



Minutes of the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council.

St Mary's Parish Centre

Thursday 24th November at 19:00

Present: In the Chair: Rhona Teale
Mary Bacon, Roger Burns (Sec), Lee Castle, Maureen Dale, Brenda Hill, David Hollis, Keith Newby, Ged Pugh, Monica Pugh, Arthur Watts, Janet Western

Invited guests (item 2 only) Terry Melody, Frances Middleton

Meeting Started: 19:01

1. Opening Prayers

The meeting opened with prayers from Rhona.

2. Defibrillator demonstration and discussion (Terry and Francis).

Terry talked about the newly formed Walney Island Defibrillator Fund to support devices on the island. He and Frances demonstrated the use of CPR and our Defibrillator to restart a person's heart. In parallel a 999 call should be made for an ambulance to attend the Centre, LA14 3AD. The team are talking to local agencies about funding as they establish charitable status. There are 17 defibs on island. People should inform them if a unit is used or damaged. Their phone number is on collection boxes and Facebook.

Fundraising was discussed. Terry asked if they could attend church events in 2023 to demonstrate and raise awareness which was agreed to. Rhona suggested a church fair next year to raise funds. PCC supported a £200 donation to the fund now.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on 29th September 2022 were agreed unanimously as a correct record and signed off by Rhona.

4. Matters Arising

Maureen will keep chasing BMC leaders to better publicise meeting venues and dates.

5. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Jonathan Elvy

6. Lay Chair's Report (Rhona)

Rhona welcomed and thanked everyone for their continued support. She said we can now see the light at the end of a very long tunnel and our prayers have been answered.

She thanked Monica for her hard work in managing 346 Shoe Boxes for Romania. A total of 3287 boxes left Barrow. Rhona also recognised Monica's work in running the Warm space hub with Brenda and Pat, running the Scout and Guide groups, cleaning the church, gardening and much more.

Rhona said PCC members have been invited to a preview evening before the opening of the Lion and Unicorn shop on the Promenade. Rhona secured 8 tickets for PCC members for the God for all Roadshow at St. Pauls Church on January 24th. Rhona



shared she has now become a Trustee and Chair of Barrow Women's Community Matters.

7. Treasurers report (David)

David presented the YTD financial picture. We are doing reasonably well, our Parish Offer paid to date is £27800 and we expect the remainder to be paid next week. Restricted funds had a £6k donation allowing electrical work to be completed. Stewardship, fundraising, halls, fees income is all up on last year along with more donations. Church expenses are up mainly due to oil costs and we have paid £2800 more for our Parish Offer. Sundry expenses are up mainly due to vicar recruitment costs.

8. Churchwardens Report (Maureen)

Maureen said the interviews for a new Vicar were completed. Archdeacon Vernon Ross was Chair of the Panel with Fr. Jack Knill Jones (Rural Dean), Revd. Martin Cooper (BMC Joint Leader), Steve and Maureen from St. Mary's and Matt and Val from St. John's. The panel offered the role of Priest in Charge of both parishes to the Revd. Stuart Silk who has accepted. The letter of appointment by the Bishop of Carlisle was read to both churches by the churchwardens on Sunday, 30th October. Stuart's arrival date is to be confirmed. We look forward to welcoming them to St. Mary's.

On October 11th a Harvest Supper was held in the Centre, very kindly donated by Debbie, our Centre Cleaner. Debbie cooked a lovely pie and peas meal with the help of her husband and £354 pounds was raised towards the repair of the Centre roof. Our grateful thanks were expressed for her kindness and generosity.

PCC met with Archdeacon Vernon in the Centre on November 1st to discuss the Barrow Mission Pastoral Re-organisation. Vernon stated that there was a significant sum of money to be invested in Barrow and a discussion followed as to how it could be spent wisely to grow the church in Barrow. Vernon said we need to think and pray about a strategy that the Church Commissioners can invest in (see the details of this meeting in the Minutes which were circulated to all PCC members.)

The Synod met in Greenodd Village Hall on November 3rd to which Churchwardens as well as Synod Reps from the Barrow and Furness Deaneries were also invited. This was an opportunity to meet the new Bishop of Penrith, the Rt Revd. Rob Saner- Haigh. The Revd. Robin Ham carried out an informal question and answer type interview in which the Bishop shared how he grew up in a Christian family, studied geology and then heard the call to ministry. He had previously spent 10 years as Vicar in Kendal. He reminded everyone that it is God's Church and he will do with it what he will.

