



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council.
St Mary's Parish Centre
Thursday 29th January 2022 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: 19:33

1. Opening Prayers

The meeting opened with prayers from Maureen.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on 25th November 2021 were agreed unanimously as a correct record and signed off by Rhona.

3. Matters Arising

Mary reported that the faulty cable in the sound system has been replaced and a small light has been purchased for the lectern. There were no further matters arising.

4. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Jonathan Elvy.

5. Lay Chair's Report (Rhona)

Rhona welcomed everyone to the meeting. She started by saying that 3 Noticeboards had been built and installed for a total of £120. PCC expressed their thanks to Dawn for her good work.

Rhona shared some feedback on reasons why some people may not be coming to church at present. PCC agreed to ensure that all service times and venues continue to be displayed on the website, Facebook, ACNY and on the new Noticeboards.

The lay-led service held in the Centre had been well received by everyone. PCC agreed to hold the March lay-led service in the Centre. **ACTION Worship Committee will present proposals on further services to the March PCC meeting.**

6. Treasurer's Report (David)

David ran through the financials for the year to date. He hadn't sent out the 2022 Accounts as we are only three weeks into the year. He noted that we have paid the increased 2021 Parish Offer £26550 in full. The first 2022 Parish Offer payment has been made. Some income has been lost through reduced church membership donations. Whilst online donations are proving popular the number of envelopes distributed has reduced to 30 sets.

Arthur said he had compared fuel costs as the price of diesel is increasing. He recommended we look at industrial heating oil as a cheaper option when replenishment is next due.



7. Churchwardens Report (Maureen)

Maureen said that since our last PCC Meeting we have had 3 funerals and 2 Interment of Ashes.

George Hastwell school visited Church on 10th December and Jonathan, our Lay Reader gave a short talk. They enjoyed their time in the church especially as it was their first outing since lockdown. On 19th December we had a Lay-led Carol Service and that afternoon we had our Christingle Service. Numbers were lower than had been anticipated but those who came loved being able to make and light their Christingles.

We shared with our brothers and sisters in the midnight Christmas Eve Service at Vickerstown Methodist Church which was a lovely service led by Revd. David Edmondson. The Revd. Clive Shaw kindly came and led our Service of Holy Communion on Boxing Day and our grateful thanks were extended to him. On Sunday, 9th January we again joined with our brothers and sisters from Vickerstown Methodist Church in St. Mary's for the Covenant Service led by Revd. Dr. Helen Hooley Lead Minister and Superintendent of the Methodist and URC Church in Furness.

Rhona and I continue to be busy dealing with various requests and maintenance issues that pop up and we are grateful for the help received from PCC and church members.

Church was opened up yesterday, 26th, for anyone wanting to reflect on the recent Walney School stabbing incident.

8. Barrow Mission Community (Maureen)

Maureen said the Barrow Mission Community Prayer Meetings take place at a different church venues each week and on the third week of every month meet in the Ferry Hotel on Walney to enjoy a good breakfast as well as share in prayer.

She said at the Prayer Meeting on 30th November we were asked to think about 'What things should we be thankful for in the Barrow Mission Community during 2021?' "What are the Hopes, Dreams and Prayers for the Barrow Mission Community Moving into 2022?" and "What do you see God doing in the Barrow Mission Community at the moment?" Many different thoughts were shared such as New and different opportunities, Collective Prayer fellowship and over vision, Faithful congregations, To have Kingdom Vision for the Church in Barrow, To be effective in helping new people to grow, To build on what we have, God's leading in some challenging conversations about ministry/staffing, Traditional Churches making decisions about their future and Calling the people of God to prayer.

Maureen updated PCC on the new vicar situation following a conversation with Archdeacon Vernon. **ACTION: Roger to invite Vernon and Robin Ham to meet with PCC to update us on the plan and to agree how PCC can help them move forward.**

9. Safeguarding (Rhona)

Rhona said she attended the New Leadership Safeguarding training in January. All Clergy, Lay Ministers Readers and Church Wardens need to complete this course which is basically C2/3. The course is Part of the Church of England National



Safeguarding Teams efforts in Promoting a Safer Church. It also deals with Safer Recruitment of Volunteers and Paid staff. As a result new Safeguarding Notices have been put up in Church and in the Centre.

Rhona shared that watching Exposed (The Churches darkest Secret) about the Bishop of Gloucester Peter Ball and the cover up by the Church of England was very impactful. The course gave a greater insight to how important Safeguarding is in the local community along with the different types of abuse, what to do, who to contact, knowing how to keep confidentiality, when to exercise caution, not be judgemental and to give support. Rhona then reviewed all items on the Parish Checklist for Safeguarding with the PCC to ensure we were putting all requirements into place.

