



Minutes of the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council.

St Mary's Parish Centre

Thursday 26th January at 19:30

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

Meeting Started: 19:29

1. Opening Prayers

The meeting opened with prayers from Mary.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on 24th November 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

Apologies received from David Hollis and Ged Pugh

5. Lay Chair's Report (Rhona)

Rhona gave a warm welcome to everyone. She said we are getting ever closer to Stuart's arrival and she shared a message from Stuart which was appreciated and warmly received.

Rhona also shared a letter about the recent National Burial Ground Survey. The funding model has been extended such that more options are available free of charge. Tools will be made available for parishes to add new burial, baptism and marriage records (where applicable), add new memorials and associated photographs, record reservations, enter full memorial inscriptions and record biodiversity. A subscription will no longer be necessary for this access.

A subscription model will remain in place (£8 pcm) to enable subscribers to record health and safety inspections of memorials, create customised drawings of the churchyard e.g. for faculty applications and to add grave/burial plots.

Maureen and myself hold the User Guide documents and there will be a copy in the vestry along with our maps. We don't yet have a date for when this is live. PCC unanimously agreed to stay with the zero cost option.

Rhona read a letter sent to all Clergy, Church Wardens and PCC Secretaries with regard to Permission to Officiate from the Bishop of Carlisle. He asks us to ensure that those who do services for us have the right Permissions to Officiate and hold the required DBS and Safeguarding training.



6. Treasurers report (David)

Rhona conveyed a message from David saying the Parish offer has been paid in full for last year and so far we have paid off £1,300 this year. He has also made a claim to the Diocese for an energy grant.

7. Churchwardens Report (Maureen&Rhona)

Maureen said during December we had visits from South Walney Junior School Year 3 children at which Mary and Maureen gave a short talk and looked at all the interesting things to see in the church and their meaning and also the different items used in the services. They asked lots of questions and we felt uplifted by the interest they showed and the teachers kindly said that they felt they had all learnt something new and important. Mary, Brenda and Maureen together with Revd. Robin Ham and Revd. Simon Jones also visited Walney Senior School and met with Rachael Penn, tutor for Religious Education and four students who are studying for their GCSE exams. We had a time of sharing Christians beliefs and a time for Q & As. They were a friendly quiet group of three girls and one boy. We hope this was of help for them and they thanked us for our time. George Hastwell School had also booked to come into church but had to cancel due to an out break of the flu. Vickerstown School came to St. Mary's to hold their Carol Concert to which the children's parents had been invited. This was a large gathering and was much enjoyed. The Headmaster expressed his thanks for our willingness to make the church available for their use. We hope to continue to grow the links with the schools on the Island.

A Christmas tree was once again purchased from Holker Hall Estate and was decorated with lights and the nativity scene was placed in front of the altar and the window sills decorated.

Thanks go to all who helped with the Services and to decorate both the Church and Centre for the Christmas period.

8. Mission Community Report (Maureen)

Maureen said the last Mission Community Prayer Meeting of 2022 took place in St. Mary's Centre on Tuesday, 20th December with breakfast and prayer and we reminded ourselves that more important than a naturally nutritious breakfast is a spiritually nutritious breakfast. In Psalm 63:1 David said 'O God, You are my God; Early will I seek You'. We gave praise to God for who He is, gave thanks for particular blessings over the past year and prayed for those in the world who because of their circumstances cannot see the light in their lives. It is hoped to re-start very soon with better accessible days and times which it is hoped will help more people to be able to attend.

9. Safeguarding (Rhona)

Rhona gave an update on Safeguarding Basic and Foundation. Jonathan has completed both and is booked on for Zoom Leadership. Roger Burns and Mary Bacon completed Basic and Foundation. Rhona completed Basic and Foundation (completed Leadership March 2022). Arthur Watts has completed Basic Awareness. Maureen, Brenda and Marie are doing Basic and Foundation on 28th January F2Face at Ulverston.



