

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

Tuesday 20th March 2018 at 7.00pm

Present: The Rev'd Joe Heaton (Chair), David Ali, Jon Barwood, David Bowman, Gerald Callister, Stephen Curtis, James Dale, Harry Dawson, Margaret Galloway, Malcolm Hale. Peter Hayhurst, Wendy Heaton, Voirrey Kinley, Peta Mills, Roy Oliver, Michael Porter, Jennifer Stewart, and Janice Withey. *Justin Unsworth – Independent Examiner of the Parish Finances (left the meeting at 7.20pm)*

1. Welcome and Prayers:

The Rev'd Joe Heaton welcomed everyone to the meeting. He then read Psalm 123 and followed this with a prayer.

2. Apologies for Absence: Six apologies had been received prior to the meeting, these were: Carole Coole, Arthur Cregeen, John Day, Mary Gulland, Adam Kelly and Barbara Qualtrough.

3. Minutes of meeting held on 16th January 2018 and matters arising:

The chairman asked if the minutes of the meeting held on 16th January 2018 were an accurate record of the proceedings. Michael Porter proposed, and David Ali seconded that they were. There was unanimous approval and no matters arising.

4. Approval of the 2017 Accounts

Stephen Curtis (treasurer) referred to the financial statements of Rushen PCC and the Vicar & Wardens for the year ending 31st December 2017 which had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting. He explained that to avoid duplication the accounts had been streamlined. The figures were unchanged from the draft budget that was presented at the previous meeting and as such felt that there was no need to go through the figures again. Justin Unsworth was asked to comment about how the accounts had been presented and any other relevant matters. He explained that the PCC accounts had been independently examined because, in his opinion, they are from a comparatively small organisation, and designed to assist such establishments with financial expertise. He was happy to state that Rushen PCC already had such competence. The chairman thanked Justin for examining the accounts and then suggested a proposal to accept the accounts be made.

Stephen Curtis proposed, and Gerald Callister seconded, that the Report and Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2017, of Rushen Parochial Church Council, and the Report and Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2017 of The Vicar and Wardens of Kirk Christ, the Parish Church of Rushen, be signed as a true record. There was unanimous approval. The accounts were signed.

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

Finance

Stephen Curtis raised the financial committee meeting which had been held a week ago at which a few relevant items were discussed. The first of these was the financial statements of the PCC and Vicar and Wardens Accounts which had just been approved. Also discussed was the PCC income and expenditure for the two months ending 28th February 2018 compared with the budget. Copies of these had been circulated. Accounts showed a small deficit of £2,507, a trend which, if continued, would leave an annual deficit of £15,000 compared with a budgeted annual deficit of £12,300. Collections and planned-giving amounted to almost £14,000 in line for the year. Total income was £17,500 slightly under budget which was partly due to shortfalls in 'other' donations, fundraising and hall rents. Stephen stated that if current trends were maintained there would be a total income for the year of £105,000 which would trigger matched funding of £7,000. However, there is concern about the high level of lighting and heating costs as well as cleaning expenditure. The next item discussed was major work of which £12,400 has still to be found for work undertaken during 2017. Details of this had been circulated prior to the meeting. Finally, he referred to a tree that had fallen in the churchyard which had resulted in an insurance claim which is currently being assessed by the loss adjuster. Although included in the PCC insurance policy, this is covered by the Burial Authority which will pay the repair costs and recover the insurance proceeds subject to a £100 excess. The chairman then referred to a document which had been circulated entitled 'Levels of Financial Expenditure'. He explained that this detailed the authorisation required for limits of expenditure up to £100, between £100 and £1,000, and

£1,000 and £5,000, and more than £5,000. Discussion followed which resulted in an amendment being added explaining that amounts up to £100 do not need any official authorisation. **Stephen Curtis proposed, and David Bowman seconded that the levels of authorisation, as detailed in the amended document entitled 'Levels of Financial Expenditure', be accepted.** There was unanimous approval.

