

## Minutes of Rushen PCC meeting held in St Mary's Church Hall Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at 7.00pm

**Present:** The Rev'd Joe Heaton (Chair), David Ali, Suzanne Ali, David Bowman, Gerald Callister, Ann Curtis, James Dale, Harry Dawson, Margaret Galloway, Daniel Heaton, Wendy Heaton, David Inch, Voirrey Kinley, Roy Oliver, Michael Porter, Jennifer Stewart, Jonathan Taylor.

### 1. Welcome and Prayers:

The Rev'd Joe Heaton welcomed everyone to the meeting. He then read from St Mark's Gospel and followed this with a prayer.

**2. Apologies for Absence:** Nine apologies had been received prior to the meeting, these were: Stephen Curtis, Alan Grace, Malcolm Hale, Peter Hayhurst, Adam Kelly, Claudia Köenig, Peta Mills, Barbara Qualtrough and Janice Withey.

### 3. Minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July *(and matters therefrom)*

The chairman referred to the minutes, and the confidential minute, of the previous meeting and asked if they were a true record of the proceedings. Gerald Callister proposed, and James Dale seconded that both sets of minutes were. There was unanimous agreement. He then asked if there were any matters arising and referred to the renovation of the organ at Kirk Christ. This prompted Michael Porter to state that the work was almost complete and added that the sound was now cleaner and very noticeable. The chairman then mentioned one or two items which were not on the agenda that would be discussed later. These included the Diocesan Harvest Appeal, the forthcoming Soiree, correspondence from Claudia, and another item of correspondence.

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

#### Finance Committee Report

The chairman referred to the two documents distributed prior to the meeting. He explained that a finance committee meeting had not taken place although he had met with Stephen Curtis (treasurer) who had updated him with the present financial position. Stephen had explained that he was very encouraged with the figures to the end of August which showed that giving had increased and that there was a reduction in expenditure. The chairman then gave an itemised account of where we are at present and suggested that if the current trend was continued we would be in a much healthier position at the end of the financial year than we have been in the past. He explained that a legacy of £10,000 had been received from the late Ernest Hilliard which has been given for the upkeep and maintenance of St Mary's Church, and a grant of £1,000 had been received from Culture Vannin. The chairman stated that the Ladies Working Party had financed the purchase of the tables and chairs now being used in St Mary's Church Hall and had donated £1,000 towards 'The Friends of Chernobyl Children'. Finally, he mentioned a legacy from a lady in Southampton which will ultimately be deposited into the PCC account for the benefit of St Peter's, St Mary's and Kirk Christ churches. Jonathan Taylor referred to the budgeted figure of £20,000 retained for possible expenditure on the buildings and maintenance of St Catherine's Church and stated that it seemed that only £10,000 had been used for this purpose. Did this mean that these funds were still available? The chairman explained the position with reference to how the funds under the heading of 'items of expenditure' were used.

#### Worship Committee Report

The chairman explained that the committee had not met as the proposed worship pattern, as outlined at the last PCC meeting, had not changed.

#### Social Committee Report

Gerald Callister referred to the social committee report that had been circulated prior to the meeting. There followed some discussion regarding the wording of the report. James Dale referred to the Soiree and the positive sale of tickets, and the possibility of more being sold before the event itself. He felt that this event, plus others planned prior to Christmas, would probably mean that the fundraising target in the budget would be met. David Bowman raised a point which Janice Withey had mentioned to him regarding the report itself. She had stated that although the report distributed was similar in content to the one she wrote, it had been

altered and that other information added to it without her knowledge. This prompted Michael Porter to raise issues regarding the Soiree. He explained how the idea of the Soiree was initiated and that James Dale had suggested that a concert be held, as a parish event, to raise funds. James, Gerald Callister and Michael Porter had felt that it ought to take place at Kirk Christ to distinguish it from those held weekly at St Catherine's Church during the summer months. Michael's wife Gill agreed to co-ordinate the canapes and James Dale the wine. It was decided to ask, via the pew sheet, if anyone would volunteer to provide canapes for the event. This invitation was directed to everyone in the parish and not just to the Kirk Christ ladies alone, indeed several men supplied canapes. A meeting was held on 13<sup>th</sup> August to discuss the matter. This was advertised via the pew sheet and in the notices given out at services prior to the meeting. It was not restricted to ladies. Finally, Michael explained that both the Rev'd Norma Cole, and the Rev'd Joe Heaton had a vision to make all our four churches interrelated as one. Much work has been done to achieve this, and yet this event has shown that even now there is still some antagonism amongst our four churches. He had hoped that the Soiree would bring everyone together as a parish. The chairman thanked Michael and asked if there were any questions. Reference was made to the advertising of the event. The chairman explained that it had been advertised far and wide and that in his opinion it was best to do this.

#### **Mission and Outreach Committee Report**

Jennifer Stewart, as secretary of the committee, reported on the document distributed prior to the meeting. She explained that at the previous PCC meeting she had outlined a programme of activities which the committee was hoping to achieve during the next few months. It had been decided that these were ambitious, and though not to be abandoned, would be undertaken later. The farm service and the course for intercessions and personal prayer were felt to be more appropriate in the spring and summer months. The carol singing is going ahead, and the secretary of Rushen Silver Band has been contacted to ensure that the dates when the carol singers are performing do not clash with any of their events. Jennifer then referred to overseas mission and a Tearfund quiz to be held on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November. This would be a nationwide event. Finally, she mentioned whether it would be possible to have an ambassador for Fairtrade in each of our churches. These need not be PCC members but could perhaps be responsible for setting up a Fairtrade stall at the back of each of the churches to promote Fairtrade products.