St. Mary's registered with Cumbria County Council 'Warm Spaces'. The Centre is open every Wednesday from 12-3pm and offers warm drinks, toasties etc for all who come. This is organised by Monica Pugh with help from others from within the church.

We have requests from four schools to come into church over the Christmas period.

9. Barrow Mission Community (Maureen)

BMC Prayer Group met during October on Tuesday mornings in St. Mary's Centre, St. John's Church and had Prayer/Breakfast at Abbey Road Baptist Church. We met in George Hastwell School on Walney during Half Term and in November we met at the Salvation Army, St James Church, Abbey Road Baptist Church and St Mark's Church.



A 'Thought for the Day' is usually brought by whoever is leading followed by a time of open prayer for the needs of the town and communities. It is a good way to meet and share with other Christians from the various churches in the town. Maureen encouraged PCC members to join in. Breakfast meetings tend to work best for conversation. **Maureen will email Mary meeting dates which can go on Pew Sheet**

10. Deanery Synod (Brenda)

Refer to meeting description in the Churchwardens report

11. Safeguarding (Rhona)

Rhona spoke to Jo Van Lachterop Safeguarding Officer at Carlisle Diocese about DBS and Safeguarding for PCCs. She advised both Basic and Foundation levels of safeguarding training is mandated for all PCC members in the Safeguarding Learning & Development Framework 2021. This has been approved by House of Bishops. By failing to comply, we may find insurance is void should something go wrong! Training should be repeated every three years.

Rhona reminded PCC Members must have a DBS and must complete these courses and Domestic Abuse training. Parish Safeguarding Officers, Lay Ministers/Readers and Church Wardens need the same plus Leadership certification. All to advise Rhona on completion of each. It was suggested members put Rhona's email address into their course profile so that she gets notification when you have completed

The courses are on the Diocese website under Safeguarding. Rhona stressed we should aim to have all safeguarding records up to date for St. Mary's and St. Johns before Stuart's arrival. Rhona is also organising F2F Leadership training next year in the Centre.

12. PCC Sub-committee Reports

12.1 Buildings and Property (Roger)

Roger said this PCC Sub-committee met F2F in November. Work undertaken since the last PCC meeting includes:

- Significant discussion and assessments have been undertaken with the Promenade shop owners and police to address the vandalism situation. CCTV has now been installed at the rear of the shops. Other options such as lighting and fencing could be considered later. Installing access gates into the churchyard was assessed but would be too costly and disruptive. Rhona & Roger will maintain dialogue with owners.
- Trees and shrubs are overhanging Church Lane and may cause injury. Rhona will talk to an individual who has indicated they can help to cut hedges.
- Church electrical works are near completion. Safety issues addressed, improved LED lights installed and wiring/socket arrangements simplified. A good job done !
- Leaks/damp in the gents toilets have now been fixed with a new control switch to regulate the urinal flushing cycle.
- The Centre floorboards have risen further in the far right hand corner. We will inspect the outside drain and also establish if there are any underlying water sources.
- The broken light switch to control the outside Centre lights has been replaced.
- A roof leak into the Centre kitchen has been repaired.
- After speaking to the solicitor about Knox St Annex land registration and potential options for use or disposal it makes sense to complete the current registration (expected this month) and make any revisions once a clear plan is in place. The corrugated asbestos sheet in the ginnel was disposed of safely. .



- There is a gap in the Lady Chapel South wall that requires filling. We are checking church regulations on mortar/cement.
- The missing lady Chapel windows require a new polycarbonate sheet and 4 small glass panes inserting. We are identifying specialist glass restorer for an estimate
- We have purchased a wheelbarrow and soldering iron to assist church maintenance.
- Some of the secondary Perspex panes above the East window have broken rivets and are flapping in the wind. Roger and Arthur will take a look.

