

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

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 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, Daniel Heaton, Wendy Heaton, David Inch, Claudia Köenig, Voirrey Kinley, Peta Mills, Roy Oliver, Barbara Qualtrough, Jennifer Stewart, Jonathan Taylor and Janice Withey.

### 1. Welcome and Prayers:

The Rev'd Joe Heaton welcomed everyone to the meeting. He then read Psalm 147 and followed this with a prayer.

**2. Apologies for Absence:** Four apologies had been received prior to the meeting, these were: Ann Curtis, Stephen Curtis, Daniel Heaton, Adam Kelly and Michael Porter.

### 3. Minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2018

The chairman referred to the minutes of the previous meeting and asked if they were a true record of the proceedings. They were proposed as correct by Gerald Callister and seconded by Margaret Galloway. There was unanimous agreement. He then asked if there were any matters arising, and as there were none he referred to his proposal for the addition of 10 further chairs, at a cost of £200, to supplement the existing 60 chairs in situ at St Mary's Church Hall. This was approved by the PCC. Since then he had been informed that the cost was now likely to be in excess of £400. As such he had felt it necessary to bring the matter back to the PCC to ensure that it was still in agreement. Consequently, **the chairman proposed that the Ladies Working Party purchase a further 10 chairs, at a cost in the region of £400. There was unanimous agreement.** The chairman then referred to the speakers required at Kirk Christ and that he had spoken to Bob Allinson who is off-island at present. Bob had agreed to replace the speakers that were approved at the last PCC meeting. The chairman continued by stating that he had a new large notice board in his office ready for installation outside of St Mary's Church. Similarly, the notice board for St Catherine's was awaiting installation and is at present in the Kirk Christ vestry. Finally, the chairman explained that approximately two weeks prior to PCC meetings the Standing Committee meets. This is a forum where the agenda of the forthcoming PCC meeting is prepared and a number of relevant issues discussed. He felt that it was most important for sub-committee reports to be available on that occasion and that as such committees ought to be meeting and reporting in advance. This would give the PCC secretary enough time to send all the reports, any other relevant material, and the agenda on only one occasion rather than two or three at present. He stated that if they are not available on time, they are unlikely to be addressed at the PCC meeting.

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

#### Finance Committee Report

The chairman referred to the finance report that had been circulated. In this the treasurer, who was absent, reported that the income and expenditure account showed an ordinary surplus of £221 compared with the deficit of £23,327 at the end of the financial year 2017. The outcome of this meant that the result was £12,000 better than the amount budgeted for. The report detailed an explanation to how this excellent result had been achieved. He also reported that as the total income was over £10,000 higher than the previous year, the PCC was eligible for matched funding of £10,000 which would be included in planned giving for 2019 when received. The report also detailed a provisional budget for 2019 which showed a small projected surplus. The treasurer also reported that the finance committee had recommended that in future the finance for the parish magazine could be covered by voluntary donations rather than by them being sold at 30p each. Finally, the report referred to the PCC's decision to open a new bank account for the Ladies Working Party (LWP). The treasurer explained that he had been to the bank and that its representative had advised him that all that was required was to change the name of the existing account and that this would require the PCC to resolve three issues. These were to change the name of the account from 'St Mary's Church Port St Mary Christmas Tree' to 'Rushen PCC (Ladies Working Party)'; change the authorised signatories on the account to reflect any two signatures of the PCC Treasurer, PCC

Secretary and a designated member of the Ladies Working Party; and change the correspondence address to the PCC secretary. There followed discussion with regard to the excellent financial position that had been achieved and to the changes to be made to the Ladies Working Party bank account. Janice Withey felt that there would need to be sensitivity when contacting the existing sole signatory with regard to changes made to the LWP account as the person concerned had been involved as treasurer for a considerable time. The chairman stated that he would approach the LWP himself before any of the changes are made. After further discussion **the chairman proposed that the PCC agree to the change of the name of 'St Mary's Church Port St Mary Christmas Tree' to 'Rushen PCC (Ladies Working Party)'. The vote taken was unanimous. The chairman then proposed that the authorised signatories on the account should reflect any two signatures of the PCC Treasurer, PCC Secretary and a designated member of the Ladies Working Party. The vote taken was unanimous. Finally, the chairman proposed that all correspondence relating to the LWP account be addressed to the PCC Secretary. The vote taken was unanimous.** Margaret Galloway felt that the pursuit for extra funds to achieve solvency had brought the parish together, and this was agreed by the chairman.

### **Worship Committee Report**

The chairman explained that there was no report as the committee had not met. Nevertheless, he did mention some of the forthcoming services. These were: an Ash Wednesday Service at St Mary's Church at 7.30pm; Compline services at 7.30pm, exploring the lives of the saints, at St Peter's Church on Wednesdays following the Ash Wednesday service until Holy Week; a Seder Meal at St Catherine's on Maundy Thursday; a Walk of Witness after an 11am service on Good Friday at St Catherine's Church; a Tenebrae Service at 8pm at Kirk Christ, also on Good Friday; and on Easter Day a Dawn Service commencing at 5.45am. Recent discussion with David Shirtliff has resulted in Lenten Lunches, to include the Methodists, being organised during Lent. Details will follow.

