

Minutes of Rushen PCC meeting held in St Catherine's Church Hall Tuesday 20th November 2018 at 7.00pm

Present: The Rev'd Joe Heaton (Chair), Rev'd Liz Hull (Curate) David Ali, Suzanne Ali, David Bowman, Gerald Callister, James Dale, Harry Dawson, Margaret Galloway, Alan Grace, Malcolm Hale, Peter Hayhurst, David Inch, Adam Kelly, Claudia Köenig, Peta Mills, Roy Oliver, Michael Porter, Jennifer Stewart, Jonathan Taylor and Janice Withey.

1. Welcome and Prayers:

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

2. Apologies for Absence: Six apologies had been received prior to the meeting, these were: Ann Curtis, Stephen Curtis, Daniel Heaton, Wendy Heaton, Voirrey Kinley and Barbara Qualtrough.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 4th September *(and matters therefrom)*

The chairman referred to the minutes of the previous meeting and asked if they were a true record of the proceedings. Michael Porter proposed, and Gerald Callister seconded that they were. There was unanimous agreement. He then referred to the Soiree held on 7th September and asked Michael Porter to comment.

Michael acknowledged it as a very successful event. This was confirmed by those who had attended. The overall feeling was that another occasion, such as this, would be welcomed sometime in the future, and that it could well be organised by others within the church family, and not necessarily by those who were closely involved with this event. Both Michael Porter and James Dale were thanked for their involvement, including those who worked in the background.

A question was raised regarding discretionary payments and whether these appeared in the accounts. The chairman stated that they were and explained that such payments were made solely by him when he felt that there was a need. When asked he also stated that there was a top limit of £1,500 in the discretionary fund and that if a name of someone in need was given to him in confidence, the person may be considered.

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

Finance Committee Report

On behalf of the treasurer the chairman reported that the finance committee had met and were encouraged by the present financial situation which seems to be very healthy. In fact, if the current rate is maintained it is likely that we will trigger the maximum matched funding of £10,000 at the end of the year. Planned giving is in line with the budget prediction and fund raising has exceeded it. Wedding and funeral fees, including the donations arising from them, are ahead of budget and overall expenses in line with it. The net ordinary deficit for the year to the end of October 2018 is £4,963 compared with the budgeted deficit of £12,300 for the year. A legacy of £10,000, and a £1,000 grant, have been received and some of this income has been used to offset the cost of repairs to the roof, boiler maintenance, a new thermostat and a microphone at St Mary's Church, and the organ repair at Kirk Christ. A new bank mandate is in preparation for the Ladies Working Party (LWP) bank account. This prompted much discussion regarding the need for such an account to be opened when the PCC had one account which the LWP should be using instead of its own. The chairman explained the history of the LWP and the excellent work it had done during its hundred-year existence, and that this included the funding for, and ultimate building and maintenance of St Mary's Church Hall. Questions were asked whether the LWP had overall control of the monies it held. The chairman referred to an earlier meeting of the PCC when the spending limit of £100 was imposed, and that anything above this figure having to be referred to the PCC for approval. It had been agreed that the number of signatories on the new account would be three with two having to sign for any cheque expenditure and that these would include Stephen Curtis (PCC treasurer), David Bowman (LWP treasurer), and A N Other being a member of the LWP. After further discussion **it was proposed by Michael Porter and seconded by Roy Oliver that a new bank mandate 'Rushen PCC (Ladies Working Party)**

Account' be prepared to replace the existing account held by the Ladies Working Party, and that upon inception all monies held by the Ladies Working Party to transfer to the new account. A vote was taken with 19 members in favour of the proposal, none against and one abstention. The proposal was carried. A question was asked about the budget set aside for Mission and Outreach which was answered by the chairman. Charitable giving was an issue raised by the finance committee and after discussion it decided that at the PCC meeting in January it would suggest some charities, and perhaps a level of finance that might be available. The Bishop has asked if parishes would consider GRAIH the homeless charity. There followed some discussion centred around charitable giving. **Finally, the chairman proposed that the PCC give £500 to GRAIH and this was unanimously approved.**

Worship Committee Report

The chairman explained that the committee had not met and therefore there was not a report. Prior to the meeting Michael Porter had asked if he could address the meeting. Michael explained that he was to be admitted to hospital in February for an operation, and that the convalescent period would probably be eight to twelve weeks. He explained that he had arranged for organists to play at all services during this period. There was a possibility that the February date might be earlier but nevertheless felt that he hoped to be able to play at the Christmas services.

Social Committee Report

Gerald Callister referred to the report that had been circulated. He referred to the Christmas Tea being held in December and requested that if anyone could provide cakes it would be well received.

Mission and Outreach Committee Report

Jennifer Stewart referred to her report which had been circulated. The committee discussed the parish mission statement and felt that study material would assist them in fulfilling this. She referred to the carol singing which is to take place on the 16th and 17th December. Discussion followed regarding carol singing around the Christmas tree in Port St Mary. Sheila Preston has offered to be the ambassador to promote Fairtrade products throughout the parish. The Tearfund quiz held on Saturday 17th November raised £430 and lots of fun was had.

