



**“A welcoming church sharing the love of Jesus to make Him known.”**

## **Reports for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

**21<sup>st</sup> May 2023**

**PCC Lay Chair**

**Churchwardens**

**PCC Secretary**

**Electoral Roll**

**Treasurer**

**Safeguarding**

**Cub Scouts**

**Beavers**

**Guides**

**Toddler Praise**

**Sunday School**

**Warm Space**

**Network Youth Church  
Barrow**

**Barrow Mission  
Community**

**Barrow Deanery Synod**

## **PCC Lay Chair**

During the last 12 months of interregnum we have been extremely grateful to Father Jack for his continued support and guidance. As well as organising help from other Clergy, our thanks go to him, Clare and Martin Williams as well as other clergy from within the Mission Community, Rev'd Clive Shaw who has travelled from Lancaster and Archdeacon Vernon Ross from Lindale to take services. I am pleased that Rev'd Stuart Silk carried out his first service on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2023 after being Licensed and installed on 22<sup>nd</sup> April. We also welcomed his wife Katherine, sons, Jude, Peter, Daniel and Matthew

My sincere thanks go Roger for carrying out his duties diligently as PCC Secretary and overseeing the Buildings and Properties Sub-Committee along with Arthur, Jonathan, Keith, Lee, David and Maureen. Also for Maureen's support to me as Lay Chair and organising Weddings, Baptisms and Church enquiries.

We also need to say a huge thank you to David for his 41 YEARS dedicated service to St. Mary's as PCC Treasurer

I thank Jonathan as our Lay Reader, Marie for her Pastoral Ministry and Arthur for always being willing to take on maintenance jobs around the Church and Centre.

Thanks also go to Maureen for heading up the Worship Committee along with Mary, Denise, Jonathan, Brenda and Janet. planning all our Lay Led Services. Thank you Denise for organising reading rotas and hymns along with musical interludes. Also, our PCC Baptism Committee Maureen, Mary, Brenda and Janet who have been extremely busy over the past 12 months.

Mary and Steve play a huge part in organising all the Church printing and music for Services, Weddings and Funerals.

There are many people to thank who work quietly behind the scenes to keep the Church looking lovely. Monica for her weekly cleaning and gardening. Brenda and David for cleaning our brasses. Sheila Monica and Sylvia for their lovely floral arrangements. Keith, Marian, Monica and Ged serving coffee after services. Thank you all.

I would also like to mention and thank my family Dawn and Lee for their support, painting church buildings and general help in churchyard.

Thank-you to the Leaders of our Uniformed Organisations and Groups.

Indeed a big thank-you to each and every one for everything you have done and continue to do within our Church Family.

As we enter a New Church Year, I pray that we can continue to work together with Stuart and his family in harmony as we have done in the past months and continue to grow our Church Community here on Walney.

**Rhona Teale**

## Churchwardens

The Service for Admission of Churchwardens was held on the evening of 21st July, 2022 in St. Paul's Church and Maureen Dale and Rhona Teale were once again Admitted to serve as Churchwardens in the parish of St. Mary's Walney by the Archdeacon Vernon Ross.

At the beginning of our term of office St. Mary's was still in vacancy and together with the PCC our priority was to get the advertisement for a Vicar posted onto the Diocesan Website with an Application deadline. Two candidates applied and interviews were carried out on 7th October. The successful candidate, the Revd. Stuart Silk was appointed as Priest-in-Charge of St. Mary's Walney and St. John's Barrow Island. Stuart's Licensing Service by the Rt. Revd. James Newcome, Bishop of Carlisle took place in St. Mary's Church at 6.00pm on Saturday, 22nd April. This was a service of great joy for both parishes and an answer to much prayer. Stuart and his wife Katherine and sons Jude, Peter, Daniel and Matthew were warmly welcomed by clergy from across the town as well as the Mayor and local Councillors. They were also supported by family, colleagues and friends from their former parish of All Saint's Lindfield in West Sussex. A Buffet was served in the Centre and thanks go to Brenda and Sheila and the team of helpers for organising a beautiful table of food.

We very much look forward to working with Stuart to serve the people of Walney and Barrow Islands and to sharing the love of Jesus with them.

Over the past year we have, with help from Fr. Jack Knill Jones and other available clergy held regular Sunday morning Services. Baptism Services continued to take place twice monthly and 33 children were baptised. 2 Weddings, 9 Funerals and 6 Interment of Ashes also took place.

