



**Meeting of the Parochial Church Council
to be held at the church centre on Thursday 7th November 2019 at 7.30pm**

Agenda

In Attendance: Rev Andy Batchelor in the Chair, Julie Batchelor, Mary Bacon, Janet Western, Jonathan Elvy, Brenda Hill, Maureen Dale, Rhona Teale, Sylvia Brazier, Roger Burns

1. **Opening Prayers.** Julie led the meeting in prayer.
2. **Apologies for Absence** – David Hollis
3. **Minutes** of the meeting held on **19th September 2019** the minutes were perused. The date was amended. They were agreed as a true record.
4. **Matters Arising** – none
5. **Chair's Report** – Andy reported on the following since the last PCC meeting:
 - Mission Community celebration event on the 22nd September
 - Governor meetings at South Walney and Bram nursery
 - ADDO meetings with ordination candidate
 - Meetings with Jonathan re: reader training
 - Weekly meetings with head of South Walney infants
 - Staffing of the Hub on Egerton court and an article to be published in 'The Way'
 - Baptism Prep monthly in the centre
 - Harvest Fun night
 - Stewardship prayer day which had been poorly attended
 - Harvest Auction and meal at St Johns
 - Andy had taken a retreat at Thornleigh Hotel
 - Clergy Day at Energus Workington
 - Family Narrowboat holiday and the loss of the car returning home due to flooding!
 - Andy had been a member of the interview panel for the South Barrow team vacancy
 - Diocesan Prayer for Brexit Day
 - Andy reported on the Vision Day led by Mike Talbot which had been very productive and well attended.
 - Andy reported on Jonathan's engagement with leading services and preaching.
 - A new flagon had been obtained (thanks to the wardens) in memory of Marjorie Hughes.

6. **Treasurer's Report** – David was unable to be at the meeting but had sent a copy of the accounts to date. We are clearly still facing some challenges regarding our finances. However, we have paid more than last year to date on our Parish Share. It is more urgent that we proceed with the sale of Knox Street Hall. Andy invited comment, Mary wanted to register the thanks of the PCC to David for keeping the accounts to date. Rhona asked why the outgoings for the Mother's Union was higher than the income.
7. **Vision Day** – Roger commented that he felt that the day was very positive, and it was good for members of both services to get together. It was agreed that the current mission statement still stands however it may need to be refined. Mary felt that the division of Mission and Community did not always work as there was a lot of overlap. Groups sat in friendship areas and it would have been good to mix up the groups a little more. It was encouraging that there was a good number of people there. Maureen stated that she felt that as a PCC the first step we should be taking is to refine our Vision Statement and make it public. Andy will send out comments from the meeting for the PCC. Roger, Mary and Maureen will meet this week to put together a Vision Statement ahead of the Stewardship Campaign which begins on 17th November. Mary suggested we write an official thank you to the Headmistress for the use of the school, and it was agreed that we donate £75 to the school to cover the cost.
8. **Move of Curate.** Maureen read out a letter from the Bishop about the move of Aimee Lynch, expressing his apologies. He will discuss the situation with Vernon Ross and Alison Fenton.

A meeting has been arranged to meet Vernon Ross on 19th November, however a request was made that he comes to Barrow rather than lots of us drive over to Lindale.

9. **Stewardship Campaign.** Sophie Hodge, Diocesan Stewardship Officer will attend our first meeting on 17th November.
10. **Fundraising.** A festive soup and sandwich lunch has been arranged together with some fundraising stalls on 30th November. A Christmas Meal is being organised and a Music Marathon is in the planning process.
11. **Churchwardens' Report.**
 - The family of Marjorie Hughes who was a member of St. Mary's and who died last year have given some money for us to buy a new silver flagon in memory of their mother and father. This has now arrived, and we shall be getting it engraved as soon as possible when it will be used in our Services of Communion.
 - As well as our regular services the Church was opened for the following extra events.
 - A Stewardship Prayer Day was held in Church on Saturday, 28th September and included Prayer Stations. The response to this was very disappointing.

