

**Meeting of the Parochial Church Council**  
**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September 7.30pm**

**Present:** In the Chair: Revd Andy Batchelor  
Maureen Dale, David Hollis, Jonathan Elvy, Janet Western, Rhona Teale, Mary Bacon,  
Brenda Hill, Roger Burns, Denise Elvy (Minute Secretary).

**1. Opening Prayers**

Brenda opened the meeting with prayer.

**2. Apologies for absence**

Sylvia Brazier

**3. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2019 were agreed as a correct record.

**4. Matters Arising from the minutes**

There were no matters arising.

**5. Chair's Report**

Andy reported that the family holiday was cancelled due to Julie's accident, he had two weeks off on compassionate leave.

Aimee, our curate, has moved on to another parish in Dalton.

Andy has taken on a couple of services to help out St George's.

Andy continues to visit the Hub weekly and attends the steering group meetings.

Andy was called into BAE to speak to a man about faith and exploring going to church.

Andy has attended governor meetings for South Walney and Bram Longstaffe. He has regular meetings with the Head at South Walney.

Andy has taken a service commissioning the new standard for the Submariners and also has rededicated the Submariner's plaque.

Andy has met with Jonathan regarding his reader training placement at St Mary's.

Andy has met with his spiritual advisor.

Andy and Julie had a few days away in Chester.

Andy preached at St James Church prior to the pilgrimage to Walsingham.

Our baptism calendar is full for this year and we are now taking bookings for 2020.

The prayer support group and the worship committee have met.

The Mother's Union Walney branch closed today with a special communion service.

**6. Curates Report**

There was no curates report as Aimee has now moved parishes.

**7. Treasurer's Report**

David reported on the accounts for the church. We have paid £19,500 of the parish offer.

Donations to the fabric fund, includes £2,250 from the Ecclesiastical Insurance company for the repair to the window in the Lady Chapel.

We have £5,000 in the centre fund for any repair work.

## **8. Parish Offer**

Andy reported that we leave the Parish Offer as it is and don't make an increase this year. David proposed and Brenda seconded. All agreed.

## **9. Stewardship Campaign**

We decided to put back the Stewardship campaign until November. Maureen and Denise are working on putting together the prayer day on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September.

We are also having a Vision Day on 2<sup>nd</sup> November with Mike Talbot leading the day.

The actual campaign will be over 3 Sundays with Sophie Hodge preaching on the first of those Sundays. We have done an invitation for all people in the church.

## **10. Fundraising**

The Music Marathon has fallen through. We would like to try again in February. We have pencilled in 8<sup>th</sup> February, but to check this with Julie against the centre diary. We have a Harvest Funtime on 4<sup>th</sup> October. Church Christmas lunch on 15<sup>th</sup> December. Christmas Afternoon Tea is on 30<sup>th</sup> November. Tea and Chat will be every other month on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday. There will be an Advent quiet day on 7<sup>th</sup> December 10am-12noon finishing with a soup lunch.

## **11. Churchwarden's Report**

After a relatively quiet summer we are now getting ready for a much busier time. We said our farewell to Curate Aimee on Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> September at a joint service in St. Mary's and after the service at a shared faith lunch. The Wardens, Matt from St. John's and Maureen from St. Mary's presented Aimee with flowers and a framed photograph of St. Mary's Church and thanked her for her time and ministry at both churches. The next stage of her training will be at St. Mary's, Dalton and we send her on with our love and blessings.

Our thanks go to all who assist us in the many tasks that need to be carried out each week. We pray that God will bless all we try to do to make St. Mary's a welcoming and caring church.

## **12. Mission Community Update**

The Mission Community Steering Group met for the first time after the summer break on Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> September at St. James Church and was led by Robin & Martin (joint BMC Leaders). There was some discussion as to the challenges facing the BMC e.g. the sharing of resources/buildings/finance/ age demographic in most of our churches – in 5 years' time many of our key people will be significantly older and current practices will not be sustainable. It was pointed out that we are fairly strong in relationships and shared one-off events or communicating information, but the next chapter would be to embrace some of the harder questions. In threes, the group was asked to discuss what they felt the key issues were and what the BMC would look like from 2020.

It was agreed that a Celebratory Event aimed at the people in our churches who have heard of the BMC but don't really see it as being relevant to them should be arranged. This would take place this Sunday at Trinity Church in Barrow from 4.30-6pm and would include a 'bring and share' tea, a short time of worship, a celebratory/showcase element, an address and some interactive elements. Babs Lowes from the Ecumenical Dementia Tea Service gave an update. There are 5 Dementia Enablers and the monthly meetings are held at Holy Family Church. The average attendance is 16 including volunteers. Babs asked for support from the churches. The aim is for all churches to be dementia friendly by 2020.

