

**Minutes of Rushen Annual Parochial Church Meeting
held in St. Catherine's Church
Tuesday 19th April 2016 at 7.30pm**

Present:

The Rev'd Joe Heaton (Chair), David Ali, Suzanne Ali, Rena Bottomley, Susan Bould, David Bowman, John Bregazzi, Gerald Callister, Marjorie Clucas, Carole Coole, Arthur Cregeen, Jim Dale, Hugh Davidson, Harry Dawson, John Day, Marjorie Gale, Margaret Galloway, Alan Grace, Angela Grace, Peter Gunn, Peter Hayhurst, Wendy Heaton, Adam Kelly, Alan Kershaw, Jean Kershaw, Michal Kewley, Margaret Kinley, Catherine Leece, Sally Lewis, Sue Maddrell, Margaret Moore, John Morris, Mark Payne, Sheila Preston, Elizabeth Sheen, John Sheen, Judith Sille, Alison Stewart, Jean Taylor, Jonathan Taylor, Patricia Thomson, Brian Trustrum, Valerie Vaughan, Brenda Watterson and Sylvia Wightman.

Apologies for Absence:

Sheila Ashworth, Pauline Bowman, Colin Edwards, Jan Edwards, Mary Gulland, Peta Mills, Michael Porter, and Peter Winstanley,

The Chairman welcomed everybody and opened the meeting with a reading (Isaiah 43) and prayer.

David Bowman was appointed as **Vestry Clerk**. This was proposed by the Rev'd Joe Heaton and agreed unanimously by those present.

Meeting of Parishioners

Election of Four Churchwardens:

The vicar asked for the names of those nominated to act as churchwardens for the ensuing year. David Bowman read the names which were; Gerald Callister, Harry Dawson, Arthur Cregeen and Peter Hayhurst. There were no other nominations. In view of this the four nominees were elected to serve for the year April 2016/April 2017. The Rev'd Joe Heaton thanked Gerald, Harry, Arthur and Peter for their hard work during the previous year. The secretary informed the wardens that were to attend the Chapter Court at St George's Church, Douglas, on Monday 9th May 2016 to be formally accepted in their role.

(For full list please see the appendix)

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. The ***Minutes of the APCM 2015*** had been circulated prior to the meeting and proposed by Sally Lewis and seconded by Gerald Callister that they be accepted as a true record. The vote was carried unanimously. The vicar asked if there were any matters arising. Margaret Moore raised the fact that her name appeared as being present as well as being absent at the meeting. The reasons for this were explained.

2. Election of four representatives to the Southern Mission Partnership Council:

The chairman asked if anyone was interested in becoming a representative. He briefly explained what the role entailed and that one member from each church would be required to stand for the next year. Gerald

Callister for St Catherine's, Arthur Cregeen for Kirk Christ, Harry Dawson for St Peter's and Sally Lewis for St Mary's were unanimously elected.

(For full list please see the appendix)

3. Election of seven representatives to the PCC:

The vicar explained the position which meant that there were 2 vacancies at Kirk Christ, 1 vacancy at St Mary's, 3 vacancies at St Catherine's and 1 vacancy at St Peter's. The secretary was asked to read out the nominations received. These were: Barbara Qualtrough (St Peter's), Alexander Brown, Stephen Curtis, James Dale and Alan Grace (St Catherine's) and Roy Oliver, Michael Porter (Kirk Christ). There were no nominations for St Mary's. Apart from St Catherine's those named were duly elected to the PCC for three years. The vicar then asked if anyone was willing to stand for St Mary's. There was no response so the vicar asked if those present would think about it whilst an election was held to eliminate one nominee from the four that had been received for St Catherine's. The nominees were asked to stand up so that everyone could see them. Ballot papers were distributed to eligible voters with instructions to vote for one, two or three of the nominees. The secretary agreed to act as teller, and as the counting would take some time it was decided to announce the result later. During the interim period the vicar suggested that the treasurer report on the financial position of the PCC.

4. A report on the financial affairs of the parish:

Alan Kershaw (PCC Treasurer) referred to copies of his financial report which had been affixed to church noticeboards, published on the parish website, and hard copies made available prior to the meeting. He made reference to the deficit which was more than £38,000 for the year 2015 and appeared not to have reduced from the previous year. He qualified this by explaining that the parish had spent a lot of money maintaining, repairing and refurbishing the churches within it, and that this expense was unlikely to occur again for some time, especially when current maintenance projects were completed, because then the churches would all be in a good state of repair. He referred to ways in which the deficit might be reduced and suggested that an increase in giving from parishioners might be a way of achieving this. He asked if there were any questions, but was not prepared to go into detail at the meeting. He was happy for parishioners to phone him at his home should they wish to do so. Finally, he explained that he was standing down from the position as treasurer and stated that it had been a pleasure serving the PCC. The vicar thanked Alan for his hard work and asked for any comments. Hugh Davidson referred to the increase in attendance at services which was reflected in collections taken in 2014 which were lower than those in 2015. Judith Sille wanted to express her thanks to Alan for all the work he had done as treasurer. This was reiterated by everyone in the applause that ensued.