Jo Van Lachterop cannot now offer a F2F Leadership at Walney but is looking to do one in Furness/South Lakes in the next 3 months or so. Maureen and Marie will attend this.

Rhona read out a Letter from James Brunskill regarding Train the Trainer to help the Diocese cover a wider area enabling less travel for people. 43 people attended the last course and the next one is Monday 13th March 2023 at Church House Friargate, Penrith 10 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. Anyone interested in attending should contact Jo at safeguarding.advisor@carlisediocese.org.uk.

There is also a Domestic abuse course that can be done online and is highly recommended. If you haven't completed this it is advisable but not compulsory

10. PCC Sub-committee Reports

10.1 Buildings and Property (Roger)

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

- **Vandalism:** No further damage at the bottom of the churchyard to report since CCTV was installed at the rear of the Promenade shops.
- **Trees overhanging Church Lane:** Rhona will instigate pruning once the weather improves. The hedge along the Centre car park has been cut, we think by Mike from Church Lane. We thank him for his work.
- **Electrical work: Is now complete.** Parishioners and visiting clergy have commented on the big improvement to the lighting.
- **Centre Toilets:** Now the leaks have been fixed Lee and Dawn applied a coat of paint to finish off. They also tidied up the church toilet and sink as raised in the QQ report.
- **Centre Flooring:** Following discussion the meeting felt the raised flooring was caused by climate conditions (ie when wet/humid the boards raise, when dry/warm they shrink back). Keith had spoken to Trevor Blower who reaffirmed the presence of a spring which rises and falls depending on the weather. Roger had checked the drains which were not blocked and the Centre plans indicated a considerable gap/air space underneath the flooring in question. We will continue to monitor and take action if it becomes a safety issue.
- **Centre Kitchen leaks:** A burst pipe above the kitchen during the December freeze was fixed by a parent of one of the Rainbows. The ceiling has since dried out. Jonathan checked the pipe work in the loft space and reported some pipes are lagged using a variety of methods along with an unmarked gas pipe. We will monitor and address pipe insulation and electrical works when a new roof is installed. Whilst a suggestion was made to keep the kitchen shutters open in cold spells Monica reported that it was 4 degs in the Centre recently. Provision of a thermostat controlled heater in the kitchen could be a solution. **Jonathan to check and raise the Centre heating thermostat if necessary. Roger to check loose kitchen light fitting.**
- **Cellar steps puddling:** Arthur cleared the drain which addressed the problem.
- **Lady Chapel gap in wall:** Roger looked at the CofE and Carlisle Diocese for repair guidance. Lime mortar is used on old buildings and provides a degree of ventilation. Modern buildings with cavity walls tend to use cement. Maureen and Rhona will try to get more details on our church construction and Arthur and Roger will confirm our mortar type through visual inspection.
- **East window secondary panels:** More rivets have come out and the panels flap during high winds. The meeting discussed the need for repair and options to do it. Attendees asked to come back with if they any candidates who could do the work.

- **Broken Vestry window panels:** The meeting agreed Arthur should go ahead and make the repairs when the weather allows.
- **Knox Street:** Keith reported that a new door to the ginnel and a new roof to the gas store had been put in place.
- **NetZero:** We should have a position we can discuss with Stuart on his arrival. We should use the outcomes from the recent Energy Survey completed by David to give us a starting point.

Important updates to share since the B&P meeting.

- A **blocked drainpipe box** outside the choir vestry led to water leaking into the Vestry and pooling. Cabinets and items were removed and the room dried out with heaters. The drainpipe box was unblocked. **Various risks and issues** with flashing, sealants and cracks around the choir vestry area were then identified.

The impact of the Vestry leak was discussed by PCC. Several photographs had been damaged but Mary reported Steve had taken copies of them some time ago and so could be reproduced. PCC agreed to Mary's proposal to purchase an album to store the Vestry photographs.

