



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council.**

**St Mary's Parish Centre**

**Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 7.30pm**

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

Meeting Started: 1930

**1. Opening Prayers**

The meeting opened with prayers from Brenda.

**2. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022 were agreed unanimously as a correct record and signed off by Rhona.

**3. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**4. Apologies for absence**

No apologies received.

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

Rhona welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for the continued support given to her and Maureen and an ongoing commitment to work together until a new Vicar is found. She is hopeful we are now seeing a light at the end of a very long tunnel. She thanked Mary and Steve Bacon for producing a well written and attractive Parish Profile. She said we are extremely fortunate to have a good PCC with all the jobs shared through our Sub committees.

She said we now need to pray that the right person will come forward to lead us in our Ministry and we can continue to grow in strength here on the Island.

**6. Treasurer's Report (David)**

David was unable to circulate the current accounts in advance however he summarised saying we are doing well with Giving being at the same level as last year and we paid £6k of our Parish Profile this year (compared to £4k at this point last year). Gift Aid relief will provide further income in April.

David reviewed the 2021 Annual Accounts ahead of presentation to the APCM. It was a challenging year financially which was managed effectively but the outlook for 2022 is tough with the onset of energy and other suppliers costs increases. David thanked everyone for their continued support over the year.

Mary proposed and Maureen seconded the approval of the 2021 Annual Accounts which was endorsed unanimously by PCC.

Rhona thanked David for his work as Treasurer since taking the role 40 years ago.



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

Maureen said that since our last PCC Meeting there have been three Baptisms, one Wedding, two Interment of Ashes and three Funerals.

On Sunday, 30th January there was a joint Sunday Morning Service with St. John's Church on Barrow Island and on Wednesday, 2nd March The Revd. Aimee Lynch came to St. Mary's to lead our Ash Wednesday Service at which about 20 people attended. Due to Fr. Jack being away and Revd. Aimee Lynch contracting Covid it has been more difficult to get cover for Sunday's.

On Thursday, 17th March St. Mary's and St. John's PCC's met with Archdeacon Vernon Ross, Rural Dean (Asst), Fr. Jack Knill Jones and Revd. Robin Ham, Joint Mission Community Leader to discuss the progress which had been made regarding the appointment of a new vicar. This was a lively discussion and Archdeacon Vernon outlined the way forward. Though finances remain a challenge for the area the intent was still to proceed and fill the current vacancy through advertising after Easter and expecting an appointment within 4 months. The role has to be missional in order to be approved and it is intended that 75% of the role would be to cover St. Mary's and St. John's with 25% being an Enabler Role for Barrow. In year two the role may move to a 50/50 split of responsibilities. In the medium term Barrow may need to be restructured with fewer benefices and simplified structures. St. Mary's Profile had been prepared for some time and St. John's would need to complete their Parish Profile as soon as possible. St. Mary's and St. John's will each have a Priest in Charge defined as they are two separate benefices. Each PCC will nominate two reps to interview and shortlist candidates.

On Friday, 25th March we had a second church visit from George Hastwell School students. Each class performed for each other with music and signing. Johnathan Elvy also gave a short Christian talk with the aid of a 'Jack in the Box'.

Carlisle Diocese is the first Diocese to have its churchyards scanned by surveyors as part of the national Burial Grounds Mapping Project (BGMP) programme. It is a scheme that comes at no cost to parishes, and parishes will have free access to the map through a web-based record system. St. Mary's Registers have been scanned over the past two weeks and returned. Expecting church yard scanning in coming weeks. We expect to see digital mapping published after July.

A successful Friday evening/Saturday morning event was held in the Centre by the Rainbows and Guides and raised £150. A further £115 was made by the Cake Stall to go to church funds.

We appreciate all who help us to keep the church running well and our thanks go to Revd. Aimee Lynch and Revd. Robin Ham who have helped with extra services over the past few weeks.

We also extend grateful thanks to Arthur Watts for standing in for Rhona and Maureen when they were both unavailable to be present for a recent big funeral and for his work



in the churchyard cataloguing the removal of artificial flowers from the graves. We are also very grateful to Mr. Mike Turnough for cutting the hedge which runs from the centre car park up to the church path. (Post meeting: Roger sent him a thank you letter)

The commitment to work together as the body of Christ in our church and community is recognised by those who come to share in our worship and fellowship.

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

Maureen said the Mission Community Prayer Meetings continue to meet at a different venue each week and are led by someone from whichever church is host. The meetings take place on alternative Tuesday's and Wednesday's each month which enables people who have regular other meetings on either of those days an opportunity to come. The third week of every month is Prayer and breakfast at the Ferry Hotel on Walney. There will be a break of two weeks during the Easter holidays and meetings will resume on Tuesday 19th April for prayer and breakfast at the Ferry Hotel .

This Sunday is a National Day of Prayer for Ukraine. We are awaiting BMC instructions for an event at the Spirit of Barrow monument in Dalton Rd on Sunday from 1600-1700.

#### **9. Safeguarding (Rhona)**

Rhona completed new Leadership Safeguarding training and received her certification. Maureen and Marie are on the waiting list for F2F Safeguarding courses in May.

I have now completed Brendas DBS on Line and understand the system.

All PCC members need to have a current DBS. On checking the register we only have one PCC member who needs to have DBS Accreditation which is targeted for completion before the APCM.

All Covid restrictions have now been lifted in Church Buildings but it is up to the individual. We will continue to have hand sanitiser and face masks available.