Christian Aid Week was 15th May and thanks go to all who generously gave via the envelopes and a Ploughman's lunch which was also held. The Ascension Day Service was held in St. Aidan's on 26th May. The annual Tunes and Spoons event was held on 23rd June, as always this was a lovely evening of songs and puddings and raised £400 for Church funds. The 29th June saw the Burial Grounds Mapping Project Team come to map the Churchyard and the memorial photography was carried out at the beginning of August. On 9th July the Churchwardens Training Day took place in Keswick and the subject for discussion was "Growing Church in a post covid restriction world" The Harvest Supper was held on 11th October and food and monetary donations were given to the Barrow Food Bank. In November Synod Representatives and Churchwardens met in Greenodd Village Hall to meet with the newly appointed Bishop of Penrith The Rt. Revd. Rob Saner-Haigh who shared his testimony and his vision for the future ministry in Cumbria. St. Mary's registered with Cumbria County Council 'Warm Spaces' and opened the Centre every Wednesday from 12-3pm serving hot drinks and snacks for those in the community who were struggling to keep warm in the cold winter.

December saw the local schools coming into church and Vickerstown School held their Carol Concert which was a large gathering of children and parents. We again purchased from Holker Hall a large Christmas tree for the church. The Christingle Service took place on 18th December and was well attended. Unfortunately due to lack of available clergy there was no midnight service in St. Mary's and a Service of Communion by Extension was held on Christmas morning.

February 18th saw the long-planned Music Marathon fund raising event take place from 10.00am until 8.00pm in the church with refreshments also being served all day in the Centre ending with a Buffet Supper. Many varied musical groups singers and choirs took part in the day and over £3,000 was raised towards reaching the target for the much needed replacement roof on the Centre. Grateful thanks were extended to all those who participated at this event.

The Revd. Sarah Richardson Mission Community Curate invited all churches within the Mission Community to participate in holding on different days and times across the Mission Community, Lent Groups to look at Pete Greig's 'The Prayer Course' – a journey through the Lord's Prayer. St. Mary's and Vickerstown Methodist Church joined together in St. Mary's Centre on Monday mornings. All who participated found it a very helpful course. It is hoped to grow more regular prayer groups.

Easter Services took place on Good Friday which was a Lay Led Reflective Service at 2pm in the afternoon and Easter Sunday was again a Service of Communion by Extension led by our Reader Jonathan Elvy.

On 16th April we held our monthly Lay Led Service in the Centre which was a Service of Thanksgiving to God for bringing us through a long two and a half years interregnum period and hearing and answering our prayers for a new Vicar to come and lead us.

Our grateful thanks go to the PCC and our church family for all their support over the past year.

***"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity"***

***Psalm 133:1***

**Maureen Dale & Rhona Teale**

## **PCC Secretary**

At the last APCM we elected Ged and Monica Pugh as new PCC members. Mary Bacon and Roger Burns were re-elected for a second term. In June Arthur Watts and Lee Castle were co-opted onto the PCC. PCC now has six ex-officio members, six elected serving members and two co-opted members. There are three open vacancies for elected serving members. In 2022 the Church of England revised Deanery Synod representation based on Electoral Roll numbers which reduced our representation from three to two. As Jonathan Elvy and Brenda Hill are our current Deanery Synod representatives the remaining open vacancy has been closed. The PCC would like to thank Rhona Teale for leading the PCC as our Lay Chair as she steps down from the role after 2.5 years' service.

In 2022/23 the PCC met six times at bi-monthly intervals. It was good to have a full year of meetings face to face and not in front of PC screens. PCC meetings continue to follow a standard meeting agenda with expected outcomes set out. Each item owner pre-circulates their reports to facilitate more informed discussion with meaningful outputs. Standard agenda items include reports from the Chair, Treasurer, Churchwardens, Secretary, Safeguarding Officer, Mission Community and various PCC Subcommittees. Our subcommittees cover Buildings & Property, Worship, Baptism, Pastoral and Communicate & Connect. PCC meetings minutes are published on the church website for all to view.

PCC worked closely with the Diocese, Archdeacon Vernon, Father Jack and Barrow Mission Community to advertise, interview and select a new incumbent. We were delighted when The Revd Stuart Silk was announced as our new Priest In Charge in October. During the interregnum we were appreciative of the continued support of Father Jack Knill-Jones, other local and not so local clergy and our hardworking Worship committee to plan and lead our services.