- In response to a request from Bishop James churches across Cumbria were encouraged to hold a Brexit Prayer Hour on Thursday, 31st October between 7-8pm. as this was a milestone date in the Brexit situation. Only 7 people attended.
- On 5th November the Wardens met with Rev. Andy to update dairies with services for the coming Christmas period.

12. **Mission Community Update** – The Mission Community met last night (6th November) and various items were discussed:

- The ‘Together for Barrow Event’ which took place on 22nd September at Trinity Church had been well attended and the Steering Group looked at the data and stories collected as the future of BMC was considered.
- The God for All Refresh item was also discussed – and there is a lot of information on the God for All website. The current strategy which has given much to communities, not least a culture change towards mission comes to an end in 2020 and we have been encouraged to spend time listening to God over a 100 day period asking him to lead and guide the people in Cumbria as to his vision focus for 2020-25.
- Preparing for Christmas was also on the agenda to consider opportunities, including Blue Christmas. A Blue Christmas Service is offered for those who find it difficult to rejoice in the Christmas festive season for various reasons. Pastorally they meet a great need and have become popular.
Other News items were;
- Proposed Lent Course ‘Talking Jesus’
- 2020 Prayer and Fasting.
- Believe in Barrow 2020 – 14th-20th June.
- Men’s Breakfasts.
- Sunday, 14th June – Evening Celebration.
- Thurs. 18th June – Jonathan Viera Concert.
- Friday 19th June – Sat 20th June ‘Big Weekend’

13. **Fabric Report** – Church and Centre

- The Church boiler was serviced on 31st October and a pressurized problem was also investigated and corrected
- Arthur Watts repaired and painted the handrail leading up to the church from the promenade. We are very grateful to Arthur for carrying out this work and also for removing the garden rubbish which Rhona and Dawn had requested help with.
- We are still looking into getting the electrics checked in the church.
- Lady Chapel Window – We are informed by Ward’s that the scaffolding will be erected on Wednesday, 13th November and the windowpane removed on Thursday 14th November. They hope to have the work completed before Christmas.
- The Centre boiler’s annual service has also been carried out.
- A new tap for the water heater was obtained and fixed by Jonathan Elvy and we are very grateful to him for carrying out this work.
- Our thanks as always go to the many people who willingly give help when needed.

13. **Sale of Rear Hall (Knox Street)** We have had some communication on this. There are some items that we need to progress: firstly, the small plot of land behind the Knox Street Hall needs the permission of the PCC to proceed. The opportunity to make any representations was offered to the PCC for discussion. Rhona proposed that we agree to the sale of the piece of land, Roger seconded. All in favour.

Secondly the Surveyor is happy to prepare a new report, answering questions from the Diocesan Solicitor. Roger Burns agreed to co-ordinate this along with Anthony Bryson. Jonathan offered to fill Roger in with the background to this sale.

Mary suggested that we download a map from the Council and mark the area on it (Land Registry Compliant). Andy will hand any documentation he has to Roger. The PCC registered its thanks to Roger for taking this on.

14. **Safeguarding.** Rhona needs the DBS number and date sent back to her for completion of a safeguarding form which has the numbers on, who they are for, what church they are from, safeguarding training done etc.
15. **Secretary's Report and Correspondence.** Correspondence about the sale of Knox Street Hall has been received.
16. **Trainee Reader Attendance at PCC.** The PCC agreed that they were happy for our Trainee Reader, Jonathan Elvy, to attend meetings.
17. **Any Other Business.** Mary raised the subject of singing the Gloria, which was discussed at the last meeting. It is on the agenda of the Worship Committee for discussion and reporting back to the following PCC meeting. Poppies have been obtained for the church by Rhona. Maureen said that they would have the transparent figures in church for the Remembrance Service.
18. **Meeting Dates** and other dates to note. Worship Committee Meeting moved to 9th January at 2pm, and PCC on 30th January at the Vicarage.
19. **Closing Prayers** Andy closed the meeting in prayer.