12.2 Communications and Connect (Roger)

Roger said the team met via Zoom in November. Our church website has been upgraded to Wordpress 6.1 however there are still intermittent errors when accessing the Contacts page. We had 257 hits over the last 30 days. Interestingly we peaked at 40 hits on October 30th, the day Stuart's arrival was announced here and in his parish. It's apparent more people are accessing the website through mobile phones (53%) compared to desktop (42%) and tablets (5%).

The Walney Monuments domains were transferred over to Roger to pay annual charges. There are two domains, both similar, so only one has been paid for and we'll monitor.

ACNY content is maintained in line with the website. It had 556 views in the last 30 days.

We are now up to 385 Facebook members. Denise continues to keep a close eye on new joining requests to ensure they are genuine. Viewing numbers continue to be strong, again Stuart's announcement triggered a peak of 210 views on October 30th

Ged shared the District Scouts were using a mobile 50Gb wifi unit to support their work for a very reasonable cost. This could be a good solution for St Mary's once we had mapped out future technology requirements.

We felt it was appropriate to explore church technology options and discuss with specialist suppliers ahead of Stuart's arrival. Ideas were documented including audio and visual devices that can handle varied uses and can be managed from the back of church.

Do PCC members have any thoughts on improving our church experience through technology ?

12.3 Worship Committee (Maureen).

Maureen said we welcomed Revd. Sarah Richardson, BMC Curate, to preside at our Service of Communion on Sunday, 9th October. On Sunday, 16th October a Lay Led Harvest Service was held in the Centre. Non perishable food was donated by the congregation and taken to the Food Bank. On Sunday, 30th October a Lay Led All Soul's Service was held in Church to which those who had been bereaved over the past year were invited. Attendees could write the names of those they wished to be remembered on a heart shaped card and light a tealight candle. The service was appreciated by those who came. The Archdeacon came and presided at the annual Service of Remembrance on Sunday, 13th November at which the names of those on the War graves in the Church graveyard were read out and the wreath of poppies laid at the altar.

Maureen reported church attendance is climbing now averaging 45 each Sunday.



12.4 Baptism Committee (Maureen)

Maureen said there were two baptisms on Sunday, 2nd October and two on 13th November. We also had two cancellations. Our next Preparation Evening is on November 30th for one family with two children and one family with one child.

12.5 Social (Rhona)

Rhona said she'd spoken with Brenda and decided to leave the formation of a committee to develop ideas and plans until the New Year.

13. Secretary Report (Roger)

Nothing significant to report other than arranging a meeting with Vernon and St John's PCC to discuss Barrow re-organisation on November 2nd. Monica took notes which were distributed to both St Mary's and St John's PCCs

14. Any Other Urgent Business

14.1 Warm Spaces (Monica)

Monica said she's pleased with the uptake of between 10-20 people from church and the community attending. The conversation and interaction is good to see. We are using donated food and refreshments and warm clothes and blankets are made available.

Monica is to check if we can get a Warm Space banner to display in the Centre.

14.2 Christmas arrangements (Maureen)

Maureen said our Carol service is on December 11th at 1600 with mince pies and coffee afterwards in the Centre. St John's Carol service is earlier in the day. Our Christingle is on the 18th at 1600. There will be no Christmas Eve communion and our Christmas Day service, held jointly with St John's, is at 1000 with the Revd Clive Shaw presiding. Mary to publish details on this week's Pew sheet, Roger to publish on website and ACNY.

14.3 Communion Common Cup (Maureen)

Maureen said there was a roughly even split when last week's congregation were asked how they now felt about returning to using the Common Cup for communion. Some asked if they could intinct the bread themselves in the cup as an option. PCC discussed the matter in depth and a majority decision was taken to continue with the current practice of intinction by the priest with distribution now to be at the altar. PCC will reassess the situation at the March meeting. PCC also agreed to re-start Church Parades by the uniformed organisations at the next Mothering Sunday service on March 19th.

14.4 Music Marathon (Rhona)

Rhona shared names of artists booked in. We are hopeful in filling the last remaining slot.

14.5 PCC Meeting Dates 2023/24 (Roger)

Roger circulated next year's meeting dates, they follow a similar pattern as this year.

15. Next PCC Meeting Date

Scheduled for Thursday 26th January at 19:30 in the Parish Centre.

16. Closing Prayers

Maureen closed the meeting with prayers.

Meeting Finished: 21:23