



## Minutes of the meeting of the Parochial Church Council held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2017

**Present:** In the Chair: Revd. Andy Batchelor  
Steve Bacon, Julie Batchelor, Sylvia Brazier, Maureen Dale, Brenda Hill, David Hollis,  
Chris Lourie, Sheila Reynolds, Clive Roddie, Gwen Sharpe, Janet Western.

**Apologies:** Julie Eacott, Sue Eacott, Marie Jeffrey, Kath Wise.

The meeting opened with prayers led by Maureen Dale.

### 1. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017 were agreed as a correct record.

### 2. Matters arising

Andy gave an update on the situation regarding the sale of land to Walney Balti. He had sought an assurance from the owner that all legal costs incurred by the church would be paid by the owners and had received an email to that effect. Andy would check with the Registrar to see whether this was sufficient or whether a more formal assurance should be sought from their solicitor.

### 3. St. Mary's Centre fire alarms and boiler

Andy reported that, following the discovery that the fire alarms in the Centre had never been connected, a quote had been sought to rectify the situation. A quote for £2,789 + VAT had been received which would connect the existing alarms and provide additional smoke detectors. The Fire Service were due to visit the Centre in two days' time to give advice on what was required to ensure appropriate safety for users of the Centre. Following this visit, appropriate action would be taken – to be approved by Standing Committee as the matter is urgent.

It was reported that the hot water boiler was regularly tripping the fuse box. Blue Cooling were scheduled to visit the Centre shortly to check and rectify the problem.

### 4. Chair's report

Andy reported that the money from a legacy had been used to complete a number of repairs and improvements to the church including updating the sound system, new data projector, new carpets, levelling of the path from the car park, roof repairs, and new noticeboards and banners. The sound system still needed some attention, but this was in hand. Andy thanked the churchwardens and Malcolm Eacott for their efforts during this work.

Andy reported that he was now line manager in the Deanery for Andy Ward, Youth Worker and continued to support Tom Cox, Reader in Training who has been involved, including preaching, at St. Mary's since November.

Additionally, Andy reported that:

- he had written another "Christian Comment" for the Evening Mail;
- he continued to support two Ordinands in training;

- funerals continued to be an important aspect of his ministry and baptisms continued to be very popular;
- he had taken the first of many weddings scheduled for 2017;
- he had taken Holy Communion to the residents of Coombe House;
- he had attended an Iona Worship Course at Thorncliffe and hoped to introduce some of the music into services at St. Mary's;
- he had applied for a shared curacy with St. John's Church, Barrow Island with effect from 2018;
- the management structure at BAE Systems had changed and the old prayer room had had its locks changed – he was trying to find out what was happening;
- Marie Jeffrey had kindly agreed to take over co-ordination of the Pastoral Group;
- Maureen Dale had established a new monthly church prayer group which was meeting on the second Thursday in the month – it had got off to a good start and he thanked Maureen for this initiative.

#### **5. Treasurer's report – Annual Audited Accounts for 2016**

The Audited Accounts from David Hollis had been circulated prior to the meeting. David talked through the accounts for PCC members. Thanks were expressed to David for his diligence in preparing the accounts for the year. Formal acceptance of the audited accounts was proposed by Gwen Sharpe, seconded by Clive Roddie and agreed unanimously.

#### **6. Treasurer's report – Accounts to date for 2017**

The accounts to date for 2017 had been circulated in advance of the meeting. David talked through the accounts, in particular noting that £1,800 still remained in the Fabric Fund.

#### **7. Churchwardens' Report**

The Churchwardens reported that:

- as previously discussed under 4. above, repairs and upgrading of church facilities had been completed since the last meeting;
- four notices about dog fouling in the churchyard were being installed at both entrances;
- several quotes had been obtained to have the lightning conductor checked and certified. David had checked with Ecclesiastical Insurance and it was clear that a full inspection should be undertaken at least every 2.5 years with a visual inspection at least once a year. It was agreed that once all quotes had been received, including one from a local contractor, the Churchwardens should go ahead with the inspection;
- from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017, Barrow Borough Council would charge £35 per annum for each brown bin for garden waste making a total of £70 per annum for St. Mary's. It was acknowledged that there were problems with the existing brown bins being used for miscellaneous local waste and people using them to dispose of non-green items. Nonetheless, after some discussion, and a generous donation of £70, it was agreed that the churchwardens should register for two brown bins and further consideration would be given to the problem of their misuse;
- Glennis Woodall had tendered her resignation as co-ordinator of the brass-cleaning rota and that more volunteers were needed;
- the appeal for famine relief in East Africa had raised £175 on Sunday and the bucket would be available again next week.

## **8. Wave of Prayer**

The PCC was reminded that this would take place between 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> June and all churches in the Barrow Mission Community had been invited to take part. Each church would be open for one day for prayer for the nation. Andy and Maureen were asked to decide how St. Mary's might respond, the most likely day for St. Mary's being Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June.

## **9. Fabric Report – Church and Parish Centre**

Items relating to the Church and Parish Centre had been dealt with in the above discussions.

## **10. Fabric Report – Knox Street Hall**

There was nothing further to report on the long term plans for the Lower Hall.

## **11. Secretary's report**

There was nothing further to report.

## **12. Graveyard mapping project**

PCC members had previously decided that the earlier quote from Atlantic Geomatics for their graveyard mapping system had been too expensive. However, following the company's negotiations with the Diocese, a much reduced quote had now been received. This was £295 one-off charge, plus £4.99 per month for data storage and maintenance, provided that most churches decided to make use of the system. Arrangements for text data capture to link with the graveyard digital map remained a little unclear and Andy agreed to check with Atlantic Geomatics what would be required before we commit to the project.

## **13. Arrangements for APCM**

These were being put in place. There would be three vacancies on the PCC and, additionally, three representatives to Deanery Synod would be elected. Steve Bacon had nomination forms.

## **14. Any other business**

PCC members were reminded that the Bishops' initiative "Moving Mountains" would take place in 2018 and more information would become available later in the year. However, local planning will be needed and the congregation will need to be kept informed of what is being planned.

This year's "Tunes and Spoons" will be held in the Centre at 7.00pm on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May. PCC members were asked to put this in their diaries!

## **15. Dates to note**

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2017                      Annual Parochial Church Meeting

A list of dates for Steering Committee and PCC meetings for 2017/18 was circulated.

**The next meeting of PCC will be on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2017 at 7.30pm**

The meeting closed with prayer at 8.50pm