

**Minutes of Rushen Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
held in St. Catherine's Church  
Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at 7.00pm**

**Present:**

The Rev'd Joe Heaton (Chair), David Ali, Suzanne Ali, Susan Bould, David Bowman, Gillian Budgen, Gerald Callister, Richard Clague, Carole Coole, Arthur Cregeen, Stephen Curtis, John Gulland, Peter Hayhurst, Inez Joughin, Sally Lewis, John Martin, Pam Martin, Peta Mills, John Morris, Marie Oliver, Roy Oliver, Mark Payne, Michael Porter, Judith Sille, Sylvia Wightman and Janice Withey.

**Apologies for Absence:**

Pauline Bowman, John Bregazzi, Alexander Brown, James Dale, Hugh Davidson, Harry Dawson, Colin Edwards, Janet Edwards, Marjorie Gale, Stuart Gale, Margaret Galloway, Alan Grace, Angela Grace, Mary Gulland, Dene Hale, Malcolm Hale, Wendy Heaton, Adam Kelly, Margaret Kelly, Alan Kershaw, Elisabeth Kershaw, Dorothy Kewley, Michal Kewley, Voirrey Kinley, George May, Rosemary May, Margaret Moore, Anthony Murphy, Glenda Murphy, Philip Preston, Sheila Preston, Elizabeth Sheen, John Sheen, Jean Taylor, John Taylor, Eileen Thornley, Brian Trustrum, Kathleen Trustrum, Valerie Vaughan and Peter Winstanley.

The Chairman welcomed everybody and opened the meeting with a reading from Philippians Chapter 4 commencing at verse 4 and followed this with a prayer. He then referred to the booklet that had been published which reported on the number of activities taking place within the parish. He expressed his thanks to all who take an active role in these activities which all show God at work within the parish. He then thanked the churchwardens, PCC members, mission partnership members, synod members, the clergy who assist at services, children's leaders, and to those who help at Messy Church. The list, he stressed, seemed to be endless

David Bowman acted as secretary for the Vestry and Annual Parochial Church Meetings.

**Meeting of Parishioners – Annual Vestry Meeting**

***Election of Four Churchwardens:***

The vicar asked for the names of those nominated to act as churchwardens for the ensuing year. The secretary 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 2017/April 2018. On behalf of the wardens Gerald Callister thanked everyone for their support. The vicar then informed the wardens that were to attend the Chapter Court at St Brenden (Kirk Braddan) Braddan, on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2017 to be formally accepted in their role.

*(For full list please see the appendix)*

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

1. The ***Minutes of the APCM 2016*** had been circulated prior to the meeting and proposed by Gerald Callister and seconded by David Ali that they be accepted as a true record. The vote was carried unanimously. The vicar asked if there were any matters arising. Gerald Callister referred to the list of attendees where he felt a name had been typed wrongly. The secretary stated that he would make the necessary change.

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 that the partnership meets four times each year and that one member from each church would be required to stand for 2017/2018. The chairman gave brief details about the purpose of the partnership and of some of its activities. A recent activity had been a pastoral care training course. Twenty-five people from across the south of the island had joined the course. Another example of an activity would be to work closely together in providing marriage preparation for wedding couples. He then explained that some of the activities were mission orientated, and others in finding ways to work together as a partnership. The chairman then referred to a Songs of Praise due to take place at Rushen Abbey towards the end of June. Finally, he asked if there had been any nominations for representatives. The secretary stated that he had received two, one from Arthur Cregeen (Kirk Christ) and the other from Gerald Callister (St Catherine's). The chairman asked if there was anyone from St Peter's and St Mary's who would be willing to join the partnership. Peter Hayhurst stated that he would be willing to stand for St Mary's. The position at St Peter's was not filled and as such remained vacant. The vicar proposed and David Bowman seconded that the three nominees be elected. The vote taken was unanimous.

*(For full list please see the appendix)*

3. ***Election of four representatives to the PCC:***

The chairman explained the position which meant that there was one vacancy at each of the four churches in the parish. The vestry clerk was asked to read out the nominations received. These were: Voirrey Kinley (St Peter's), Alan Grace (St Catherine's), Malcolm Hale (Kirk Christ) and Peta Mills (St Mary's). There were no other nominations. The chairman stated that the four nominees were duly elected to serve on the PCC for a period of three years.

