



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council.  
St Mary's Parish Centre  
Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March at 19:30**

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

Meeting Started: 19:34

**1. Opening Prayers**

The meeting opened with prayers from Maureen.

**2. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023 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 Ged Pugh.

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

Rhona gave a warm welcome to everyone. She said this will be her last meeting as Lay Chair after 2.5 years. She valued all the support she has received from everyone. PCC thanked her for fulfilling the role.

**6. Treasurers report (David)**

David presented the 2022 Accounts. Resources received was £63,300, an increase of £7,540 on 2021, resources used were £69,120 an increase of £15,880 on 2021. This left a deficit of £1504 on general funds and £4315 on restricted funds. The main causes of the restricted deficit were the increased costs of oil and of boarding up Knox Street Annex.

Income was up from planned giving (up by £520), donors (£1515), fund raising (£849), funerals and weddings (£415) and Centre and Hall bookings. Outgoings included an increased Parish Offer (£29,300), church building costs (up by £1000), significant repairs to the church which were partially offset by donations and increased day to day running expanses. We worked hard to keep expenses to a minimum.

We can look back with some pride and despite some setbacks we have a bright period ahead of us. David thanked everyone for their support as he completes his 41st year in the role. Mary proposed we accept the accounts and Brenda seconded. PCC agreed unanimously.

Looking at 2023 YTD we have paid £5800 towards our increased Parish Offer of £30800. Total income this year is up by £3845. David secured £3k from Diocese in grants for heating. Expenditure is down on last year. Rhona thanked David for his good work.



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

Maureen said the 'God for All' Roadshow took place in St. Paul's Church just before our last PCC Meeting which was led by the Bishop of Penrith the Rt. Revd. Robert Saner-Haigh. This was a well-attended meeting by churches from across the Barrow and Furness Deaneries. Bishop Rob shared the difficulties within the Diocese regarding finance, recruiting and the filling of clergy vacancies. Short videos were shown of how churches across the deaneries were coping and addressing new initiatives to encourage one another in mission to our communities.

Every year in January two Agape Meals are hosted by the Baptist Church and ourselves and around 35 meals were prepared by St. Mary's. Unfortunately, several who had indicated they would be attending did not come. In future it is hoped to address this problem so that food is not wasted. The talk was given by Pastor Jonny Harrison from the Spring Mount Fellowship.

On Saturday, 18th February we again held a Music Marathon to raise funds towards a new roof for our St. Mary's Centre. This ran from 10.00am till 8.00pm and singers/musicians/choirs/groups entertained during the day. The evening ended with a Buffet Supper in the Centre. This event raised £3,145.00.

On March 11th a team of volunteers met at the Vicarage to clean up the drive and pathways and to remove the rubbish. This was quite a daunting task and we are sure Stuart and family will appreciate the hard work put in.

Also on March 11<sup>th</sup> several of our ladies attended the Flourish event hosted by Sarah Richardson.

Invitations to Stuart's Licensing Service which takes place on Saturday, 22nd April at 6.00pm have been sent out and replies are now being received. The Bishop of Carlisle will be coming to License Stuart as Priest in Charge to St. Mary's & St. John's Churches, and we look forward to welcoming Stuart, Katherine and their boys to Walney. We pray for them as they say their goodbyes to Lindfield and prepare to join us here on Walney.

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

Maureen said the Revd. Sarah Richardson, Mission Community Curate arranged a Lent Course for the churches within the Mission Community to run each week during Lent at different times/venues. At St. Mary's the course entitled 'The Prayer Course' by Pete Grieg' based on The Lord's Prayer unpacks the importance of prayer. It takes place every Monday in the centre from 10.00am and people from St. Mary's and Methodist Church have attended.

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

Rhona asked everyone to check and make sure that everything is up to date. PCC Members need to have Basic, Foundation and Domestic Abuse. These are valid for 3 years plus DBS (valid 5 years).



She said anyone in a Leadership role i.e Church Wardens, Lay Readers, Safeguarding Officers and Lay Ministers should have an up-to-date Leadership Module too.

Rhona presented the updated Parish Safeguarding Children Policy. PCC approved. It will be signed and displayed in all Church Buildings.

