £3,500 from Mrs Kath Thomas which we are considering using as below.

Anthony Bearon suggested upgrading the broadband in Church, purchasing additional computer hardware and using existing cameras so that we can livestream events with good quality as crematoriums do now. He suggested delegating the details of what equipment to purchase from the £3,500 legacy to the Standing Committee and how it will be configured and implemented. Denis O'Brien proposed, and Peter Fogden seconded. PCC members agreed unanimously.

Andrew added that PCC will then be able to charge for livestreaming events in Church and this will also provide good outreach opportunities. He suggested it would also be good to mark Kath's legacy with a small plate in Church.

**Item 8 Health & Safety and Fabric Report.** Peter Fogden circulated Appendix 3 and described work to maintain the fabric of the buildings during the current Coronavirus closure so that they are ready for when we reopen.

**Item 9 Safeguarding.** Anthony Bearon said there was nothing further to report at this time.

**Item 10 Church Opening.** Andrew said a decision was made to close Church following Government guidelines and advice from Lancashire County Council. This will be reviewed on a monthly basis by the Standing Committee. The Church is still open for funerals.

**Item 11 Any Other Business.** Andrew said the current Deanery Plan now suggested the following Church cluster – St Michaels’ and Christchurch with St Thomas Lydiate, St Cuthbert’s Halsall and St James Westhead. This would be on an informal basis with no formal agreement.

Andrew went on to say that the first focus on any collaborative work will concentrate on wellbeing covering physical, mental and financial health, specifically to help lonely people in parishes, perhaps even through GP referrals and with pastoral support to Churches within our cluster. There will also be an offer of a physical space to come and meet people when we resume normal life in the future.

Andrew also encouraged everyone to sign up for the on-line Lent courses which have already been circulated separately.

**Item 12 Dates of Future Meetings.** The following future dates were agreed:

- PCC Meeting to agree the Accounts – Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021.
- AGM – Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

**Item 13 Closing Grace.** The meeting closed with prayer and the Grace.

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