#### **Building Committee**

Reference was made to the report that had been circulated prior to the meeting. The damp patch above the urn in St Peter's Church was mentioned and there was some discussion regarding this. The chairman stated that this was probably the first meeting in a long time that there was very little to report

### **5. Report from Churchwardens':**

The report presented by Peter Hayhurst had been circulated prior to the meeting, in his absence Gerald Callister commented on the items reported. David Bowman referred to Eddie Perkins who has been tending to the grounds at St Mary's Church and outlined what his plans are for the future. He felt that all this work should not go ahead unrewarded and that perhaps an honorarium could be given to him at some stage. The chairman felt that a gift prior to Christmas might be a better option. He too had been impressed with the work that he had been undertaking. After some discussion **Gerald Callister proposed and Michael Porter seconded that at Christmas Eddie Perkins, the grounds man at St Mary's Church, be given a gift in recognition of his work. The vote taken was unanimous.**

### **6. Correspondence:**

The chairman referred to correspondence in the form of an email, addressed to David Bowman, from Sally Lewis on behalf of the Port St Mary Anti-Cancer Charity. A copy of the email has been kept on file. It referred to the collection taken at Brenda Watterson's funeral which was not donated to the deceased preferred charity. The secretary read the email to those present. The chairman then responded to the email before asking for any comments. He explained that any funds collected within a church building in the Church of England belongs to the PCC, and that any money specifically collected at a funeral for a charitable organisation, could be collected outside of the church building and within the church grounds. He explained that at all the funerals, at which he has officiated, he has always stated that anything collected is for the life and work of the Parish of Rushen, and that donations for charity should be sent directly to it. He also explained that the baskets into which donations are placed are clearly marked. However, he felt that on this occasion a misunderstanding has occurred and that he was keen to make amends for this. There followed some discussion with a variety of

views about this issue. Harry Dawson stated that traditionally the collections taken at funerals were distributed to those in need within the parish and suggested that as a gesture of goodwill the PCC donate to the Port St Mary Anti-Cancer fund. The chairman referred to Alan Clucas' funeral after which he felt a similar situation had occurred and as such felt that the PCC should also donate some of the funds collected. **Consequently, the chairman proposed that the PCC donate half of the collection taken at each of the two funerals to the deceased's preferred charities.** Discussion followed regarding the way forward so that situations such as this do not occur again. Discussion followed regarding the collection itself and the positioning of the people taking it, as it seems to have been the practice for the collectors to be rather prominent and not in the background thus giving the impression that people must give. The chairman explained that the collection at funerals in the parish are placed in a discretionary fund which is used at his behest for needy people in the parish. In conclusion he summarised the issues raised, these were: that baskets are being thrust in front of people leaving the church at funerals and baptisms; that the people taking funerals need to specify that there are labelled baskets at the back of the church if members of the congregation wish to donate to the parish discretionary fund, and that if they wish to donate to a specified charity they must do so by sending their money to the address detailed on the service sheet, this citation should be available on a card for officiants to be read at all funeral and baptism services; that communication has been lacking and that there needs to be an explanation about this issue in 'Rushen News' and in the parish magazine; and that people holding baskets must not stand in a prominent position, and that this procedure is to be reviewed in six months' time. The chairman asked the secretary if he would write to Sally Lewis with an explanation and the PCC's decision.

## **7. Any Other Business:**

David Bowman read an email he had received from Claudia Köenig in connection with advertising, an item discussed at the last PCC meeting. She explained that she would like to see a visible display in the form of banners outside of our churches with a Christian message such as 'God is Love', a verse from the Bible, or perhaps an invitation to 'Come inside and rest awhile'. She also suggested that it would be peaceful to have quiet music playing within the church buildings. Finally, she asked if Mary Gulland's silk hangings at St Mary's Church could be replaced. The chairman commented on the items in turn. Regarding the advertising banners, he felt that the church notice boards were a priority and should be dealt with as soon as possible. He asked if there were any comments. Wendy Heaton felt that we ought to have something which advertises that we are Christians and have a message to give and suggested that we could perhaps ask Claudia to find suitable posters should she wish to do so. The chairman referred to the position of the church notice boards on to which such posters would be affixed and felt that they tended to be too far away for such posters to be seen. He also suggested that the present notices in our notice boards are sometimes there for too long and can look tatty. Secondly, the chairman commented on music playing in our churches. Everyone seemed to think that this was a good idea and that we should look into implementing this as soon as possible. Finally, the chairman referred to the hangings which used to hang at the west end of St Mary's Church. He felt that if they were replaced they would detract from the newly decorated church, especially with the visual appeal of the existing stained-glass windows. The Bishop's harvest appeal was then discussed. This centres on the work of the U.S.P.G. working for the diocese of Columbo helping people living in poverty and focusing on education and healthcare for women and children. The chairman stated that the collection at the harvest service would be for church funds, and donations taken at the subsequent Faith lunch would be sent to the appeal. This was agreed. He then referred to the food collected at the harvest festival which, after distribution to our own elderly and sick parishioners, would be sent to the food bank. Finally, the chairman referred to Liz Hull's ordination and the provision of refreshments after the service. He asked if we could provide the savouries and that sign-up sheets will be available in all four churches for people wishing to provide food.

## **8. Confidentiality:**

There were no items of confidentiality.

The meeting closed with the Grace at 8.50pm

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Rev. Joe Heaton  
20<sup>th</sup> November 2018