PCC continued to ensure church finances were managed appropriately. Operational and maintenance costs were carefully scrutinised with decisions taken to progress, defer or stop expenditure based on priorities. Various national grant schemes were explored with some success to finance building and operational costs. It is good to see the progress we are making in overcoming the impact of Covid to strengthen our financial standing.

The Buildings and Property subcommittee met regularly via Zoom and F2F through the year. Our Risk and Issues Register is used to manage and prioritise Church, Centre and Quinquennial and Parish Centre concerns and their resolution. Work completed includes the fixing of secondary panels in the East upper windows, addressing water ingress into the Lady Chapel, Vestry, Porch and Centre, repairing the Lady Chapel roof and flashing, eliminating electrical issues by installing new circuits, electrical equipment and new LED lighting in church and working with the Council to install a public litter bin in the Centre car park.

One issue we faced this year is the increasing vandalism on Walney. Our church has had windows broken, drainpipes damaged or blocked, roof tiles removed and dustbins emptied. We are working closely with Police and community leaders to take preventive measures and to manage the situation.

The Knox Street Annex was boarded up to address insurer's requirements. We finally received the Annex Property Deed from Land Registration after a two year wait. PCC will re-assess options for the Annex this year.

*The PCC are extremely grateful for those people who made financial donations to enable some of these works and to those individuals who invested their time and effort into making the repairs.*

We held discussions with a new fund-raising group proposing to take on the maintenance of Defibrillators on Walney Island, including ours located outside the Centre. This follows the North West Ambulance Service's decision to withdraw support and maintenance funding. We are hopeful we will retain our defibrillator in the Centre.

Our Communications and Connect subcommittee met regularly through Zoom. We continue to manage and promote our digital technologies to reach out across the community. Our St Mary's website and our "A Church Near You" websites are accessed 20 times per day on average. Viewers can catch up with the latest church news and contacts, church policies and standards, PCC meetings and churchyard/burial information. Our active Facebook community continues to grow, now standing at 439 members who can actively share and engage in church and community topics. Novel uses of technologies continue to be researched and implemented where beneficial, for example use of a high-quality microphone in the Centre and moving the management of our Sunday Service audio to the rear of church. Further audio-visual improvements will be evaluated this coming year.

As Secretary I continued to process information and respond to ongoing requests from the Diocese, parishioners and other agencies, for example organising a PCC review with the Archdeacon to discuss the growth of the church in Barrow in the future.

In closing, it was another busy but enjoyable year in ensuring St Mary's continues to function in a safe, secure and productive manner for all our parishioners, our community and our stakeholders.

**Roger Burns**

## **Electoral Roll**

We have 72 names registered on the Electoral Roll.

**Roger Burns**

## **Treasurer**

The Treasurer's report and accounts for 2022 are printed and distributed separately.

**David Hollis**

## **Safeguarding**

Our Parish Safeguarding Officer is Rhona Teale. Our parish supports all uniformed organisations and groups, works with children and young people. It works with all Adults which may be vulnerable.

The leaders and volunteers working within the Parish have been safely recruited in accordance with the Churches National Guidance and we are currently ensuring that they receive the level of training required by the Church.

This process will be completed once the PCC, Officers and Church Wardens have been duly elected. Prior to this we will ensure that members will not be working unsupervised or alone.

All Members have undertaken the Basic Awareness and Foundation and Church Wardens. Lay Ministers and Readers have or about to undertake the Leadership Safeguarding Course as well as holding a current DBS certificate.

We are required to formally adopt the House of Bishops Promoting a Safer Church, Safeguarding Policy Statement and Church of England Safeguarding Policy and Guidance which is renewed and re visited annually and Displayed on the Church Notice Boards.

Notices have been adopted and posted in all venues attached to St. Marys with our Safeguarding Policy dated March 2023.

**Rhona Teale**

## Cub Scouts



It's been a reasonably busy year for our cub scout packs. In May, with the aid of two scout volunteers with Archery permits we were able to give the cubs the opportunity to do an Archery session. In June, as part of the late Queen's Jubilee celebrations, we gave the cubs the opportunity to plant trees, at our local scout campsite at Urswick.

