



St Luke's Parish Church – Holmes Chapel

Church Hulme Parochial Church Council – registered Charity no. 1132587

17 Dec 2018

Dear Friends

I attach the agenda for the next meeting of the Church Council on **Monday 7th Jan starting at 7.30pm in the Massey Room of the Church Hall**. You will note that there is a section of matters (items 3a-3g) dealing with various legal matters we are required to consider in relation to the vacancy in the parish caused by Paul's retirement at the end of this year. Please let me know if you are unable to attend the meeting.

As you know, from January 2019, our churchwardens Alastair and Jayne will be legally in charge of running the parish, including ensuring that ministers are available to conduct services, until a new incumbent is appointed. The Rural Dean of Congleton (Revd Steve Clapham) in conjunction with our Patron (Revd Thomas Shepherd, Rector of St Mary's Sandbach) will be overseeing the interregnum under the direction of the Archdeacon of Macclesfield (Venerable Ian Bishop) on behalf of our Diocesan Bishop Peter. Steve Clapham will be attending our meeting and will chair agenda items 3a-3g, but Alastair as Council vice-chairman will introduce the meeting and chair the remaining items.

The first important item (3b) we need to help fill the vacancy is a new **Parish Profile**. The Standing Committee has already reviewed the diocesan guidance and several Profiles from parishes in the diocese and elsewhere. The likely headings for our Profile seem to be:

1. Summary
2. The opportunity and challenges
3. St Luke's worship, services and Church groups
4. Our resources – people who make up St Luke's
 - Church buildings
 - Church finances
5. Holmes Chapel – the place, activities, other churches
6. Our needs - vision for the future
7. Our expectations - What kind of vicar are we looking for?

We intend to seek inputs from Council members by **21st Jan** for a draft version of the Profile to circulate in early February for completion at an **extra Council meeting at 7.30pm on Monday 11th Feb**.

The next important item (3c) is to agree the two lay people who will represent the Church Council in the selection meetings also involving the Archdeacon, Patron and Rural Dean. The Standing Committee is proposing that Alastair and Jayne should represent us.

Also on the meeting agenda (item 6), but unconnected with the vacancy, is adoption of the amended Churchyard Rules governing burials and interment of ashes in the Knutsford Road churchyard. The amended Rules have already been approved by Paul. The amendments are mainly in relation to memorials for interred ashes and are designed to ensure the new burial ground is laid out in an orderly and respectful manner providing for safe access and ease of maintenance. A copy of the amended Rules is attached.

I wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and look forward to seeing you on 7th January.

Best wishes

Steve Smith
Secretary, Church Hulme PCC

St Luke's Parish Church

Meeting of the Parochial Church Council

Monday, 7th January 2019

at 7.30pm in the Massey Room of the Church Hall

AGENDA

- 1. Welcome and opening prayers**
- 2. Apologies for absence**
- 3. Matters concerning the vacancy in the parish under the Patronage (Benefices) Measure 1986 (Section 11 meeting):**
 - a. Outline of formal requirement and process;**
 - b. Preparation of statement describing the needs and traditions of the parish (Parish Profile);**
 - c. Appointment of two lay representatives to represent the Council in connection with the selection of an incumbent;**
 - d. Decision whether to request the Patron to advertise the vacancy;**
 - e. Decision whether to request a joint meeting with the Patron and Bishop (Section 12 meeting);**
 - f. Decision whether to request a statement from the Bishop about wider needs of the diocese and the church in relation to the benefice;**
 - g. Decision whether to make a request to the Bishop, on grounds of theological conviction, that arrangements be made for the benefice in accordance with the House of Bishops' Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests (concerning women priests).**
- 4. Minutes of Council meeting held on Monday, 5th Nov 2018**
- 5. Matters arising from previous Council meeting**
- 6. Churchyard Regulations 2007 – amendments for St Luke's (see attached)**
- 7. Standing Committee report**
- 8. Churchwardens' report**
- 9. Treasurer's report**
- 10. Deanery Synod matters**
- 11. Any other business**
- 12. Date and time of next meetings – 7.30pm, Mon 4th Mar 2019**
- 13. Closing prayers**