5. Reports from the various groups in the Parish:

The vicar referred to the booklet that had been distributed prior to the meeting. This contained reports from the majority of activities held within the parish. He was amazed at how thick the booklet was, which showed that the Parish of Rushen was a vibrant church community. He mentioned that the trend in the Church of England was that church attendance was falling whereas in Rushen it is growing which is encouraging. He asked if there were any questions. Michal Kewley asked about 'The Future' the youth group. The vicar replied that there were five who attended regularly and that it would be lovely if the figure was to be twenty. Brian Trustrum referred to the minutes of the previous APCM which had mentioned other ideas which hopefully would be implemented during 2016. These were the formation of groups to look at bereavement counseling and pastoral care. The vicar responded by stating that about 18 people across the Southern Mission Partnership had attended a bereavement awareness course in St Catherine's Church Hall recently. As a consequence of this he was hoping to get a group of people together from the partnership to look at bereavement counseling and pastoral care. He was already aware of the visits made by parishioners to people in care homes and the housebound and was grateful for this work, but hoped that in the future a more coordinated approach could be adopted. His concern was that information about people who are ill, or in hospital, is not relayed to him until it is perhaps too late for his intervention, and that this area needed to be refined.

6. **Result of ballot regarding membership from St Catherine's on the PCC:**

The vicar asked the secretary for the result of the ballot. He explained that the difference between the lowest and highest number of votes cast for the four candidates was only five. He then read out the names of the successful candidates. These were: Stephen Curtis, James Dale and Alexander Brown. All three will serve on the PCC for three years. The vicar then explained that the vacancy at St Mary's could be filled on another occasion as long as a nomination form was completed by the nominee. This would then be brought to a PCC meeting for members to approve. If there was more than one nominee an election would be taken at the PCC meeting.

(For full list, and terms of office, please see the appendix)

7. **Appointment of Sidespersons**

The vicar asked the secretary to read out the list of sidespersons already in post. These were:

St Mary's: S Bould, M Hartley, P Hayhurst, D Kelly, P Thompson and B Darroch.

Kirk Christ: J Bregazzi, P Clucas, A Cregeen, J Gunn, J Martin, R Oliver, and S Wightman

St Peter's: W Callister, C Crossley, H Dawson, J Deakin, D Hibbert, S Maddrell, J Morris and P Wilkinson

St Catherine's: C Barnes, G Callister, S Gale, F Geddes, G Hibbert, G May, P Preston, S Preston, B Trustrum, and S Ali.

The vicar then asked if anyone wished to be added or deleted from the lists. For St Mary's: C Gelling, John Taylor and Jean Taylor were to be added making the total nine. For Kirk Christ: S Wightman wished to be deleted and I Joughin and P Gunn added making a total of eight. For St Peter's: Harry Dawson asked that P Wilkinson be deleted making a total of seven, and for St Catherine's D Ali and J Dale wished to be added making a total of 12. Finally, the vicar thanked the sidespersons for the vital role they play in welcoming people into church and for the work they do.

(For full list please see the appendix)

8. **Report on changes to the electoral roll since the last APCM**

June Harper, the Electoral Roll Officer, had compiled the Roll for 2016. In her absence she reported that there were 202 names on the 2016 Electoral Roll, compared with 190 names on the Roll as at 31st March 2015 and that since 2015, four people had been deleted. These were: Norman Leslie Clague, Hazel Undine Dean, John Karran Qualtrough and Margaret Ann Wilkie. Sixteen new names had been added to the roll and these were: Alexander Robert Brown, Amanda Karen Brown, Ann Curtis, Stephen John Curtis, David Erik Georgeson, Alan James Grace, Bryony Louise Grant, Malcolm George Hale, Peta Lynette Mills, Simone Louise Pendlebury, Angela Skitt, Alison Stewart, Jennifer Alison Stewart, Alexandra Frances Tawney and Danielle Winstanley.

9. **Appointment of Independent Examiner of PCC Accounts**

Gerald Callister proposed that Justin Unsworth be appointed as the auditor of PCC accounts. This was seconded by Michal Kewley. The vote taken was unanimous.