In July, we had 16 of our cub scouts, attend a District Cub Camp, at Great Tower campsite, with over 70 cub scouts taking part in total. As well as camping, and scout activities, the cubs were able to do adventurous activities, Crate Stacking, Leap of Faith, Bouldering, Gauntlet, Archery or Adventure. Also in July, we had canoeing sessions delivered by Duddon Canoe Club, at the dockside. The cubs also had the opportunity to follow this up, by doing Paddle Sports 2 at the Barrow Leisure Centre. We finished the term of with a BBQ at Sandy Gap (unfortunately I didn't make that as I came back from cub camp with Covid).

In October, we supported the district event of Jamboree on the Air / Jamboree on the Internet, with 12 cub scouts taking part. We also held an extended cub pack night with optional sleepover, with a night of crafts and games, with 29 cub scouts taking part, and 16 who slept over.

In January, we had 9 cub scouts do the first stage swimming badge as part of a district event at Dalton Leisure Centre.

We resumed attendance at church parade services after the covid pandemic and attended church parade at Vickerstown and at St. Mary's. To celebrate St. George's Day, our cub scouts took part in an Activity Day at Kepplewray, Boughton-in-Furness, with 15 of our cub scouts, joining our Beavers for the coach journey to the event. Taking part in a range of great scout activities, supplemented with two adventurous activities put on by Kepplewray. A great day out for the young people.

During the last year the following cub badges have been awarded a **total of 304 badges**, comprising: **20 Membership awards.**

**Activity Badges** – 16 Artist, 1 Chef, 1 Collector, 11 Communicator, 1 Cyclist, 3 Entertainer, 12 Global Issues, 1 Hobbies, 1 Home Help, 4 My Faith, 7 Naturalist, 1 Photographer, and 15 Scientist.

**Staged Awards** – 23 Emergency Aid, 7 Hikes Away, 23 Nights Away, 11 Paddle Sports, 9 Swimmer, and 12 Time on the Water, and 27 Joining In Awards.

**Challenge Awards** – 10 Adventure, 7 Outdoors, 13 Personal, 18 Skills, 12 Team Leader, 17 Teamwork, and 16 World.

Five of our cubs have also managed to complete their **Chief Scouts Silver Awards** (the top award for cub scouts), which have been presented.

The Cubs are led by Ged Pugh, greatly assisted by assistant cub leaders, Karen Edmondson and Julie Hester. Sadly Louise Griffiths is no longer able to help out, but Paul Gomersall has returned to help. We continue to get help from Keith King (our Group President), and occasionally draft in Brenda Hill to help with craft activities, and Malcolm and Sue Eacott helped with District Cub Camp, and the St. George's Activity Day at Kepplewray, with Julie Eacott also helping on the day.

Both cub packs are lower on numbers at the moment, so if you know of anyone who would benefit from joining then please let us know.

**Ged Pugh**

## Beavers



We now just have 2 Beaver colonies meeting on a Monday or Thursday evening at Knox St Hall. Both colonies are well attended by the young people but still short on regular adult support. Lee is now settling in at the Thursday colony and is enjoying the challenge. Monday has 16 boys and Thursday 9 boys and 3 girl beavers.

The beavers are aged 6 to 8 years old and extremely energetic. They find it hard to sit still and concentrate so everything is done at a fast pace. 18 beavers have just attended a St George's District event at Keppleway. They were able to choose adventurous activities: abseiling, crate stacking, archery, tree climb, bushcraft and then from over 20 leader led activities: crafts, St. George and the dragon themed activities, compass work, stem activities, water rockets, orienteering. The Beavers had a fabulous time and I even think some of them got tired.....

Routinely, the beavers do badgework activities during the weekly meetings which teach them a wide range of skills. One week they may be den making, the next looking for mini beasts or growing a tomato plant. It is very varied to keep them interested.

The beavers enjoy earning badges and doing challenges. They have recently earned their community impact, construction, global issues and creative interest badges and their 'my world ' and 'my skills' challenge badges. Very busy beavers.

**Monica Pugh**



## Guides

The Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers are all doing well at St. Mary's and the units are all running full. Rainbows have 20 girls, Brownies 18, Guides 37 and Rangers 7, all sections are very popular with the young people, but it is adult helpers that are shy in coming forward. Thankfully, Annabelle and Rebecca have returned to the area and are invaluable in their support, at Rainbows and Guides.

