



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council.
St Mary's Parish Centre
Thursday 30th September 7.30pm**

Present: In the Chair: Rhona Teale
Mary Bacon, Roger Burns, Maureen Dale, Brenda Hill, David Hollis, Keith Newby, Arthur Watts, Janet Western.

Meeting Started: 19:27

1. Opening Prayers

The meeting opened with prayers from Maureen.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on 29th July 2021 were agreed as a correct record and signed off by Rhona.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Apologies for absence

None received.

5. Lay Chair's Report (Rhona)

Rhona welcomed everyone to the third PCC meeting indoors. She thanked Maureen organising most of the church services and PCC members for their support at what is a busy period for Rhona.

A Mission Community Parish Offer Response document was received this week and has been printed for everyone to take away to think and pray about it. We hope to have another meeting with Father Jack, Vernon and St. Johns PCC in November when we hope there will be a constructive discussion on a way forward.

Dearbhail Keeting was at church on August 17th to do our Quinquennial survey. We very recently received her concise report. We will consider the wider implications of the report at a later date but the church roof and gutters must be our first priority. The Building and Properties Committee will now deal with it and prioritise activities.

Rhona said everything else is covered in the meeting reports. She thanked everyone for the valued support and encouragement as we continue to uphold and maintain our vision and values of the Church here on the Island.

6. Treasurer's Report (David)

David ran through the financials for the year to date. He said it was pleasing to see Fundraising and Hall income coming in once again. We have paid a very encouraging £21950 towards the Parish Offer this year. Within the Fabric fund we have paid the Quinquennial fees leaving £2600 for maintenance whilst the Parish Centre fund has around £16000.



Stewardship income is up compared to 2020 and fees are up by £1200 with more weddings this year. We also received a legacy of £1000 for general funds. Parish Centre funds are nearly £2000 up this year

Expenses are down this year for clergy, church building and stationery but the increased Parish Offer payment this year has resulted in a greater expenditure over 2020. Overall we are maintaining our own.

Card Reader Update (Mary)

The new Card reader is working well at baptisms. We have had £90 net of charges so far. It's important to let David know when it has been used so he can pick up swiftly and download the transactions. It is hoped to use it for Parish Centre bookings also as more people are expecting to use cards for payment.

7. Churchwardens Report (Maureen)

The Churchwarden's continue to be busy dealing with various enquiries re booking Baptism and Wedding dates and times as well as interment of ashes and requests for memorials. There are also maintenance issues for both buildings which need attention.

The PCC met with Archdeacon Vernon Ross on 12th August at which the PCC put to him the current position as far as they were concerned. An open ended interregnum means we are stretched and frustrated that more should be done. The PCC emphasised where we wanted St. Mary's to be; a welcoming church with an updated Vision and Values with an incumbent to take us forward.

Vernon told us that a restructure of local clergy is needed to match the available funding. Barrow Mission Community is leading the restructure and we should continue to provide them with feedback. Vernon said he would meet us again in October (note it has now been put back to November).

Babs Hartley a long serving member of St.Mary's died on 27th August and her funeral was held in St. Mary's at which Fr. Jack officiated. David and Brenda Hill celebrated their Golden Wedding in the Centre on 4th September at which immediate family and friends together with church family met to enjoy an Afternoon Tea.

Our annual Tunes & Spoons event took place on 16th September in the Centre. This was arranged by Steve and Mary Bacon and our thanks go to them for organising this in their usual efficient way. It was a most enjoyable evening of music and songs chosen by those attending and the puddings in the interval were most delicious. A wonderful sum of £370 was raised for Church Funds.

Coffee after the Sunday Morning Service has restarted in the Centre and is a lovely opportunity for Church fellowship. Thanks go to Keith and Marion.

8. Barrow Mission Community (Maureen)

Prayer Meeting dates/times are under review and will be made known when available.

The Revd. Robin Ham has sent out a document to all Anglican Churches within the Barrow Mission Community entitled " Parish Offer 2022 Response" This was only received two days ago and therefore another early PCC meeting is required in order to



share and discuss its contents. PCC agreed to convene to discuss our thoughts in the Parish Centre at 1930 on Thursday 14th October.

9. Safeguarding (Rhona)

We will continue to wear face masks, use hand sanitiser sit socially distanced whilst continuing to open up the Church We now sing hymns whilst seated. Track and Trace has ceased but we must be cautious and use common sense to keep everyone safe.

DBS applications are now going to be done online with Rhona as lead volunteer and Roger the second contact.