Worship Committee

Michael Porter explained that the committee had met and had discussed the Easter programme, and to some extent beyond this period.

Social Committee

Janice Withey referred to the report which had been circulated prior to the meeting. The chairman mentioned that the fundraising committee had met but as yet had nothing to report and that it could well be at the PCC's next meeting in May when it would be able to inform everyone of its suggestions. Harvest celebrations were raised with the suggestion that the events in 2017 be repeated. They were a joint harvest service on 30th September at St Mary's Church followed by a Faith Lunch in the church hall. It would also facilitate the harvest celebrations at Scoill Phurt le Moirrey which would have its own harvest service in the church on 28th September. The chairman asked Harry Dawson if St Peter's would like to hold its harvest celebrations a week later which was confirmed. It was suggested that the food bank should receive any residue harvest produce. The chairman felt it important to state that anyone in the church community is free to suggest ideas for social events and that it was not necessarily the remit of the social or fundraising committees.

Mission and Outreach Committee

Margaret Galloway apologised for the length of her report but emphasised that we were one parish and need to share the skills, talents and experiences we have within it, and that teamwork is needed to work on suggestions made by the committee, and that the teams could be made up of those with particular expertise from within the wider parish community. She felt that the forthcoming art exhibition at Colby was an excellent way in which we as a parish could get involved either by visiting it, enjoying fellowship with others, or being part of the organisation required to run it. Another idea raised would be a farm service during spring or in the summer months which could take place in a variety of farm related places, and carol singing towards the Christmas period. Hospitality events during the TT and the Grand Prix weeks and other island related activities could be arranged, and finally art and craft workshops could be organised. The chairman asked how the committee felt in carrying its ideas forward. Margaret Galloway suggested that before it could do this the PCC needed to approve the ideas raised. Discussion followed which culminated in **Margaret Galloway proposing and David Ali seconding that the recommendations of the mission and outreach committee be accepted and approved by the PCC.** There was unanimous approval.

Buildings Committee

The committee's report was circulated prior to the meeting. David Ali reported that he was looking at the ingress of water above the reader's seat at St Mary's Church. He explained that Guy Thompson had been contacted and was awaiting a reply.

6. Report from Wardens

There were no comments regarding the report which had been circulated prior to the meeting. However, the chairman referred to Arthur Cregeen who is retiring and suggested that his service as churchwarden ought to be recognised in some way and that perhaps a gift ought to be given to him as a token of thanks for all his work for the parish. This could be presented to him at his last service as churchwarden on the Sunday prior to the APCM.

7. Report from Synod/SMP Council

The Synod Report was circulated prior to the meeting. No comments were raised, however the report concluded with reference to a document entitled 'Setting God's People Free', this too had been circulated. The chairman asked if Margaret Galloway would like to comment, and this is summarised in the appendix. The vicar suggested that we will be hearing a lot more about this in the months and years ahead. He then referred to the Southern Mission Partnership which had met and discussed what had been happening in the parishes across the south of the island. Now that Irene Cowell was now part of the group the partnership is looking ahead. Finally, he referred to a partnership service taking place on 1st July at Rushen Abbey. Margaret Galloway suggested that there could be a sharing of the work taking place within the partnership.

8. Data Protection Regulations

The chairman explained that the law was changing, and that new legislation is being introduced which limits the amount of data being held about individuals. As an example, he used the electoral roll which in future, the data from which, can only be used for electoral roll purposes. It could not be used to send letters to everyone whose name appears on it. The new legislation is centred about consent which means that any personal data can only be kept if consent is given. The chairman suggested that he would circulate a power point document about this issue to PCC members for their information.

