

Minutes of Rushen PCC meeting held in St Catherine's Church Hall

Tuesday 16th January 2018 at 7.00pm

Present: The Rev'd Joe Heaton (Chair), David Ali, David Bowman, Gerald Callister, Carole Coole, Stephen Curtis, James Dale, Harry Dawson, John Day, Margaret Galloway, Mary Gulland, Peter Hayhurst, Wendy Heaton, Adam Kelly, Peta Mills, Michael Porter, and Janice Withey.

1. Welcome and Prayers:

The Rev'd Joe Heaton welcomed everyone to the meeting. He then read Psalm 89 and followed this with a prayer.

2. Apologies for Absence: Eight apologies had been received prior to the meeting, these were: Jon Barwood, Arthur Cregeen, Alan Grace, Malcolm Hale, Voirrey Kinley, Roy Oliver, Barbara Qualtrough and Jennifer Stewart.

3. Minutes of Meeting held on 21st November 2017 and matters arising:

Concern was raised regarding the proceeds of the concerts held at St Catherine's Church. The proposal raised at November's meeting suggested that the artistes should receive a flat rate of £50 from the proceeds of each concert, with the remainder of the income paid towards church funds. After some discussion it was decided that this proposal was not as it had been discussed at the meeting and that it should be altered. Consequently, **Stephen Curtis proposed, and Carole Coole seconded, that from the beginning of the summer concert season in 2018, church funds will receive £50 per concert, with the remaining income split equally between church funds and the performing artistes. There was unanimous agreement.** There were no other matters arising. The remaining minutes were proposed by David Ali and seconded by Gerald Callister as being correct. There was unanimous approval.

4. Reports from Sub-Committees (*and matters arising therefrom*)

Finance

Stephen Curtis (treasurer) circulated two reports relating to the PCC budget for the year to 31st December 2017 and the proposed budget for 2018 to 2021. In addition, PCC members had received a financial report prior to the meeting. He then explained the detail outlined in each of the reports and referred to the deficit at the end of the fiscal year as being £23,327, a figure much in line with the budget prediction for the year 2017. He then highlighted one or two items, the first being 'giving' which was higher than the previous year but not as much as was budgeted for, also the income from 'offertory boxes' was lower than the previous year. This was partly due to the fact that no exhibitions were held during 2017. He then referred to disbursements, the predominant expense being the refurbishment of Kirk Christ. The cost of this was met from legacies held in the Vicar & Warden's account. He then stated that the total reserves available from 1st January 2018 were £98,465. The treasurer then explained the reasons behind the expenditure of £21,949 for St Catherine's repairs, which could not be met from the Vicar & Warden's account and had to be met from reserves. This figure of £21,949 is not final, as a further £8,000 has still to be paid and will have to be met from the current year's finances. Finally, the treasurer explained that if expenditure continues at the present level there would not be any funds available after three years, and this needed to be addressed. He referred to the budget he had prepared and explained how, if the predicted figures are adhered to, the PCC would remain solvent and, as such, no longer needing to make plans to reduce a yearly deficit. At this point the chairman was asked to comment on a generous offer which had been made to him regarding the reduction of the deficit over the next three years. An anonymous benefactor has kindly stated that s/he would match additional funding, pound for pound up to £10,000 per year. This would mean that any additional increase in giving, including standing orders, would be matched, as would any fund-raising activities. He explained that he would inform all four congregations during the last two weeks of January. The initiative will hopefully encourage church members to increase their giving and may promote more fundraising events. He also added that this would not be the answer to the whole problem but might kickstart the process of reducing the yearly deficit. The treasurer explained that he had not included predicted income from this offer in his budget and added that the diocese was in receipt of the PCC accounts for 2017. Finally, the chairman asked if the PCC would approve the prepared budget:

It was proposed by Stephen Curtis and seconded by Peter Hayhurst that the budget 2018 – 2021 be accepted. There was unanimous approval.

Worship Committee

The chairman explained that the committee had not met but would do so prior to the next PCC meeting. Michael Porter pointed out that the work of the committee was probably slightly different from the other committees. He explained that usually the committee meets twice each year and at its meetings it looks back at church activity during the previous six months and forward to the months that follow. In addition, he referred to the number of emails, meetings, telephone calls made by himself, the vicar, church wardens and members of the choir etc. all of which probably relate to services, or church connected matters, in some way or another, and that these extra issues all contribute to the worship throughout Rushen Parish. The chairman thanked Michael for his comments which helped to put the 'Worship Committee' into context within the parish.

Social Committee

Carole Coole referred to the report that had been circulated, and to a recent meeting at which two events were planned for the forthcoming year. These were a Strawberry Tea on 28th July and a Christmas Afternoon Tea on 8th December. The next committee meeting had been arranged for 11th March at 10.30am at the Falcon's Nest Hotel.

Mission and Outreach Committee

Margaret Galloway explained that there was no report because the committee had not met. She explained that getting members of the committee together on suitable dates and times was very difficult. The chairman suggested that it was not necessary to have all members of the committee present at every meeting.