## 10. PCC Sub-committee Reports

### 10.1 Buildings and Property (Roger)

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

- **East window secondary panels.** These have been re-riveted except for one difficult to reach quatrefoil. This is cited as a desirable improvement in our QQ report with no timescale assigned. We will replace if an opportunity arises.
- **Porch leak** The adjoining drainpipe box and sump on roof had baseball cap and bottle jammed in to create flooding. Items removed to address problem. The Porch Noticeboard was showing signs of damp and fungal growth and was removed. We will use the children's corner noticeboard temporarily until a portable notice board can be sourced.
- **Electrical system work** Now complete a submission to get a VAT refund of £1176 was made successfully to the Listed Places of Worship scheme.
- **Water ingress into Lady Chapel** Whilst there are mortar gaps the sloping cast iron gutter remains a prime concern. We are looking to realign or replace by a suitably aligned metal gutter subject to Diocese rules.
- **Vestry flooding** Drain unblocked to prevent overflow. Brickwork to be checked along with options to prevent drain box being blocked. Vestry being dried through heaters. It is hoped the change in seasons will accelerate the drying process. .
- **Overhanging trees/bushes onto Church Lane may create problems** Churchyard vegetation, including that on the Promenade-facing slope, will be cut back by a local garden maintenance team with Arthur's help to dispose of it. Checks to be made if trees/bushes overhanging Church Lane are on church or public land so a decision can be made on them. The Churchyard mini clean planned for April 1<sup>st</sup> will not proceed however members are encouraged to continue picking up rubbish and items that contravene Churchyard Policy.
- **Church Yard is very dark in the evening, there is no lighting.** Neighbours have reported our waste bins being thrown onto their properties. See later AOB item.
- **Centre roof porous and leaking** Roof funds are now around £20k following the recent Music Marathon..Ged has applied for a £30k grant to the Walney Extension Community Fund (funded by ORSTED). Unfortunately, we were not successful.
- **Gent's toilets have running damp on ceiling/walls** Dawn has painted but some residual damp showing. Will repaint and monitor as warmer weather approaches.
- **Quinquennial Report** Findings that has been addressed were agreed. Propose to identify repairs we could do ourselves (target this summer) and those requiring funding/professional help we could enable through grant applications..
- **Vicarage** PCC members tidied up the Vicarage grounds and paths at the weekend. Rhona has engaged a garden maintenance team to cut the vicarage grass and remove remaining unwanted vegetation.
- **Solar Panels** Malcolm Eacott is looking at the feasibility of installing solar panels on the Centre roof. We would consider this in line with the overall roof replacement.



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

Roger said the team met via Zoom in March. The Website Contact Us box on the front page has been highlighted to help people get the right contacts for baptisms, weddings and funerals. In the last 30 days our Website had 202 hits and ACNY had 360 hits.

Facebook continues to increase membership, up from 407 to 430 members in the past two months. We continue to question and check new applications to join.

We received a constructive and helpful quote from Searles regarding our church audio/video requirements. A suitable audio system managed from the rear of church would be £4.5k. along with a permanent 4 screen video solution at £5k or 2 large portable screens solution at £5.3k. We should await Stuart's direction and balance these costs against the other demands we have across church.

Steve's experiences operating the technology from the side pews at the Mothering Sunday service inspired an idea ! A long 30m lead and connection boxes (cost £25) has been installed to connect the audio system at the front of church to the back pews giving us the benefits of operating with the full church in sight and in hearing. As well as the operational benefits we can refine our vision of audio/visual technology in church. It will also ease the "training" of more operators to take on the role.

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

Maureen said the Worship Committee have met twice since our last PCC Meeting to arrange Lay Led Services for March and April. The Revd. Sarah Richardson preached at the Mother's Day Service on 26th March which was a lovely Service at which the uniformed organisations were present and the children gave out bunches of daffodils to all the ladies in church. Revd. Sarah is always a very welcome Minister at St Mary's and we very much appreciate her ministry to us.

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

Maureen said there have only been 3 Baptisms since the last PCC Meeting and none have been booked until our new Vicar Stuart is in post. However there have been many enquirers wanting to be able to book a date

### **10.5 Social Committee (Rhona)**

Rhona apologised for not having the time to convene a recent meeting. PCC agreed to have a bring your own lunch after church on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May to celebrate the Coronation. A Tunes and Spoons evening is planned for Thursday May 11<sup>th</sup>.

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

Roger has received the Diocese requirements for the APCM. Organisation of the APCM on Sunday May 23rd is underway (see later Agenda item)

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

### **12.1 Preparation for Stuart's arrival (Rhona)**

Rhona said there is still work to do on the vicarage, particularly completing the kitchen installation which in turn is delaying the painting. The installer assures us that the kitchen work will be finished on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup>.

Service preparations are progressing well. A service sheet is being prepared for printing. Brenda is arranging a post service buffet. Donations to buy food would be appreciated if people can't bring food.



### **12.2 APCM Preparation (Roger)**

Roger said that preparations for the APCM have started. The current Electoral Roll stands at 72 and is displayed on the Noticeboard along with a formal APCM notice. Current PCC, Churchwarden, Deanery Synod and Sidepeople names are listed too.

We have no elected PCC or Deanery Synod members coming to the end of their three year tenure. We have three PCC vacancies.

Authors will be contacted to contribute to the Parish Reports Booklet during April so it can be printed in May.

### **12.3 Communion Common Cup (Maureen)**

Maureen said PCC committed to revisit this at the November PCC meeting. It's been two years since we stopped sharing the cup. Many churches seem to be returning to it. PCC felt we should leave the decision to Stuart when he starts after Easter.

### **12.4 Christian Aid (Maureen)**

Maureen said CA week starts Sunday May 14th until 20th. Posters have been ordered. As there is a lot going on in May PCC agreed to hold a CA event later, provisionally a lunch on Saturday September 16th.

### **12.5 Vandalism (Rhona)**

On Tuesday morning the police contacted Maureen after youths had been spotted in the churchyard with spray cans. Rhona inspected, no damage. Later in the evening Rhona and Maureen noted Centre guttering bent, someone had been in the Centre bin store and had climbed on the Centre roof. Youths have been seen using rubbish bins to climb onto the Lady Chapel roof. Photographs have been taken and shared with Police. Two crime incident numbers have been assigned. If any trouble is witnessed then call 999.

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

Scheduled for Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May at 19:30 in the Parish Centre.

## **14. Closing Prayers**

Maureen closed the meeting with prayers.

Meeting Finished: 21:15