Rhona also reported that the Porch had water running down the walls. Arthur said he had removed a baseball cap and a bottle jammed into the drainpipe and the sump on the Porch roof. It is hoped this will address the problem. She also said the Lady Chapel walls are still getting very wet. Rhona has purchased a moisture meter to monitor level of damp in the building. Roger will take a look at the various damp issues next week. We should also focus on roof inspection and clearing when we next do churchyard maintenance.

- **Knox Street Land Registration** has finally come through. The parsonage land adjoining the Annex is not included in the deed. No further action planned until we have Stuart's insights on its future. Costs of work to survey, acquire planning permission, secure the building and prepare Annex for sale to date are £3758.

10.2 Communications and Connect (Roger)

Roger reported the team met via Zoom in January. The website, ACNY and Facebook were actively used to communicate our church Christmas Services in December. The website attracted 180 views in the last 30 days, roughly 6 per day, with a peak of 14 on December 24th. 71% visitors were new to the website. ACNY attracted 421 views over the last 30 days, an average of 14 per day. Our Facebook membership continues to grow with 407 members. Baptism information is a key driver for some new members.

Searle Audio visited church on Monday 23rd to assess Audio/Visual Technology options based on our requirements. We await their recommendations.

10.3 Worship Committee (Maureen).

Maureen said the Worship Committee continue to meet regularly and welcomed the Revd. Sarah Richardson to preside and preach at our Service of Holy Communion on Sunday, 27th November. Over Christmas we held a Carol Service on Sunday, 12th and a Christingle Service on the 18th. We welcomed Revd. Clive Shaw to preside and preach at our Christmas Day Service which was much appreciated and once again our thanks go to him for all his help over the past year. In January we have had our usual Lay Led and Communion by Extension Services and we joined with Vickerstown



Methodist Church for their Covenant Service on 15th January. It was a lovely service led by The Revd. Dr. Helen Hooley South West Cumbria United Area Lead Minister and Superintendent. The Committee appreciate all those who help in so many different ways and especially appreciate the technical/music support that Steve and Ged give.

10.4 Baptism Committee (Maureen)

Maureen said we had 2 children from the same family baptised in December and none in January. We have bookings for February and March. As we expect our new Vicar Stuart to be in post sometime in late April we will not be taking any more bookings until after his arrival. **Maureen will work with Roger and Denise to reflect the situation on the Website and Facebook.**

10.5 Social Committee (Rhona)

Rhona said the main focus is on arranging the Music Marathon. Our Warm space gathering each Wednesday is progressing well, with usually 12-20 attendees.

11. Secretary Report (Roger)

Nothing significant to report.

12. Any Other Urgent Business

12.1 Widow Mite giving (Rhona)

Rhona handed out a background document. PCC members discussed and felt whilst worthy the priority is to build up our church and finances will follow.

12.2 Music Marathon (Rhona)

Rhona said adverts had been put up locally and on the Diocese Facebook page. She will contact Radio Cumbria, CanDo FM and the Mail. She will send messages to Roger & Denise for our Web & Facebook. It will be on Saturday 18th February from 1000 to 2000 with a buffet supper in the Centre afterwards.

12.3 Choir Vestry Maintenance (Rhona)

Rhona said the Vestry needs tidying up. It was agreed she and Maureen would gather up what we need and don't need and get Stuart's view before disposal.

12.4 Churchyard Maintenance (Rhona)

Rhona proposed we set a date for Churchyard maintenance. A churchyard mini clearance date was set for April 1st at 1000 then a full maintenance day in May. PCC also agreed a date of March 11th between 1000-1400 to tidy up the vicarage. Team should bring a packed lunch. Monica offered the use of Knox St Hall for toilets and refreshments.

13. Next PCC Meeting Date

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

14. Closing Prayers

Brenda closed the meeting with prayers.

Meeting Finished: 21:17