Building Committee

David Ali referred to the windows at St Catherine's Church which need attention. A quotation of £3,000 per window had been given which would amount to £51,000 for all 17 windows. The tie bars are in poor condition and do need to be repaired. Secondary glazing in the form of plastic sheeting which covers the windows externally seemed to be a temporary solution. Some discussion followed which included the suggestion that secondary glazing could be included at St Peter's Church.

5. Report from Churchwardens':

On behalf of the churchwardens Peter Hayhurst referred to the report that had been circulated. The heating at St Mary's Church is now being monitored and the situation at all times can be assessed. In addition, the temperature has been reduced from previous years. Peter referred to Eddie Perkins who has been tending the grounds at St Mary's and that he has also cleared the church tower of all debris and pigeon faeces. He has also ensured that pigeons can no longer get into the tower space.

6. Synod Report:

The chairman referred to the Parish Share which next year will increase by approximately £1,900 which is a lower figure than was budgeted. He then explained a little about the process that has been undertaken by the diocese to reach the quotas for all churches on the island.

7. Updating the Speakers at Kirk Christ and St Catherine's:

The chairman referred to outdated speakers at Kirk Christ and the history of their installation. He then explained that the CD player is being used more and more at weddings and funerals and that the present speakers were not designed to amplify music to a good standard as is required. After discussion with Bob Allinson, who has knowledge of such matters, the chairman showed those present a diagram of what he felt would be the best option. Those displayed were about 6½ inches tall and would replace the existing speakers. The wiring does not need to change. Each pair of speakers would cost in the region of £70 and four pairs would be required. The total cost would probably be under £500 and this would include the cost of installation. There followed some discussion after which the chairman referred to Stephen Curtis, a member of the music group at St Catherine's, who would like additional speakers for the keyboard. More discussion followed. The chairman

asked the PCC's approval for the additional speakers, and any other equipment required, be investigated, and the matter brought up at the next PCC meeting in January. There was general approval. It was anticipated that once approval from the Archdeacon had been sought, the new speakers at Kirk Christ, and additional keyboard equipment for St Catherine's, would be installed sometime in the new year.

8. Correspondence:

The secretary referred to the letter and spreadsheet written by Michal Kewley which was circulated with the minutes. The chairman stated that the figures were slightly less than the previous year but felt that concerts for 2019 should go ahead. There was agreement from those present. David Bowman mentioned that Michal would not be able to attend as many concerts and that he hoped that others would be able to take over when he was not available. Gerald Callister felt that this would not be a problem. The chairman felt that we ought to improve the advertising of the concerts. Margaret Galloway felt that if people who were available to assist would indicate their willingness by signing the sheets at the back of churches during the concert season. There followed discussion regarding payment to the artistes, especially when attendance is low.

9. Any Other Business:

The chairman referred to a request from the Ladies Working Party to purchase ten chairs at a cost of approximately £200 to supplement the sixty chairs they recently bought. There followed discussion as to whether this was a reasonable request, especially when the number of events requiring so many chairs held in St Mary's Church Hall each year was low. After further discussion, **the chairman proposed that the Ladies Working Party purchased ten more chairs at a cost of approximately £200. There was unanimous approval.**

The chairman raised the issue of when the minutes of PCC meetings would be available for members to see. He explained that the secretary could have them ready within three weeks and ready for distribution within four. This would then give committees the opportunity to discuss items raised at their meetings and, if necessary, bring them to the attention of the standing committee which meets two weeks before the date of PCC meetings. The chairman then asked that committees meet at least one week before the standing committee meets (and hence three weeks before each PCC meeting).

A question was raised regarding the publication of the minutes to the general public. The secretary explained that they cannot be published until the minutes have been approved by the PCC which is usually two months after a PCC meeting. He stated that normally he publishes them on the website as soon as possible after they have been approved. They can also be pinned to church notice boards at the same time, something that was undertaken many years ago.

Gerald Callister referred to the July 2019 flower festival. The chairman was keen to stage such an event at Kirk Christ. There followed discussion regarding the way in which the event is normally undertaken at other churches on the island. As a PCC, and at this stage, we must state our interest in being involved. This is followed by a £50 fee which must be paid on 15th January. The chairman asked if the PCC were happy to take part and there was unanimous approval.

Finally, David Inch asked about church notice boards. The chairman explained that one has been purchased for Kirk Christ and that it should be installed very soon. There followed discussion regarding the content of the notice boards at the other three churches in the parish. The chairman stated that he would be happy to receive comment from interested PCC members after they had studied the content of the Kirk Christ sign.

10. Confidentiality:

There were no items of confidentiality.

The meeting closed with the Grace at 8.55pm

Signed: _____

Rev. Joe Heaton
22nd January 2019