All sections now follow the new programme that teaches the girls life skills in a modern, dynamic and fun way.

The rainbows attended a jungle fun day at Ulverston, where they did crafts and activities alongside other girls from all over the area.

The brownies attended an activity day at Keppleway outward bound centre and enjoyed it so much that they did a weekend sleepover there in March 2023.

Some guides went to camp at Urswick Scout campsite in May 2022. They slept in tents, cooked on fires and learnt some traditional skills, meeting other guides from Barrow.

The Guides and Rangers hosted a series of coffee and chat events throughout the year, to help bring people together again after the isolation of the pandemics. This in turn brought in some revenue for centre upkeep and the units.

The girls once again made up little daffodil posies and handed them out at their first church parade, since covid, on Mothering Sunday 2023.



Most sections are working towards their coronation challenge, completing a wide range of activities that are close to King Charles's ethics...environmental, inclusivity, food, volunteering etc, probably ending up in a party.

**Monica Pugh**

## **Toddler Praise**

Our Toddler group meets every Wednesday morning, during term time, in the Parish centre. Monica and Pat lead the group, but the parents/ carers are friendly and help as and when they can. We currently have between 16 families attending regularly but have had up to our limit of 25 families on several occasions.

The children enjoy free play until 10.30am, enjoying physical, educational or imagination enhancing toys in a safe and clean environment. The children recharge with toast and fruit snack, and a juice/ water break. The parent/carers get to have a well-earned cuppa and toast too.

It is then playtime until 11.30am, when the adults and children help tidy everything away.

The children all receive a topical book and a little treat at Christmas, Easter and the summer holidays. This year, Dec 2022, Father Christmas came and visited the children at their party. We had some very happy children who very happily went up to receive their gift, but others were more reluctant and vocal.

The toddler group held a fancy dress session as a fundraiser to help support one of our little girls who has been diagnosed with leukaemia. We managed to raise £150 to put towards her parents' fundraising endeavours. Our prayers and thoughts are with little Peggy and her family at this time.

The Toddlers are having a party to celebrate the king's coronation.

**Monica Pugh**

## **Sunday School**

Sadly, the Sunday school is now in abeyance for the time being.

**Monica Pugh**

## **Warm Space**

Following the governments initiative to combat the fuel poverty crisis, we opened a war space hub in St. Mary's centre. This was initially accessed by people from the local area and church goers. We opened from noon to 3pm each Wednesday, offering hot drinks and hot snacks. The toasties, crumpets and teacakes went down well. People enjoyed the chance to sit and socialise in our lovely warm hall. Although the aim was to provide comfort, people very kindly donated towards the costs of the refreshments. At the end of March, we were able to donate £300 towards the heating costs, as majority of the food costs were donated.

Thank you so much to Brenda and Pat who supported the venture each week volunteering their time and skills. Hopefully we will introduce the warm space hub again in the Autumn and winter months.

**Monica Pugh**

## **Network Youth Church Barrow**

### ***“Taking Ground Little by Little”***

Like so many others the coming out of Co-vid process effected the work of NYC Barrow more than we had expected. Although we were able to reopen the drops ins and other activities it was difficult to move things forward as we had hoped.

Co-vid 19 changed the expectations of the young people. Bringing them inside of the buildings was harder, as was trying to recruit new volunteers. However we were able to reopen and sustain our activities in one way or another.

Both Drop In's, Abbey Rd and St Pauls, were reopened and maintained reaching an average of over 200 young people on a weekly basis. These groups formed the base of our outreach and we used these moments as a way of reaching, engaging and inviting young people to other activities run by Network Youth Church.

We successfully reopened our Sunday evening services and have running them even since, seeing a growth in the number of young people coming week by week. We also ran crazy golf sessions across the town, and across the South Lakes.

All in all it has been a good year of transition for NYC Barrow. We have seen solid foundations being built and we are excited to see what God will do in 2023 both for NYC Barrow and through NYC Barrow.

We are thankful for our partnerships with the local churches and people of Barrow and for their support, whether financial or prayerful, and our prayer is that these may grow throughout the coming year.

**Andy Ward, Network Youth Church leader**

## **Barrow Mission Community**

A Barrow Mission Community report had not been received prior to publication of this brochure.

## **Barrow Deanery Synod Report**

The Barrow Deanery Synod Report had not been received prior to publication of this brochure.