9. Faculty Applications - Kirk Christ Lych Gate (*submitted*)

The chairman referred to the lych gate at Kirk Christ which is in need of repair. Guy Thompson has produced a schedule which has been submitted to the Diocesan Advisory Committee which has approved the work. However, because the lych gate is a war memorial the war graves committee must be advised that this work is needed to be undertaken. The chairman stated that he would be doing this. It is not expected to be funded by the PCC and therefore relevant bodies will be requested to fund the project. He also explained that the access to the lych gate is to be improved for wheelchair access. **The chairman proposed that the PCC approve the repair of the lych gate as per the specification produced by Guy Thompson, David Bowman seconded this.** There was unanimous approval. He also suggested that he is looking to replace the church notice board.

10. Proposed Events – *Heritage Open Day (5-7, 12-14 October)*

The chairman referred to correspondence he had received from Manx National Heritage with regarding the organisation of annual heritage days. He explained that he thought it would be a good idea to be part of this and would open up Kirk Christ on the two weekends mentioned above. The church has much history connected with it and people wishing to visit would be able to come free of charge. It would be an opportunity for refreshments to be served and income derived from the sale. He also referred to a book he is writing which would also be on sale. Manx National Heritage would take care of the advertising.

11. Announcements

The chairman announced that he had been contacted by the bishop who had asked whether he would like a curate assigned to the parish to which he had agreed. He felt that that the reason he had been chosen was that Alex Brown and Mark Payne had recently been trained in the parish. The curate, whose name is Liz Hull, lives in Onchan and will travel to the parish each day. She has completed reader training, and before licensing she switched because she realised that she had been called to ordained ministry. She will be ordained as a deacon at the cathedral on 29th September and will be with us for at least three years. This will not be a full-time post and the hours have still to be finalised. It will be a non-stipendiary post with the travel costs paid by the diocese.

12. Correspondence

David Bowman read a letter he had received from John Day which referred to generous donation of £100 he was prepared to donate to the erection of a tree, at Christmas time, in the grounds of St Mary's Church similar to that at St Catherine's. This related to the discussion held at the last PCC meeting. Discussion followed which suggested that contact be made with Port St Mary commissioners. The positioning of the tree was then discussed although it was thought that this wasn't necessary at this stage. The secretary was asked if he could write to John Day thanking him for his kind offer and that the PCC was looking into the matter.

13. Any Other Business

David Bowman suggested that when the new PCC is in operation it might be an opportune time to look at some form of development plan for the next three years. Perhaps the committee structure would reflect this. The chairman then thanked the outgoing PCC members for their work during the past three years.

14. Confidentiality

No items of confidentiality were discussed.

The meeting closed with the Grace at 9.02pm

Signed: _____

Rev. Joe Heaton
15th May 2018

Appendix

Margaret explained that the document had been produced a year ago and asks what it means for our parish and the diocese. The document opens by stating that 98% of people in the Church of England are not ordained and that the church is being run by the top 2% of people, hence it is the 98% of people who have the opportunity to meet. The Church of England no longer sends out missionaries to far out lands because it needs such people here to teach the basic principles of Christianity as so many people are unchurched. These people are those who might poke fun at Christians because of ignorance. The question therefore is how we can, the ordained and lay people together, enable one another to live out the Good News of Jesus Christ in all our lives Monday to Saturday as well as Sunday? The document refers to two forms of church, one which is gathered, the meeting together in church on Sunday, and the sent, which is what is done in the community. It suggests that it can be quite frightening if questions are asked of our faith for which we might not have the right words, but it advocates that God will provide and submits it is not about the words, but it is the way we act and how we live, and our responses to faith. It is the big picture. Margaret then explained a little about the island and the number of clergy and licensed readers. The document then suggests ways in which the church can move forward and states that the ordained and lay must teach and equip lay people to follow Jesus in every sphere of life, and to achieve this there needs to be training. She suggested that within our own parish we could have a group of people looking into how we can set about tackling the way in which the name of Jesus can be spread throughout it. Most of us have callings and these should be used to spread God's love. Finally, Margaret explained that this is a huge task. 'The work of mission is more than rescuing souls, it is a richer and more holistic endeavour embracing the releasing and empowering of God's people to be the church in the world in order that the whole of creation may be transformed and restored in Christ'.