



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council.  
St Mary's Parish Centre  
Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 7.30pm**

**Present:** In the Chair: Rhona Teale  
Mary Bacon, Roger Burns, Maureen Dale, Jonathan Elvy (by Zoom), Brenda Hill, David Hollis, Keith Newby, Arthur Watts, Janet Western.  
Steve Bacon attended for the "Parish Profile" item.

Meeting Started: 19:32

**1. Opening Prayers**

The meeting opened with prayers from Mary.

**2. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021 were agreed as a correct record and signed off by Rhona.

**3. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**4. Apologies for absence**

No apologies were received.

**5. Parish Profile (Rhona/Steve)**

Steve talked through the draft Profile. He outlined the approach, structure and content. Some changes from PCC members had been included before the meeting. Some further suggestions were made during the discussion including greater use of photographs of our congregation (in line with Data Protection) and also the need to amend the Mission Community section (as the organisation has changed recently). Steve said he would look at these and then send the final draft to Archdeacon Vernon for his input so the document would be ready for time when we are allowed to advertise for the position. Rhona proposed and PCC supported that Steve is co-opted onto PCC to attend the meeting with Vernon on June 29<sup>th</sup>.

**6. PCC Roles (Rhona)**

Rhona extended a warm welcome to Keith Newby as a newly elected member to the PCC and she also welcomed back Janet Western for a second term.

Rhona, Roger and David indicated they were prepared to stand for Lay Chair, Secretary and Treasurer roles for another year. This was supported unanimously.

**7. Lay Chair's Report (Rhona)**

Rhona started by saying we are still a little bit in the dark with regards to re-opening everything in full and we will have to wait until after 14<sup>th</sup> June for definite plans.

She expressed her thanks to Father Jack and Clare Knill Jones for their continuing Ministry and they will be on holiday from 19<sup>th</sup> June, a well-deserved break. Reverend



Clive will be taking the Holy Communion Service at 10 a.m. on June, 20<sup>th</sup> and baptising his Great Nephew George Thomas Castle during the Service.

She recognised the hard work of Steve, Mary and Maureen on the Parish Profile and we are hopeful that Vernon will be able to give us more information when he comes so we can move forward and start advertising the vacancy.

David, Maureen and Rhona joined a Zoom call regarding 2022 Parish Offers within the Mission Community. Rhona proposed that PCC hold an extraordinary meeting on Thursday July 1<sup>st</sup> at 1930 in the Parish Centre to fully discuss the documents as Vernon needs a response by mid July. **ACTION: Mary to print and circulate copies of the Parish Offer documents.**

We only have 3 names listed for Church yard Cleaning Day on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Following discussion on availability PCC agreed the date should be moved back to Saturday July 17<sup>th</sup>. The Church Notice Sheet will be updated to reflect this.

Rhona said it was with sadness that we learned of Jim Lourie's passing. As many St. Mary's Parishioners will want to support Chris we will seat everyone who comes in a Covid secure way.

Rhona shared there have been a number of resignations and appointments within the Barrow Mission Community, as follows:

- Revd Aimee Lynch, has been appointed as Interim Team Vicar of the Benefice of South Barrow Team Ministry and Associate Priest in the Benefice of the North Barrow Team Ministry from the 1st July 2021.
- Sarah Richardson, GP will be ordained Deacon and serve her curacy in the Barrow Mission Community, with St Paul's & Grace Church as her 'base'.
- Markus 'Opa' Geibel will be joining in September as Pioneer Enabler in Barrow.
- In the Methodist community the Revd Dr Helen Hooley has been appointed Methodist Superintendent, Revd Jennet McLeod will be retiring with Revd Zena Smith and Sophie Carnaby taking up new posts outside the area.

#### **8. Treasurer's Report (David)**

David ran through the finances for the first 5 months of the year. He said that we had now paid £12.5k (52%) of our Parish Offer for the year. Whilst Stewardship income and Gift Aid Tax was up other sources of income were down leaving us £8.7k down on income compared to 2020. Expenditure is up by £3k on 2020 mainly driven by our earlier payments of the Parish Offer and increased Fabric Fund expenditure. Covid could have made the situation much worse but we have managed the finances appropriately. Church insurance is due shortly at £4.4k.

Rhona thanked David for keeping us on the straight and narrow in these difficult times.

#### **9. Churchwardens Report (Maureen)**

Maureen referred to her report which had been issued prior to the meeting. She summarised the key points of interest.

Christian Aid Week took place during the week 10th-16th May and £152 was raised.



We welcomed children from South Walney Infants School into Church with their clipboards and iPads to look at the various items in the church building and to ask questions. It was lovely to see their happy little faces as this was the first time they had been on a school outing since the lifting of lockdown restrictions. Maureen and Brenda were challenged by their many questions.

There have been more requests from families wishing to have their children baptised and we are almost fully booked to the end of this year. There are 4 weddings booked to date for this year. The funeral took place on 24th May for Jane Thompson, a long serving local teacher from South Walney Infant School.

St. Mary's Centre re-opened on 13th May with the return of Slimming World, the Dance Group and some of the Uniformed Organisations. Several birthday parties have been booked, numbers as per covid restrictions.

