



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council.  
St Mary's Parish Centre  
Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022 at 19:30**

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

**Invited:** Lee Castle

Meeting Started: 19:28

**1. Opening Prayers**

The meeting opened with prayers from Maureen.

**2. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> March 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. PCC Roles (Rhona)**

Rhona welcomed our new PCC members Ged and Monica Pugh who were elected at the APCM. PCC discussed an application from Lee Castle. As Lee is still to be confirmed PCC unanimously agreed to co-opt Lee onto the Buildings&Property Subcommittee. He is entitled to attend PCC meetings but is not allowed to vote.

PCC unanimously elected Rhona Teale to continue as PCC Lay Chair and Roger Burns to continue as PCC Secretary.

PCC Subcommittee Membership was reviewed. Keith and Lee will join Buildings&Property, Rhona will coordinate Social and Monica will join her and Brenda, Ged will join Comms&Connect and Baptism, Worship and Pastoral will remain as is.

PCC discussed the future of the Walney Monumental Inscriptions webpages managed by Aidan Jones that are linked to from the church website. **Roger to investigate options to continue access to this information ahead of the Burial Ground Mapping.**

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

Rhona welcomed everyone to the meeting and our newest members. Rhona thanked everyone for their prayers and support over the last few months. She felt the impact. Whilst normality is returning she asked that we continue to pray for her and family.

Rhona said our vicar role is now advertised on Diocese website. She read the text to the PCC. Applicant deadline is July 14<sup>th</sup> with interviews on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. PCC were concerned



that the application form couldn't be downloaded as implied. Post meeting Rhona contacted Vernon who has now addressed the problem.

#### **7. Treasurers report (David)**

David presented the YTD financial picture. We are doing OK. We have paid £15250 to the Parish Offer, which is over 50% of target. Our bank balance is up £2k on last year. Fabric fund spending was higher due to the Lady Chappel roof repairs. The Parish Centre has new lights funded by a grant. We have £1885 in the fabric fund for church repairs, the Parish Centre fund is £15k. We are awaiting Slimming World to pay Parish Centre fees. **Brenda will chase up.**

Fees income is up with more funerals and donations. Gift Aid Tax received up £300 plus a legacy of £100. Overall General Fund income is up by £3900 and Restricted fund income is up by £2872 compared to last year. General Fund Expenditure is up driven by the increased Parish Offer.

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

Maureen said that since the last PCC meeting there have been 8 Baptisms, 5 funerals, 4 Interment of Ashes and 2 Memorial Services.

On 7th May we had another Churchyard Clean-Up Day when it was discovered that there were many overgrown grave plaques many of which have now been cleared and special thanks go to Arthur Watts and Monica Ged for their diligence in continuing to get as many as possible cleared before the Churchyard is scanned by surveyors as part of the national Burial Grounds Mapping Project programme. Although this was expected to take place before now there has been a delay due to technical problems and we are awaiting a new date. The number of people who were able to come and help was disappointing but we were very grateful for the amount of work that it was possible to get done. We extend grateful thanks to all who came to help.

Christian Aid Week took place during 15th – 21st May and envelopes were available at the back of church for donations which raised £218.00 and a further £212.00 was raised by holding a Christian Aid Ploughman's Lunch on Saturday, 20th May making a total of £430.00. Thanks go to Brenda Hill and Sheila Reynolds for organising the lunch and to all who gave so generously.

St. Mary's Brownies held a Party on Wednesday 25th May to raise funds for Ukraine and £129.00 was raised. Well done to Brown Owl, helpers and Brownies.

The Deanery Ascension Day Service was held in St. Aidan's Church on Thursday evening, 26th May at which The Revd. Robin Ham preached.

As a PCC and Church we still have many challenges to address with regard to the maintenance of our buildings which the Building and Property Sub Committee are looking into. Please pray that wise decisions will be reached.

It has been a busy time since our last PCC meeting and Rhona and Maureen are very grateful for the support and encouragement that they receive from the church family. Please remain prayerful as we continue to wait for a new vicar to be appointed.



## 9. Barrow Mission Community (Maureen)

Maureen said the BMC Prayer Meetings continue to meet at different locations every week and the focus of prayer is on praying for our individual churches, communities and town. Seeking God's guidance in ways in which to invite others to explore what it means to be a Christian. These meetings are open to everyone.

## 10. Safeguarding (Rhona)

Rhona said she will follow up with DBS certification for new PCC members.

## 11. PCC Sub-committee Reports

### 11.1 Buildings and Property.

This PCC Sub-committee did not meet in May due to delegate availability. Risks were assessed and progressed via email. Work undertaken since the March PCC meeting includes:

- Protective measures to prevent rainwater leakage into the cellar electrical boxes are working. The rotting board have been replaced and electrical boxes re-seated.
- The two rubbish bins in the car park were removed unexpectedly by the council. After contacting them one bin has been returned and is to be emptied weekly.
- The Church Electrical survey was received from Andy Barnes. Andy walked through the necessary changes with Roger and Arthur. Awaiting Andy to implement required changes to improve safety and efficiency.
- DSL have amended boiler settings so only one boiler fires up when using hot water, not two, thereby saving energy costs.
- Arthur and Roger inspected guttering outside gents and ladies toilets. There are no obvious blockages. A new roof is needed to address the shortcomings of the current roof which has past its expected service life.
- Andy Barnes installed new LED lighting in the Parish Centre reducing energy costs.
- A second quote to replace the Parish Centre roof was received.
- The lightening conductor test required by the latest Quinquennial survey was completed successfully.

