



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council.
St Mary's Parish Centre
Thursday 25th November 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: 19:28

1. Opening Prayers

The meeting opened with prayers from Jonathan.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on 30th September 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 meeting. She apologised that much of her time is currently spent on important family commitments which may extend for the foreseeable future.

6. Treasurer's Report (David)

David ran through the financials for the year to date. We are doing well under the circumstances and compared to other churches. Income is picking up through fundraising and fees income (3 funerals this month). We have paid £25k towards our Parish Offer. We have welcomed a £2k private donation to the church fabric fund and a grant of £1440 to replace the Parish Centre main lights. Stewardship income has been maintained though halls income is down through fewer bookings and no further Contact Club activities. In terms of expenditure our Clergy expenses are down and so are stationary costs. David thanked everyone for their continued vigilance with the finances.

7. Churchwardens Report (Maureen)

The Churchwarden's have had a busy time since the last PCC Meeting but are on top of things. We continue to receive many requests for Baptisms and there are 4 more to take place in December. Requests for dates for weddings are being received not just for 2022 but we already have two for 2023. There was one wedding in October. Three Interment of Ashes and two funerals, one of which was the double funeral of long time church members Brian and Phyllis Usher. Maureen thanked everyone for their support.

8. Barrow Mission Community (Maureen)

At a meeting on the 14th October the PCC met and welcomed the opportunity to review the latest Barrow Mission Parish Offer Proposals and to discuss the "Future Questions"



it raised. In the discussion several points were identified that was thought should guide the way forward and which should be considered by the Deanery, Barrow Mission Community, clergy and Archdeacon when seeking a balanced mission and ministry solution. (see report to all PCC members 18th October 2021). A further meeting took place with Archdeacon Vernon on 3rd November and we await his report after he has consulted with the Bishop and other churches as to the outcome to the option it was felt would be best for St. Mary's. Vernon has no further update at the time of this PCC meeting. We should seek further guidance from Vernon in December.

The Barrow Mission Community Prayer Group meets regularly each week for prayer.

9. Safeguarding (Rhona)

Everyone should have a Domestic Abuse training email. PCC members to inform Rhona when they have completed it.

The Diocese have 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.

10. PCC Sub-committee Reports

10.1 Buildings and Property.

This PCC Sub-committee could not find a suitable date to meet pre-PCC however the team have continued to work together to address building risks. Work undertaken since the September PCC meeting includes:

- **The Risk Register is now split into three sections** for ease of reference; one for the church, one for the Quinquennial findings and one to cover the Parish Centre.
- **A missing latch on churchyard gate** allowed the gate to swing onto Central Drive creating pedestrian hazard. Arthur has now fixed it by putting in a new latch.
- **Missing tiles and guttering defects allowing rain into Lady Chapel.** After many failed attempts to get these repaired Keith is following up with a contact and Roger has met with CFS Roofing who have been on the roof to inspect and take photos. PCC agreed to progress the Lady Chapel tiling/guttering repairs and lead sheeting replacement (subject to cost) through CFS.
- **Raised floor tiles in the North aisle.** DH Carpets advised Maureen the carpet can be cut, lifted and replaced with sticky back tape or an adhesive. The join will not show. On sliding a hand underneath the carpet it appears that the tiles are broken. A builder is needed to take a look at the floor and to test for dampness.
- **A grant received from Thrive Sustainables** will allow us to replace the failing main lights in the Parish Centre. Andy Barnes will progress the work. We should put up a notice acknowledging the grant once the work is completed.
- **Porous roof on Parish Centre.** Work continues to secure quotes for the roof that can be used to submit grants applications.
- **Discussions with Barrow Parks** confirmed they are primarily responsible for grass cutting in the church yard only however they will undertake low cost pruning work if requested (and if it can be financed through their contract with Continental Landscapes). They do not expect contractors to enter hazardous areas on site.
- A parishioner has highlighted a **tree pruning form** on the Town Hall website. There aren't many details behind it (eg scope, responsibilities, cost) but it is something we could explore if there are safety concerns about our trees.



PCC agreed Arthur could purchase a workbench/drill to prepare window cover bracket fittings. The unit will be stored in the choir vestry until a longer term home is identified.