#### **10. Barrow Mission Community (Maureen)**

The Barrow Mission Community continues to meet on Tuesday mornings for prayer via Zoom and hopes to resume F2F meetings in the near future. She referred us to Rhona's earlier comments on changes to be made in the Mission Community.

#### **11. Safeguarding (Rhona)**

Rhona reported there had been no significant changes. We continue to use track and trace and new members of PCC have been given DBS forms.

We try to keep to the limit of 50 for funerals, as they are unlimited but providing people give names and contacts for track and trace and we can safely seat them within the Church we are letting them in.

We continue to use one way in and out of Church where possible.

#### **12. PCC Sub-committee Reports**

##### **1. Buildings and Property (Roger)**

Roger referred to his report which had been issued prior to the meeting. He summarised the key points of interest.

The Sub-committee met on May 12th through Zoom to manage the risks to church property. Key repair and maintenance activities included window covers, porch door and tree removal. The Parish Centre has been added to our risk tracking so we can maintain the building safely and effectively for the community.

##### **2. Communications and Connect (Roger)**

The Sub-Committee met in May and reflected on the good progress made through the use of digital and traditional communications. The team identified a couple of items that could benefit the church.

The use of an Online Donations service on the website and Facebook can allow people to donate to church funds digitally. It's used by many churches in the region. PCC agreed we should progress this. In parallel the Mission Community has secured a Card Read for us to allow credit card donations to be made to church. It does not require wifi at point of use as transactions can be uploaded later. David has been looking at this.

**ACTION: Roger and David to align efforts to provide coherent digital "Giving" service.**



The introduction of wifi into church and Parish Centre was discussed. It could allow online streaming of music and video into and out of church as well as offering other benefits such as providing an office work base. PCC agreed but wanted to know the costs. **ACTION: Roger to identify wifi options and costs for PCC approval.**

### **3. Worship (Maureen)**

The Worship Committee has continued to meet via Zoom to prepare material for services for the 4th Sunday of every month which also included Palm Sunday Easter Day, and Pentecost. Different members of the team have led Reflections and Talks. It is hoped that we will soon be able to physically meet.

### **4. Baptism (Maureen)**

No baptisms have taken place in the past two months but we've received requests for available dates. Our first Baptism Preparation Evening takes place on Tuesday 8th June with two families whose children will be baptised on Sunday 20th June.

## **13. Secretary's Report and Correspondence (Roger)**

Roger had prepared the required paperwork and meeting process for the APCM. Following the meeting the election results and list of officials was sent to Carlisle.

Roger worked with Sarah Mackie to arrange a PCC meeting with Archdeacon Vernon.

## **14. Charity Giving (Jonathan)**

To be put back to the September meeting to allow Jonathan to be present F2F.

## **15. Any Other Urgent Business**

### **1. Quinquennial 2021 (Rhona)**

The Survey will take place on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> July. Rhona will arrange entry to church.

### **2. Meeting with Archdeacon Vernon (Roger)**

The meeting with Vernon is on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> June at 1900 in Church PCC members are asked to reflect on questions that need to be asked. The main topic will be the Barrow Parish Offer and future clergy numbers. **ACTION: Roger to circulate the current list of Q&As regarding our Suspension of Presentation.**

### **3. Parish Centre Cleaner (Maureen)**

Our Centre Cleaner has given notice that she wishes to reduce her hours and we are in the process of recruiting another lady to help with the cleaning.

### **4. Faith in Furness Radio (Maureen)**

Churches are being asked to contribute to the continued broadcasting of local religious worship and news. PCC agreed to offer £100 and suggested a change in broadcast hours to an evening 1900-200 slot. Maureen will follow up with Robin Ham.

### **5. Resuming "Normal" Church life (Rhona)**

Rhona said Rainbows, Brownies and Guides plus Slimming World and the Dance Group have resumed activities in the Centre and some parties have been booked. We do not expect any significant changes until further Government announcements. The Centre kitchen will be tested out for a small buffet for the Christening on June 20<sup>th</sup>. If all



goes well we can advertise catering services back in the Centre. Sunday morning coffee will likely resume in September after the regular summer break.

We await guidance for Church Services as to when we can open fully with singing. We should continue to record services for those members who still watch online.

Rhona thanked Dawn for cleaning and painting the candle rack in the lady chapel in readiness for normal service resumption.

#### **6. Other business**

Arthur asked if he could continue to refurbish the lower window coverings. PCC agreed and approved the expenditure to purchase the necessary fixings.

Churchyard grass cutting was not performed well last month. PCC agreed to monitor the next cycle of cutting and be ready to talk immediately to the contractors if not satisfied.

A grave in the churchyard has had several ornaments and plastic fittings put in place. This contravenes churchyard policy. **ACTION: Roger to contact the relatives to secure their removal.**

#### **16. Next PCC Meeting Date**

Scheduled for Thursday 29th July in Parish Centre. Jonathan sends his apologies as he will be on holiday.

#### **17. Closing Prayers**

Brenda closed the meeting with prayers.

Meeting Finished: 21:30