The Diocese have just advised that DBS certification is required every 3 years, down from 5. Most PCC members will need to refresh in 2022. Others still to certify must do CO and C1 online training. Rhona contact individuals as they come up for renewal.

10. PCC Sub-committee Reports

10.1 Buildings and Property.

This PCC Sub-committee met on September 21st through Zoom. Work undertaken since the July PCC meeting includes:

- Increasing disruption by youths and graffiti on shop walls has been noted. Action is being taken on the graffiti, working with the shop owner, however **all PCC members are requested to report any nuisance or disturbance to Cumbria Police by calling 101 or through their website.** We must get on the police “radar”. We should also ensure any new graffiti or damage is addressed as soon as is possible.
- The bulge under the north aisle carpet has been taped up. Carpet fitter to be approached to fix before Christmas
- Quotes to repair the church roof and guttering have been sought. One builder has us on his work list but we really need to have other builders lined up to tackle the increasing roof repairs. **PCC members were asked if they could identify a reliable builder to help us. Keith will follow up on a potential lead.**
- The church electrical survey was completed. We are awaiting its recommendations.
- A grant application was submitted to Thrive Renewables to replace the Centre’s ceiling lighting system. Decision expected by October 8th
- Motorists and bikers have been regularly speeding into the car park. We are looking at options to fit a speed bump to car park entrance.
- It is likely we will need grants to finance our building works and the 2021 Quinquennial report findings. Many grants are based on improving sustainability and reducing CO₂ footprint. A CofE sponsored Energy Audit is being initiated to provide an energy baseline from which grant-driven improvements can be justified.
- The Diocese Solicitor advised the Knox Street Annex is still going through Land Registration. Given our insurance challenge, Planning Permission expiry in May ‘22 and need to raise revenues she will look at ways to expedite the whole process.
- Next meeting will be Thursday 11th November at 1930.

10.2 Communications and Connect

The Sub-committee did not meet in the last two months due to holidays and other commitments. Actions have been taken to cease recording of the Sunday service and to investigate the Online Donation process for the church website and Facebook page.



10.3 Worship Committee (Maureen).

The Worship Committee has met twice since the last PCC Meeting and local led Services were held on 15th August and 19th September. A Joint Service was held at St. John's Church on Sunday, 29th August at which The Revd. Carl Harding preached. The Harvest Festival Service is planned to take place on Sunday 17th October after which there will be a Bring and Share Harvest Lunch. PCC agreed to move the service start time from 0930 to 1000 with parishioners bringing whatever they could for the lunch.

10.4 Baptism (Maureen).

We continue to have many requests for Baptism Services and children from two families are now baptised at each service. Services take place on the first and second Sunday of each month at 2.30pm in the afternoon. Bookings for 2022 are steadily coming in.

11. Secretary's Report and Correspondence (Roger)

Roger said a Churchyard and Garden of Remembrance Policy had been drafted reflecting the key elements of Diocese Regulations. PCC discussed the document and verified that artificial flowers used in church are not subject to the Diocese Churchyard Regulations, they do not contain plastic and they are bio-degradable. PCC also re-affirmed the path for any individual to request Diocese Regulation changes is through Archdeacon Vernon. PCC approved the policy by majority and agreed that whilst it is valid immediately full adherence to the policy will be expected from January 6th 2022. The document will be posted in the church porch, on Facebook/website and where possible in the churchyard.

Roger said he had attended Environmental Fundraising seminars to look at how we could benefit from grants and funding available. He also said that he was deferring an action to talk with Barrow Parks on churchyard maintenance until we are clear on the actions to address the Quinquennial report. PCC noted the recent grass cutting and clearing of bushes by the old bank by Continental Landscapes is much appreciated.

12. Any Other Urgent Business

12.1 Quinquennial – initial response (Rhona)

PCC members who require the summary pages printing should contact Mary. As said earlier the necessary work will be tracked by the Buildings sub-committee.

12.2 Churchyard Winter cleanup (Rhona)

At this time the main job is to clear leaves so PCC members and parishioners are invited to do what they can when they can. A formal clean up weekend will be arranged in Q1 next year.

12.3 Parish Centre update (Maureen, Brenda)

The new cleaner is settling in well and making her mark. Centre bookings are coming along nicely. Rhona offered to provide Centre backup for Brenda at weekends,

13. Next PCC Meeting Date

Scheduled for Thursday 25th November in Parish Centre.

14. Closing Prayers

Mary closed the meeting with prayers.

Meeting Finished: 21:30