Buildings Committee

David Ali explained that there had been concern about the heating during services at St Mary's Church. He explained that the problem was caused by draughts and nothing else. The chairman stated that this was a problem throughout the parish and that keeping doors shut where possible would help.

5. A Brief Review of Advent/Christmas Services

Margaret Galloway commented on the Carol Service which she had felt had been excellent. The choir sang well and that the content was beautifully balanced. David Bowman raised an issue which he had mentioned a year before which was about the format and distribution of Christmas cards. This, in his opinion, should have been raised well in advance of Christmas, as it had been minuted that it would. He referred to the card distributed by Ballafesson Methodist Church which was in colour, and to the fact that, considering the financial position, the PCC should have been asked if the outlay incurred in producing the cards, and distributing them in the weekly Courier, was justified. The chairman responded and suggested that people appreciated receiving the card and that it had escaped his mind that this matter was to be raised. A figure of £350 was suggested as to the approximate cost. Margaret Galloway suggested that perhaps we could have a Christmas card designed by someone in the parish. These could be sold so that the funds required to produce and distribute the cards could be raised. A children's competition to design a card could be considered. The chairman stated that whatever card was distributed would not be in colour as the cost would be prohibitive. He also suggested that this matter ought to be discussed by the Mission & Outreach or the Fundraising Committee. A suggestion to make St Mary's Church look more festive during the Christmas period was raised by Peter Hayhurst. Perhaps an external Christmas tree, like the one erected at St Catherine's Church would be an idea.

6. Methodist Modern Art Collection – Awakening

Mary Gulland referred to an art exhibition from 12th May to 10th June 2018 which is coming to Isle of Man entitled 'Awakening'. After giving an insight into the exhibition itself and its content she informed everyone that the 54 paintings are to be exhibited in venues across the island and are going to be shared among Colby Methodist Church, the Cathedral, Ramsey Methodist Church and the Loch Promenade church. Other venues will be the focus of dedicated events. To assist the process, she asked if anyone would be willing to put themselves forward to act as a steward for one or more half-day sessions whilst the exhibition is on the island, and/or would attend one of the Lent study groups based on some of the paintings, and/or invite someone to attend the exhibition. The chairman referred to two house groups which are already undergoing Lent courses

committed to the paintings, even though Lent has not yet begun. It is also hoped that the parish would put on Lent lunches during Lent which hopefully will alternate between ourselves and the Methodist church on Station Road.

7. Hall Rents – A Review

The chairman explained that the standing committee suggested that the present rates be increased from £25 to £30 per session, and from £10 to £11 per hour. He suggested that these fees were in line with the rate at the Station Road hall attached to the Methodist church. In addition, he indicated that at no time had the rates for Guides, Brownies and Rainbows using St Mary's Church Hall been assessed, and that they had been paying a nominal fee of £5 per session for the use of heating, lighting and the hall itself. The chairman indicated this nominal fee had not been reviewed in 15 years and that it no longer met the costs of heating and lighting and he suggested an increase of £5 per session. There followed some discussion regarding this matter after **which Peter Hayhurst proposed and Carole Coole seconded that the charges for the use of the church halls be increased from £25 to £30 per session, and from £10 to £11 per hour, and from £5 to £10 per session for Guides, Brownies and Rainbows. There was unanimous agreement.**

8. Ordinand Placement: Jon Barwood

The chairman stated that an Ordinand, Jon Barwood, has been appointed by the diocese to shadow him from January until June. He will visit all four churches and will get involved with Messy Church and other parish matters. The objective of this appointment is to give Jon an insight into what goes on in the Parish of Rushen.

9. Appointment of Eucharistic Assistants

The chairman explained that this used to be an appointment made by the bishop. However, the previous bishop had said that it would be better if eucharistic assistants were appointed by the PCC and that the diocese held a list of those appointed. He suggested that **Jon Barwood** be appointed and asked if there were any others. Gerald Callister named three people who would be willing. These were **Hugh Davidson, Ruth Walker and Alan Grace**. There followed some discussion during which it was suggested that more women ought to be appointed. It was also suggested that a rota of eucharistic assistants, and when they will be required to assist at communion services, be drawn up in each of the churches. Finally, the chairman explained that anyone wishing to be appointed would need to be trained but this would only take a matter of minutes. **He proposed that the names mentioned above be appointed. There was unanimous approval.**

10. Forthcoming Services

The chairman explained that the Bishop will be attending services on 4th and 11th February across the parish and that the new War Memorial will be dedicated by the archdeacon at 6.30pm on 25th February 2018.

11. Correspondence

The chairman explained that he had received a faculty regarding the water main repairs at St Catherine's. David Bowman referred to the inventory for all four churches which needs to be updated. He also stated that the Commonwealth War Graves Commission have received the PCC's application for a plaque stating that war graves can be found in Rushen Burial Ground. This will be placed on the wall to the right of the lych gate at the parish church.

12. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

13. Confidentiality

No items of confidentiality were discussed.

The meeting closed with prayer at 8.25pm

Signed: _____

Rev. Joe Heaton
20th March 2018