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

##### **10.1 Buildings and Property (Roger)**

This PCC Sub-committee met by Zoom on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March. Work undertaken since the January PCC meeting includes:

- The graffiti on the takeaway wall is expected to be removed very shortly.
- The tiles under the north aisle carpet have been re-secured.
- The Lady Chapel roof repairs were completed.
- Both the Church Yard and Car Park are very dark in the evening. We are talking to Andy Barnes to get his recommendations on security lighting.
- The board supporting the church Electric box in the cellar has rotted and was repaired. Repairs were made to stop water leaking into the cellar from the path.
- The two locked litter receptacles in the car park were removed inexplicably. Following a call to the Council one has been returned and will be emptied weekly.
- New ceiling lights have been installed in the Parish centre. This will reduce energy costs and provide better light for hall users.



- A second quote to replace the Parish Centre roof is awaited. Its clear that the damp problems inside the hall and toilets are caused by roof faults. There are no blockages in the guttering.
- We discussed what we needed to do to ensure we are carbon neutral by 2030 in line with Diocese requirements. First steps are to complete the Energy Footprint Tool and to audit the church against the CofE Net Zero checklist in April to highlight the steps we should prioritise.
- The porch door hinge bolts were re-seated to stop the door catching the floor.
- Gas boiler to be serviced in Parish Centre in April.
- It is proving extremely difficult to secure deliveries of diesel for church heating. Suppliers are not delivering and prices are rising. We must prioritise church heating until the end of April (when heating switched off). Heating should be carefully managed and restricted in priority sequence of (1) ensuring the frost protection mechanism continues to function (2) baptisms/weddings/funerals (3) regular church services. Churchgoers to be notified if heating is not to be used.
- We received the Church Electrical report from Andy Barnes. We are rated "Unsatisfactory" and require eight items to be addressed urgently, improvements made to a further six and two items require further investigation. Roger and Arthur met with Andy on April 5<sup>th</sup> to discuss.

### **10.2 Communications and Connect (Roger)**

The team has not had cause to meet since the last PCC meeting. Team members continue to collaborate and address topics via email.

### **10.3 Worship Committee (Maureen).**

The Worship Committee meets once a month to prepare for a Lay Led Service on the third Sunday of the month. In February due to power failure in the church we moved our service over to the Centre. It was decided to continue this practice on the third Sunday of every month for the time being. Our second Lay Led Service of the Word took place in the Centre on Sunday, 20th March. Mary Bacon gave an interesting and thought provoking talk on the need to repent. Feedback is always welcomed.

The Palm Sunday service will start at 1000 and will be led by Clive Shaw. It will be joint with Vickerstown Methodists.

### **10.4 Baptism Committee (Maureen)**

The Baptism team met in February when it was decided to start to send out Baptism Anniversary cards to those children who were baptised during 2021. In the summer it is planned to invite the families to a short Thanksgiving Service in the Centre on 3rd July followed by tea and cake. We continue to receive a steady number of requests for children to be baptised and due to covid many are around the 2/3 years old. However we are beginning to see some babies being brought for baptism.

## **11: Secretary Report (Roger)**

As requested at the last PCC meeting the church Safeguarding policy was published on the website and ACNY. Also our new Health & Safety Policy was finalised and published on the website. Roger will post on the porch noticeboard too



Preparations for the APCM started following receipt of various email requests from the Diocese. They are referenced in more detail in the APCM AOB item.

Arrangements were made for some PCC members to meet Robin Ham to discuss BMC thoughts on our vicar role and recruitment. A second meeting with Archdeacon Vernon, Father Jack and Robin was arranged for PCC members of St Mary's and St John's.

## **12. Any Other Urgent Business**

### **12.1 Representatives to support vicar recruitment/selection (Rhona)**

Rhona has thought long and hard about the best candidates. She proposed Steve Bacon (Parish Profile) and Maureen Dale (St Mary's history). They will be part of a broader panel to assess and interview shortlisted candidates. PCC endorsed the recommendation.

### **12.2 Raising fees for the Parish Centre (Brenda)**

Centre Costs are increasing (wages, energy, supplies). It's currently £15 per hour to hire the Centre. PCC endorsed an increase to £20 per hour and to review again in October. Rhona is investigating a musical recital to raise funds for the Centre.

### **12.3 Churchyard (Rhona)**

The churchyard is looking much better. Rhona thanked Arthur for cataloguing the removed artificial flowers and ornaments. We should continue to collect all items that do not meet policy requirements. It is proposed to have a churchyard Spring Clean day starting at 0930 on Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup> with the 14<sup>th</sup> as a reserve day.

### **12.4 APCM Readiness (Roger)**

Roger said there are now three baptisms on the day of the planned APCM. To ensure we have the time to focus on managing the APCM he proposed a new APCM date of Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May. PCC approved the change.

In readiness for the APCM notices to secure further Electoral Roll registrations have been posted on the Porch Noticeboard, Website and in the weekly NewsSheet. Contributors to the Annual Report brochure have been asked to submit their reports by April 17<sup>th</sup> for collation. Notification of the APCM and Vestry meetings on the new date will be published next week.

Roger confirmed the status of some post holder roles to ensure alignment on which of those needed to be covered at the APCM and Vestry meeting. PCC members were encouraged to contact anyone who may be interested in joining the PCC.

## **13. Next PCC Meeting Date**

Scheduled for Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May in the Parish Centre.

## **14. Closing Prayers**

Mary closed the meeting with prayers.

Meeting Finished: 21:10