Rhona moved onto PCC Compliance with Safeguarding responsibilities. All PCC members and some church members should have a valid DBS and attend up to 6 training courses commensurate with their church roles. **ACTION; PCC members to let Rhona know details of their DBS and training courses attended or to register their need to have/attend them.**

9.1 Safeguarding Policy (Rhona)

Rhona proposed a refreshed Safeguarding Policy to display across the church. It must be reviewed and agreed every 12 months. PCC agreed to the proposed Policy which can now be published and displayed. **ACTION: Roger to publish the Policy on the website Home page and ACNY.**

9.2 Health & Safety Policy (Roger)

Roger said that we need a visible Health & Safety Policy to ensure everyone connected with the church understood their obligations in protecting others. It's also a legal and insurance requirement. He had circulated a draft based on good practice in other churches and tailored to our specific needs. It does need further work to include details from previous risk assessments plus any items felt necessary by PCC members. **ACTION: All PCC members to email any additions or changes necessary to me by Friday 11th February so the policy can be finalised by end February.**

10. PCC Sub-committee Reports

10.1 Buildings and Property (Roger)

Roger said this PCC Sub-committee met by Zoom on Thursday 13th January. Work undertaken since the September PCC meeting includes:

- The **graffiti on the takeaway wall** has not yet been removed. Enquiries made to see if the owner has been able to progress this. The owner said he aims to get it re-painted.
- We agreed to cut the **north aisle carpet** to determine status of underlying tiles and fix if possible w/c 24 January.
- Work to repair the **Lady Chapel roof** is due to begin next week.
- Both the **Church Yard and Car Park are very dark** in the evening, there is no lighting. This presents tripping risks and encourages undesirable activities. We are looking into suitable motion sensor lights which could be installed.
- The board supporting the **church Electric box** in the cellar has rotted through water ingress. We'll install a device to deflect the water away from the board



- **Two locked litter receptacles** in church car park have appeared and were not being emptied. After talking to various council departments Continental Landscapes will empty the bins weekly in the future
- We have noted in the past that **speeding motorists** coming into car park. We have priced up a 3m speed ramp with 2 signs costing around £285. The committee felt we should pick this up later in the year if problem resurfaces.
- A **new quote** has been obtained to replace the **Parish Centre roof**.
- The **Parish Centre roof was repaired** after water leaked into the side room.
- Further work was completed on the church electrical systems. **New lights were selected** to install in the Parish Centre.
- We discussed what we needed to do to ensure we are **carbon neutral by 2030**. We will complete the Energy Footprint Tool when available in March as the first step to help determine our action plans.

10.2 Communications and Connect (Roger)

Roger said this PCC Sub-committee met on Thursday 20th January. They reflected on the successes and learnings in 2021 and identified opportunities and threats for 2022. Their complete set of thoughts was circulated previously to PCC members.

In summary, in 2021 extensive and productive use was made of various technologies to support church communications and connections, in particular using Facebook (300+ membership), Website (200+ hits monthly), ACNY (400+ hits monthly), Youtube (broadcasting recorded services), Zoom (church meetings) and a refreshed Noticesheet. All communications were fully compliant with our updated set of GDPR records. The team worked hard to ensure communications were coherent and consistent across these platforms last year.

The key learning was the limited feedback from users on how they value our communications tools and content. This means the team are “second-guessing” user expectations in shaping the tools and content. In addition there is some hesitancy to take any significant steps until a new vicar is in place.

Looking at 2022 we hope to use more analytical tools to understand user patterns, seek more expertise and input (for example through surveys) from around the community on technologies and content, to re-visit church Wi-Fi and electronic Donations and to use the appointment of a new vicar to calibrate our communications direction and to take on the changes they wish to make.

10.3 Worship Committee (Maureen).

Maureen said the Worship Committee meets regularly once a month to prepare a Lay Led Service for the 3rd Sunday of the month. On Sunday, 19th December, a Carol Service was held in the morning and a Christingle Service in the afternoon. On 16th January we held the service in the Centre because there was a fault with the lights in the church. This was a really lovely time of worship, togetherness and warmth and the talk was given by Denise Elvy on the Gifts of the Spirit.

10.4 Baptism (Maureen).

There have been three Baptism Services since our last PCC Meeting. Our thanks go to Fr. Jack and Revd. Martin Williams. The Committee plan to meet soon to review any



changes that could be made to improve what is already offer to parents bringing their children for baptism, for example sending out cards on anniversary of baptism.

10.5 Pastoral

Marie provided the following Pastoral post-bereavement update.

The start of the year has been most difficult for some people with illness and bereavement. We continue to hold them all in prayer. Pastoral follow-ups are all up to date with a phone call or a home visit. There haven't been many funerals as yet, the same applies to funeral follow-ups if needed. With the love of Jesus we continue to care and give support when needed.

Mary said she had spoken to Marie and agreed to update the Noticesheet to inform people requiring support to contact Marie.

11: Secretary Report (Roger)

Roger reported that there were no additional events to report other than those that had already been covered elsewhere in this meeting.

12. Any Other Urgent Business

12.1 Churchyard and Garden of Remembrance Policy implementation (Rhona)

Rhona said the Policy was in place and displayed on the new Noticeboards. Following questions about existing monuments in the Garden of Remembrance PCC agreed to add some wording for clarification. **ACTION: Mary to provide updated Policy for the new Noticeboards.** PCC agreed to use the Removed Items Log proposed by Arthur to record details of items needing to be removed. PCC also agreed to publish notification of a planned inspection of the churchyard after March 1st.

12.2 PCC/APCM dates for 2022 (Roger)

Roger shared the proposed PCC and APCM meeting dates for 2022. PCC agreed to these dates.

13. Next PCC Meeting Date

Scheduled for Thursday 31st March in Parish Centre.

14. Closing Prayers

Mary closed the meeting with prayers.

Meeting Finished: 21:24