### **Social Committee Report**

Gerald Callister referred to the forthcoming flower festival. He explained that there are 15 windows available at Kirk Christ for display. A rota for volunteers from all four churches is to be created to assist stewarding and refreshments. The event takes place from 11am to 5pm each day from Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June to Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2019. At the committee meeting a list of possible participants was compiled and James Dale agreed to compose a letter to be sent out to them. The final date for entrants is 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019. Three options were suggested: that entrants could decorate the window themselves; for a donation of £50 the window would be dressed for them by outsourcing the floral display work; or the cost of a window would be shared with another donor. Gerald stated that a donor has offered to cover the cost of five windows. A local retailer has been contacted requesting a discount for flowers obtained from it and it has offered 20%. An Art's Council Flower Festival meeting had been arranged for 15<sup>th</sup> January which Gerald, James Dale and the vicar attended. The theme of the festival is to be 'Working Together'. Finally, the committee has drawn up a plan of events to be held for the rest of the year. Specific events are a musical soiree in the autumn, and summer and Christmas coffee mornings arranged for 22<sup>nd</sup> June and 30<sup>th</sup> November respectively. Details to be finalised nearer the events. Margaret Galloway suggested that the Mission and Outreach Committee would like to be involved in some way with the flower festival. Discussion followed regarding the flower festival and ways in which the parish could be involved.

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

Jennifer Stewart referred to the report that had been circulated. In it she had mentioned how successful the carol singing had been and that it was something which would be worth repeating in future years. The committee decided that it would go ahead with a series of York Notes to study within the parish at some point in the future. Discussion centred around the need for literature to be available at the back of each of our churches. This would be available for visitors and our own parishioners to take away with them. Similarly, it was thought that seasonal literature could be available too. Finally, the purchase of banners and posters, to be displayed outside of our churches, and changed regularly, was seen to be a way of encouraging and welcoming outsiders to join us. The committee was to look at pricing such material. Claudia Köenig showed some examples of the posters that could be displayed, and the costs involved. She also mentioned the idea of a farm service. The chairman felt that we could hold such a service at Cregneish at Rogationtide. Margaret Galloway felt that the vicar's contribution at its next meeting would be invaluable and that if anyone had any ideas about ways whereby outreach in the parish could be enhanced, she would love to hear it.

## **Building Committee**

The chairman praised the report that had been circulated because it was short and to the point. He asked if there were any comments and then raised the issue of dampness on the north wall of the church hall. He stated that he was concerned about this and was keeping an eye on it. However, the chairman felt that the buildings in general were in a good state of repair.

## **5. A Brief Review of Advent/Christmas Services**

The chairman gave a brief report stating that in his opinion attendances were higher at all of the services which took place during the Christmas period. There followed a general discussion about how successful the season had been. Peter Hayhurst referred to the tree at St Mary's and how it had enhanced the Christmas festivities. The secretary stated that he would write to the commissioners at Port St Mary, Port Erin and Rushen thanking them for the trees and hoping that this could be repeated next year.

## **6. Wardens' Report:**

Peter Hayhurst referred to his report which was self-explanatory but made particular reference to the background music now being played throughout the day at St Catherine's, St Mary's and Kirk Christ churches.

## **7. Flower Festival:**

This matter was discussed during the social committee report.

## **8. Speakers at St Catherine's**

The chairman explained that Steve Curtis was to purchase two speakers placed on stands, plus a mini-mixing desk for the keyboard at St Catherine's. This would be portable and could be used throughout the parish. There followed some discussion after which **the chairman proposed that two speakers and a mini-mixing desk be purchased, at Steve Curtis' expense, for use within the parish. The vote taken was unanimous.**

## **9. Signage at St Catherine's**

The chairman referred to the advertising signage on the boundary wall of St Catherine's Church that had been discussed at a previous meeting. To gain the views of parishioners he had produced a questionnaire which he hoped to distribute in due course. He read the details, as stated on the questionnaire, and the responses to be made. He then asked for any comments. There followed a general discussion with a suggestion that it was the most democratic way of tackling the issue to the affect it might have on shopkeepers in Church Road. Liz Hull felt that a submission date should be included on the questionnaire. The chairman was emphatic in saying that this was a survey and the result of it would not mean that we would have to act upon it. The final decision is the PCC's and even then, if it is approved, the church authorities would have to be consulted and possibly faculties sought. After further discussion **the chairman proposed, that after making some changes to the questionnaire as discussed at this meeting, it is presented to congregations at all four churches during February. There was unanimous agreement.**

## **10. Correspondence:**

The chairman referred to recent correspondence received from the diocese outlining that this year an electoral roll revision is being undertaken. Forms are to be found at the back of our four churches which, when completed, will enable all parishioners to be included in the new roll. Forms must be submitted by 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Secondly, the diocese is running an evening centred on how we can become an invitational church. Normally this would be open to clergy and readers only but this is an invitation to lay people as well. The aim of the exercise is to ensure that we are inviting and encouraging people to our services. Invitations will be sent to specific people such as the wardens. Details will be published in Rushen News.

## **11. Any Other Business:**

There was no any other business

## **12. Confidentiality:**

There were no items of confidentiality.

The meeting closed in prayer at 8.55pm

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

Rev. Joe Heaton  
19<sup>th</sup> March 2019