Arthur reported to the meeting that the graffiti has been cleared from the back of the shop facing the churchyard. PCC thanked Arthur for his persistence.

PCC discussed the Parish Centre roof. Rainwater is leaking from guttering by the toilets. We still need to raise money to provide a new roof. **The Social Committee were asked if they could provide some ideas to raise money, for example another Music Marathon, at the next PCC.** Ged offered to help Roger with grant applications.

PCC had a lengthy but necessary discussion on the Knox Street Annex. It was agreed we needed to respond to our insurer's latest requests and board up the building and to submit the 2014 Structural survey report along with a recent building expert's observations on its current state. Another company has been identified to perform an up-to-date survey if necessary.

PCC agreed that despite delays in Land Registration and planning permission expiration the best course of action is to proceed with a sale. It was noted that the Scouts can manage with the main hall and do not require the Annex. If a sale is clearly not viable then PCC will review. **Roger agreed to reflect our concerns with the Diocese Solicitor, to**



establish if planning permission can be extended and to take necessary actions to expedite a sale.

### **11.2 Communications and Connect**

The team has not met since the last PCC meeting. Team members continue to collaborate and address topics via email. Our website is getting around 6 “hits” a day with the “Contact Us” and “Parish Centre” pages getting the greatest interest. Our “A Church Near You” website is getting around 14 “hits” a day. Our Facebook membership continues to grow with 339 members.

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

Maureen said the Worship Committee have been very busy over the last two months in preparing Lay Led Services especially as we approached the Easter season.

Our Palm Sunday Service on 10th April was a Service of Holy Communion at which the retired Revd. Clive Shaw presided, our thanks go to him.

We joined with Vickerstown Methodist Church on the evening of 14th April for the Maundy Thursday Service which was a lovely Service led by Revd. Dr. Helen Hooley. On Good Friday afternoon a Service of the Word was held in St. Mary's at 2pm led by the Worship Group and on Easter Day the retired Revd. John Hodgkinson presided at a Service of Holy Communion. Again on 24th April a Service of the Word was led by the Worship Group at which Opa Geilbel very kindly came and preached God's word. On the 22nd May the Worship Group led a Service of the Word on which the focus was the work of Christian Aid. We appreciate all the help we receive especially from Fr. Jack Knill Jones and clergy from within the Deanery. We very much appreciate help from retired clergy.

### **11.4 Baptism Committee (Maureen)**

Maureen said the Baptism Team continue to carry out Baptism Preparation for families bringing their children for baptism every month. Over the past two months eight children have been baptised on the first and second Sundays of each month. We also still have requests for baptism and will soon be fully booked for the remainder of the year. We still have plans to hold a short Thanksgiving Service in the Centre to welcome those families whose children were baptised during 2021. Fr. Jack Knill-Jones and Revd. Martin Williams, Methodist Minister have carried out all the baptisms and our thanks go to them.

## **12. Secretary Report (Roger)**

Roger said Preparations for the APCM were undertaken. The meeting was held on Sunday May 22nd in the Parish Centre. Following elections of officials then the necessary registration to the Diocese was made. He also had dialogue with the Diocese to ensure the appropriate paperwork was completed to select a new incumbent.

## **13. Any Other Urgent Business**

### **13.1 Resuming distribution of Communion wine (Maureen)**

Maureen said we need to make a decision on the resumption of taking wine at Communion. PCC agreed we need to go back to the taking of wine. We are not allowed to use individual cups for wine. Amy uses the intinction method to dip bread in wine. Other churches are returning to the shared cup though people can choose not to use it. There was a split PCC vote between these two methods so it was agreed to get feedback from parishoners at this coming Sunday's service in the Centre.



### **13.2 New Hygiene Rating for the Parish Centre (Brenda)**

Brenda said we need to get new food rating. We should expect an unannounced visit however the centre is not permanently staffed to receive it. The Hygiene team will not phone ahead of the visit. Brenda has phoned them repeatedly and they keep saying they will get back to us. Maureen offered to contact Frank Cassidy to get his support.

### **13.3 New Parish Centre Booking Terms & Rules (Brenda)**

Brenda shared the Parish Centre Booking Terms and Rules. PCC members suggested some appropriate amendments to be made. The discussion prompted a request for **Jonathan to switch off the Centre heating for the summer** and Maureen asked **Roger to put "Keyholders List" on next PCC Agenda.**

### **13.4 "Adopt a Defibrillator" sponsorship (Maureen)**

Maureen picked up a letter delivered to the Vicarage from Barrow&Walney Team Leaders regarding maintenance costs for Defibrillators. There are 22 of these across Walney that need annual maintenance to housing, pads and batteries. Owners of where these devices are housed are being asked to "adopt it" and maintain it with the help of the Walney First Responders. PCC raised questions over the scope of responsibilities, costs and liabilities. PCC felt there wasn't enough information to make a decision. Roger to write to them asking for a meeting to address questions before any decision can be made.

### **13.5 Use of loop system in the Parish Centre (Mary)**

Mary said we are having lay-led services in the Parish Centre and some people are struggling with hearing. **Mary said she will look at options to put in a loop system with a suitable wide range microphone and come back to PCC.**

## **14. Next PCC Meeting Date**

Scheduled for Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> July at 19:30 in the Parish Centre.

## **15. Closing Prayers**

Mary closed the meeting with prayers.

Meeting Finished: 21:52