10. **Vicar's Report**

The vicar reported that there was much to find that was encouraging. He stated that work amongst young people, worship across all four churches, home groups, and social activities, to name but a few, were all reassuring. He then asked where all this was leading us, because looking at the bigger picture, the Church of England is going through a process of renewal and reform, something that is much needed, especially as it is eight times more likely that an 81-year-old person will attend church than a 21-year-old. Christianity, as we know it no longer exists, and for many young people the church is toxic ground. He then quoted our mission which is to be at the heart of the community revealing the heart of God. To fulfil this, we must all live as disciples of Jesus Christ, and by our example show the community that our love and devotion to God will, in time, reveal the heart of God to others. He explained that this was not going to be a quick fix, it will take time and prayerful activity to achieve it. We must read the Word of God regularly so that we become

attuned to the way that God wants us to live our lives and set examples to others. Messy Church is an example of how we can achieve these goals. It has had an impact on people's lives, and this is one way we can make a difference. Nevertheless, more needs to be done, we can no longer assume that basic Christian concepts are understood by our community. Another concern is the financial position in which we find ourselves. The parish is running at a loss week by week, and to address this our overall giving has to increase by about £750 per week. Whilst this seems to be impossible to achieve the vicar feels that the target could be reached. He intends to address this matter during church services rather than at this meeting where perhaps only 50 out of a worshipping community of 150 people will hear the message. The challenge may seem to be insurmountable but the good news is that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever, and if our eyes are fixed on Him, then everything else is seen in its proper perspective. The vicar expressed his gratitude to those who look after the finances and keep our buildings safe, to those who work behind the scenes so that we can meet socially, without these people we could not be a Christian presence in the Parish of Rushen. He concluded by saying that all of this is fine, but we need to proclaim the Gospel message and have mission in the parish if we are to continue the work we have begun. For all that has been achieved during the past year let us give much thanks, for all that will be in the coming year let us pray that it will be fulfilled.

11. Any other business:

Sylvia Wightman expressed her thanks to the secretary for his work during the past year. This prompted the vicar in thanking others for their work during the past year. He thanked PCC members for their work and especially those who were coming off the PCC at this time. He also thanked the children's leaders for all their work. Michael Porter as our musical director and Claire Jennings as parish administrator were thanked for their work, as was David Bowman for the parish magazine. Finally, he thanked everyone for coming along to the meeting. Prior to their departure Mark Payne gave a vote of thanks to the vicar for his work during the past year.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm

Signed: _____ (Vicar)
26th April 2017

Appendix

Churchwardens 2016/2017

Gerald Callister	St Catherine's
Peter Hayhurst	St Mary's
Harry Dawson	St Peter's
Arthur Cregeen	Kirk Christ

Southern Mission Partnership Representatives 2016/2017 (serve for one year)

Gerald Callister	St Catherine's
Sally Lewis	St Mary's
Harry Dawson	St Peter's
Arthur Cregeen	Kirk Christ

Diocesan Synod Representatives 2016/2017 (serve for two more years)

Gerald Callister, Mark Payne, Arthur Cregeen, David Ali

PCC Membership 2016/2017 (serve for the number of years in brackets)

St Catherine's: Suzanne Ali (1), Mary Gulland (2), James Dale (3), Alexander Brown (3), Stephen Curtis (3)

St Mary's: Carole Coole (2), John Day (2), David Bowman (2), Michal Kewley (1), Vacancy (3)

St Peter's: John Morris (1), Barbara Qualtrough (3)

Kirk Christ: John Martin (1), Michael Porter (3), Roy Oliver (3)

Sidespersons 2016/2017 (serve for one year)

St Catherine's: Christopher Barnes, Gerald Callister, Stuart Gale, Fionn Geddes, Grace Hibbert, George May, Philip Preston, Sheila Preston, Brian Trustrum, Suzanne Ali, David Ali, James Dale

St Mary's: Susan Bould, Maureen Hartley, Peter Hayhurst, Dollin Kelly, Patricia Thomson, John Taylor, Jean Taylor, Cynthia Gelling, Bryan Darroch

St Peter's: William Callister, Charles Crossley, Harry Dawson, John Deakin, David Hibbert, Susan Maddrell, John Morris

Kirk Christ: John Bregazzi, Pamela Clucas, Arthur Cregeen, Jane Gunn, John Martin, Roy Oliver, Peter Gunn, Inez Joughin

Ex-Officio 2016/2017 (can cast a vote if required)

Gerald Callister (Warden/Synod), Arthur Cregeen (Warden/Synod), Peter Hayhurst (Warden), Harry Dawson (Warden), David Ali (Synod), Mark Payne (Synod). *Any of the Readers, attached to the parish, may attend meetings, but they must be licensed if they wish to vote.*