There is a faulty cable to the church sound system which needs precision jiggling to stop it crackling. **ACTION: As a first step Maureen will call Alan McCracken (St Marks) to get his advice.**

Some parishioners have asked if we can use the pulpit for sermons. The lighting on the pulpit was deemed unsafe during our recent electrical review and so needs to be fixed before consideration can be made to using the pulpit again.

10.2 Communications and Connect

This PCC Sub-committee did not meet in the last two months due to various personal commitments. The team kept in touch through email to coordinate publications and messages across all the technology platforms. **The St Mary's Centre activities page was updated to reflect current bookings, the agreed Churchyard Policy and forthcoming Christmas Coffee morning details** were posted onto Facebook, Website and ACNY. **ACTION: PCC and community members are asked to continue handing on information to Denise, Steve and Roger to publish particularly with Christmas coming up.**

10.3 Worship Committee (including Christmas Plan) (Maureen).

The Worship Committee meets regularly once a month to prepare Lay Led Services for the third Sunday of every month.

Our Harvest Service was held on Sunday 17th October at which Rhona gave a presentation on how the Boxes of Hope for Romanian children are collected from churches, schools etc throughout Cumbria and transported to Romania. 9,245 shoeboxes have been sent. A Bring and Share lunch followed the Service in the Centre.

On Sunday, 31st October at 3pm there was a Reflective Service for families who had lost loved ones over the past 2 years. Letters of Invitation had been sent out to families whose funerals had taken place at St. Mary's during that period. During the service there was an opportunity for them to write the names of their loved ones on a heart shape and to light a candle. This Service was followed by Tea and Biscuits and fellowship in the Centre.

Remembrance Service book place at 10.00am on Sunday, 14th November and was led by the Archdeacon.

On Sunday, 21st November at 9.30am the Lay Led Christ the King Morning Service took place and we welcomed the newly appointed Pioneer Enabler Markus (Opa) to preach.

The Committee presented the following Christmas Services schedule which was endorsed by the PCC.

- **Sunday, 19th December at 09.30am** – Lay Led Morning Service will be a CAROL SERVICE (the Christmas Story with Readings and Carols)
- **Sunday, 19th December at 4pm** - CHRISTINGLE SERVICE. This is a TICKET ONLY Service. There will only be 150 tickets available for this Service due to Covid restrictions. The tickets will be available for collection from the Centre on



Sunday, 12th December between 11.00am and 12noon. One ticket required per person. Christingle Money boxes will be given out at the same time.

- **Friday 24th December at 11.30pm** - CHRISTMAS EVE MIDNIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE will be hosted by Vickerstown Methodist Church. There will be NO service at St. Mary's on Christmas Eve.
- **Saturday, 25th CHRISTMAS DAY** – There will be no service at St Mary's.
- **Sunday, 26th BOXING DAY at 10.30pm** – Revd. Clive Shaw will lead a joint Service at St Mary's with St. John's Church members welcomed.

10.4 Baptism (Maureen).

There have been 8 children baptised since our last PCC meeting. Our thanks go to Fr.Jack and Revd. Martin Williams.

11. Secretary's Report and Correspondence (Roger)

- **I arranged a meeting with Archdeacon Vernon** on Wednesday 3rd November to discuss clergy options.. He asked PCC for views on various clerical options and arrangement. He will need to speak to other churches and Bishop James before a full solution can be presented.
- **The PCC agreed Churchyard and Garden of Remembrance Policy** was finalised, recognising that whilst the Policy was valid now it wouldn't be followed up in full after January 6th. Copies of the Policy have been laminated and placed in the Porch, on the Centre car park wall, on the Garden of Remembrance railings and on the Central Drive gate.It is also available on the Website and Facebook. Rhona said that new permanent wooden noticeboards are nearly ready to be installed.

12. Any Other Urgent Business

The Black bins have not been emptied, **Rhona will ring the Cleansing department.**

Three lights are "out" in the church. PCC agreed that we should get advice form Andy Barnes on replacement options.

13. Next PCC Meeting Date

Scheduled for Thursday 27th January in Parish Centre.

14. Closing Prayers

Brenda closed the meeting with prayers.

Meeting Finished: 21:07