Barrow's Health Festival – Debbie Wilde has organised a Barrow Health Festival, entitled 'BeWellFest: The Art of Lost Living' which will take place at the Forum on 6<sup>th</sup> October from 10.00am. Debbie wants this to be a response to the needs of the people of Barrow, linking health, body, mind

and spirit in a holistic way. Not just for ill people, it's about developing a healthy lifestyle. Debbie had asked the BMC to represent the presence of Barrow Churches in a creative way, a 'soul space' showing church involvement. It was suggested that showcasing the Tea Service might be a way of meeting this opportunity. It would mean volunteers would be needed to help set up and dismantle, to offer 2 trained prayer ministers for prayer ministry every hour. Across churches it would mean looking for 24 volunteers to help for 1 hour on the day. Also, for volunteers to provide cakes and biscuits as well as teas.

BMC reps were encouraged to share with their churches.

### **13. Fabric Report – Church & Centre**

#### **Church**

- Lady Chapel Window – An updated quote has been received from the Wardgroup to replace the centre window in the Lady Chapel. The cost is now £5,246.46 an increase of £518.31 more than the last quote of £4,728.15 which we obtained in April 2018. A Contract of Terms and Conditions is also attached. If the PCC agree this work, we will instruct the Wardgroup to proceed. David proposed, Jonathan seconded, all agreed.
- Pulpit light – The electrician who installed the cooker hood was asked to take a look at the pulpit light as it was not working. He then informed us that the electrics in the church were in poor condition and suggested we had them tested. In the meantime, he will carry out a temporary repair which will enable the pulpit light to be used. We are investigating finding a firm who can come and test the electric installation in the church. There will probably be a charge to have this work carried out. Jonathan is chasing a company to get back with a quote for doing the testing.
- Church Doors – All the Church doors have been revarnished. Our thanks to Dawn for a job well done. To preserve the doors this work needs to be carried out every two years.
- A new tap is needed for the water heater and Jonathan Elvy is trying to obtain one which he will fix as soon as possible.
- The Lightning Conductor on the Church roof only needs to be tested every five years and this will need to be carried out again in 2021.
- Items still to be addressed – Trees in the Church grounds.  
Ivy at the bottom of the Churchyard.  
Repair/painting of the handrail on the church path.  
Handrail at the step down from the Lady Chapel.
- The church website has been updated in accordance with instructions from the Diocese regarding updated Safeguarding guidelines.

#### **Centre:**

- The Cooker Hood has now been fitted in the Kitchen which now complies with instructions from Environmental Health.
- We have also now received a quote from Davis and Hadwin for the cost of replacing the fascia/soffits in UPVC. We now have all the quotes required to enable us to seek grant aid for the work needed on the Centre roof.

- Rhona has had an enquiry from someone in Galloway to see if the cooker can be converted to bottled gas. She has asked if we can send some pictures to send her. If it can she will be willing to purchase it.

#### **14. Sale of Rear Hall (Knox Street)**

This situation continues to drag on. Andy has emailed the solicitor this morning for an update.

#### **15. Sale of Churchyard Land**

All gone through and completed. The monies are held on our behalf by the Diocesan Board of Finance.

#### **16. Safeguarding**

Nearly everyone has done their DBS. Jonathan was asked to give Rhona his DBS number from the one he had done for his reader training.

Rhona has two copies of the Safeguarding policy for signing, one for the church and one for the centre. The PCC approved the policy and Andy and Maureen signed the policies.

#### **17. Secretary's Report and Correspondence**

No correspondence was reported.

#### **17. Any Other Business**

Mary stated that she was very disappointed with the Diocese on how St Mary's Church was treated over the situation with Aimee. She felt that the PCC should write a letter to the Bishop. Discussion was had regarding how we as a church dealt with Aimee and her situation and whether there was a different way of helping her. We also felt that the Archdeacon should have come to church to speak to the congregation. The discussion regarding Aimee was very positive. The two churchwardens will draft a letter to bring back to PCC who will then all sign it. It was decided to send this to Bishop James, with a copy to Bishop Emma, Archdeacon Vernon and Alison Fenton. Rhona asked if the PCC to consider the discussion from the worship committee about singing responses in communion. After discussion it was apparent that the PCC are split over this issue and it seems that the congregation are too. Andy suggested that we have more discussion and thinking about this. The worship committee will discuss this further and bring a recommendation back to PCC.

#### **18. Meeting Dates**

The dates were sent out to everyone.

#### **19. Closing Prayers**

Revd Andy led the closing prayers. The meeting concluded at 8.30pm.