4. ***Appointment of Sidespersons***

The chairman 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 Thomson, Jean Taylor, John Taylor, C Gelling and B Darroch.

***Kirk Christ:*** J Bregazzi, P Clucas, A Cregeen, J Gunn, J Martin, R Oliver, I Joughin and P Gunn.

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

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

The chairman then asked if anyone wished to be added or deleted from the lists. For Kirk Christ: Malcolm Hale and Dene Hale were to be added making a total of ten. For St Catherine's Peter Winstanley was added making a total of thirteen. There were no additions or deletions to the sidespersons in post at the other two churches. Finally, the chairman 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)*

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

June Harper, the Electoral Roll Officer, had compiled the Roll for 2017. In her absence, the secretary reported that there were 208 names on the 2017 Electoral Roll, compared with 202 names on the roll as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 and that since 2016, six new names had been added to the roll and these were: Inez Joughin, Iris Stephen Murray Mitchell, Sharon Lisa Keeble, Ben Rawstron, Stephen Harley Rycroft and Janice Withey.

6. ***Reports from the various groups in the Parish:***

The chairman referred to the booklet that had been distributed prior to the meeting. This contained reports from most activities held within the parish. He stated that he did not feel it necessary to go through each of the activities in turn but would answer any questions from those present. Arthur Cregeen mentioned the

refurbishment of Kirk Christ and a change to the original plan regarding the stairs to the balcony, and the kitchen area. The chairman felt that this was a good introduction to giving everyone an update on the renovation so far. He stated that progress so far was good and that he was very impressed with the workmanship of the contractor's. The area at the back of the church has now been cleared. The sanctuary is now bigger and has been tastefully done to such an extent that it is difficult to see where changes have been made. The contractor has suggested that his work is likely to be completed by the end of June. Carpeting has then to be laid and it is likely that the project will be completed in full by the end of July. A problem has occurred with leakage of water from the bell tower which must be resolved. This matter is to be brought to the attention of the PCC at the end of this meeting. The chairman explained that the completion of the Kirk Christ renovation should end a series of major restoration of all four churches and halls in the parish, and that hopefully, apart from on-going minor repairs, there won't be a great deal to worry about the buildings for the foreseeable future. John Morris referred to a damp issue at St Peter's Church. David Ali and the chairman explained that the matter had been investigated and that it was an issue which can be resolved by taking some practical steps regarding ventilation, and using a dehumidifier. The tie bars on the windows at St Catherine's was raised. These are rusting and need to be replaced within the next five years. Finally, the chairman stated that although a lot of the work being undertaken in the parish has seemed to be centred on the restoration of buildings, the real work, as people of God in this parish, is to go out among the people who live here to spread the Word of God. The work of the church is far bigger than maintaining the buildings within the parish and much has still to be done.

**7. A report on the financial affairs of the parish:**

The treasurer (Stephen Curtis) referred to the documents pertaining to the accounts to the end of December 2016. He stated that there had been a reduction in the deficit of £38,000 at the end of 2015 to a deficit of £26,000 at the end of last year. He felt that a reduction of £12,000 was satisfactory progress and then explained that an increase in planned giving was perhaps the main reason as to why this had occurred. Stephen then stated that despite these positive steps to decrease the deficit, there was still a lot to do over the next few years to address the present deficit, which if maintained in the next three years would leave the parish finances in a dire position. He then explained that he had been asked by the PCC to prepare a budget covering the next few years which might, if achieved, lead the parish into a sound financial position. He hoped to discuss this with the vicar before presenting it to the PCC at a future meeting. Finally, he suggested that although expenditure would reduce now that the building work was practically at an end, he would need to look at ways in which income could be improved such as fund-raising, hall activity and giving. He then referred to the Vicar and Warden's Account and explained that the assets of this fund would probably be used up in the next twelve months.

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

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

**9. Any other business:**

The chairman asked Richard Clague if he would address the meeting. Richard explained a little of his circumstances and that he had come to the decision to leave the island. This meant that he did not want his 'Permission to Officiate' status on the Isle of Man to be continued and that by July of this year it would cease. Consequently, he will not continue to preach in the parish on a regular basis, something which he had not been doing for the past eighteen months because of his son's illness. Finally, he pointed out that the vicar had suggested that if ever he was on the island and wished to take an active part in worship he would be most welcome. The chairman then thanked Richard for all he had done for the parish during his time here.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Vicar)  
April 2018