



Parish Church of St. Mary the Virgin Walney Island

**Minutes of the
Meeting of Parishioners (Vestry Meeting) and
Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

9th May 2021 at 10:30 in St Mary's Church

Meeting of Parishioners

The meeting opened with prayer led by Jonathan Elvy.

Rhona Teale, PCC Lay Chair, led the meeting. There were 23 parishioners in attendance. Apologies were received from Sylvia Brazier.

Rhona opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and checking that all attendees had picked up the information pack and booklet of Reports prior to the meeting.

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting held on 12th October 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and were signed by the Lay Chair.

There were no matters arising.

Roger introduced the election of Church Wardens. Two nomination forms had been received for Maureen Dale and Rhona Teale. Both were duly elected unanimously as Churchwardens until the next Vestry meeting. Roger thanked both for their dedication and work in the running of the church in 2020 and for taking on additional duties in the absence of a vicar.

The meeting closed at 10.35am.



Annual Parochial Church Meeting

This followed immediately upon the closure of the Meeting of Parishioners. These Minutes should be read in conjunction with the booklet of Reports which was distributed at the meeting.

Rhona Teale, PCC Lay Chair, led the meeting. There were 23 parishioners in attendance. Apologies were received from Sylvia Brazier.

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 12th October 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and were signed by the Lay Chair.

There were no matters arising.

PCC Lay Chair's Report

Rhona presented a full report to the meeting. She congratulated Jonathan Elvy on receiving his Reader license in February and thanked many individuals on the PCC, its subcommittees and those who worked tirelessly to maintain and look after the church. It has been an exceptional year and everyone's efforts have kept the church safe and secure.

Rhona paid a special tribute to Sylvia Brazier who is stepping down from the PCC this year. Her longstanding service to St Mary's over the last 40 years is really appreciated. Sylvia received a bouquet of flowers as a token of our gratitude. Rhona said that David Hollis has been church Treasurer for nearly 40 years and thanked him for his continued commitment and support.

Rhona closed by saying that she hoped we would all continue to work in harmony to grow our church community and that we hope a new Priest will be called to lead us in 2022.

Churchwardens' Report

Maureen presented a summary of the Churchwardens' Report available in the booklet of Reports.

Maureen said that its likely to be some time before we have a new vicar and a meeting with Archdeacon Vernon will be held after June 21st. In the meantime Father Jack and the Worship Subcommittee will continue to organise the Sunday service rota, with Jonathan fully involved through his new Reader role.

We are seeing a welcome increase in bookings for baptisms and weddings this year, perhaps an indication we are moving towards "normal".

Maureen thanked the re-structured PCC Subcommittees for their efficiency and impact in supporting the church. She acknowledged the work of those on the PCC and members of the congregation whose dedication enables the church to function. She thanked Father Jack and Clare for all their support for us.



PCC Secretary's Report

Roger presented a summary of the full Secretary's Report available in the booklet of Reports.

Since the last APCM PCC have met 3 times over Zoom using a new standard agenda. Minutes are published on the church website for viewing. Janet Western has just completed her first three year term on the PCC and Sylvia Brazier will step down from PCC after many years of sterling service.

PCC Subcommittees have been re-structured and include Buildings & Property, Worship, Baptism, Pastoral, Social and Communicate & Connect. The Communicate & Connect team have been looking at ways to connect across our congregation using traditional and digital methods. The Buildings and Property subcommittee, formed in January, has overseen repairs to the church boiler, pruning the car-park willow tree, re-securing window covers in the West and East Windows and removal of two diseased sycamore trees along the Promenade.

We are working closely with the Diocese to secure a new incumbent. In the interim St Mary's, like other churches without an incumbent, is now under "Suspension of Presentation". This means the Bishop could appoint a Priest-in-Charge for St Mary's until the pastoral needs for the area are fully determined.

In closing, Roger encouraged anyone who would like to shape the future of our church to consider joining the PCC this year.

Treasurer's Report

A full copy of the approved accounts for 2020 is included in the booklet of Reports. David summarised the financial highlights and talked the meeting through the audited accounts.

David explained the difference between the General fund (with no restrictions on how PCC use it) and Restricted funds (includes Church Fabric fund, Contact and Flower fund, Mothers & Toddlers fund and the Parish Centre Fabric fund).

Total resources received in the year were £60855 compared to £75209 in 2019, a decrease of £14354. Total resources used were £63140 compared to £86637 in 2019, a decrease of £23487. This left us with a combined deficit of £2285.33 with a deficit of £12688.60 on the General fund and there was a surplus of £10403.27 on the Restricted funds. The General fund deficit was in line with the previous year.

Our income from planned giving and loose cash collections increased by £2295 last year despite the pandemic. General fund donations also increased by over £1400 and resources from donors were up by £3700. Total fund-raising for general funds was down by £3329. Income from the Knox Street Hall, Parish Centre was well down as were fees from funerals and weddings.

David thanked everyone involved with the Contact Club and the Quiz for all their hard work, which has provided a wonderful service to the community and also produces extra income.



Regarding resources used we paid £26500 towards the Diocese Parish Offer of £38250 which is incredible given the year we have all experienced. Our Parish Offer this year is £22950.

Church building costs from General funds have decreased by £3670 mainly due to the church being closed for some time and repairs to the church were down significantly. Day to day running expenses for the Parish Centre and Knox Street from General funds were also down.

David thanked everyone connected to the Church, Parish Centre, and Knox Street Hall for looking after them and keeping costs down. We have benefited from several people continuing to cover some of the running costs of the Parish Centre and Knox Street Hall through donations.

Financially 2020 was another difficult year and looking ahead it's not likely to get any easier.

David acknowledged Sylvia Brazier for her hard work over the years and recognised the support of everyone in the church as he marks 39 years in the role.

Rhona thanked David for his work with the finances and expressed the church's appreciation.

Acceptance of the audited Annual Accounts for 2020 was proposed by Maureen Dale, seconded by Jonathan Elvy and agreed unanimously.

Appointment of Independent Examiner

Robert Everett is willing to continue as Independent Examiner of the church accounts. His appointment was proposed by Denise Elvy, seconded by Monica Pugh and agreed unanimously.

Electoral Roll Report

Roger reported that there were 76 names on the Roll, the same number as the last APCM.

Deanery Synod Report

Jonathan referred everyone to the full report made by Father Jack in the booklet of Reports. There had been two meetings in the year. St Mary's have two vacancies for Danery Synod representatives and Jonathan encouraged everyone to consider taking them up.

Elections to the Parochial Church Council

Janet Western has completed a three year term as PCC member and offered to stand for a second. This was accepted unanimously and she was duly elected to a second term.

Keith Newby was nominated as a PCC member by Rhona Teale and seconded by Maureen Dale. Keith was duly elected unanimously.

There remain two vacancies on the PCC for anyone interested in joining.



Elections to the Deanery Synod

No applications for the two vacant positions were received at the meeting. (Note Post Meeting an application form was received for Brenda Hill, nominated by Jonathan Elvy and seconded by Roger Burns which will be considered by PCC at their next meeting).

Election of Sidespersons

Attendees were asked if any additions or changes needed to be made to the current list of 15 Sidespersons. No changes were advised and all 15 were duly elected unanimously.

Questions from the floor

There were no questions from the floor.

The meeting closed with prayer from Mary Bacon at 11.04am.