

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

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at 7.00pm

**Present:** The Rev'd Joe Heaton (Chair), Rev'd Liz Hull (Curate) David Bowman, Gerald Callister, Stephen Curtis, James Dale, Harry Dawson, Margaret Galloway, Peter Hayhurst, Daniel Heaton, Wendy Heaton, David Inch, Claudia Köenig, Voirrey Kinley, Peta Mills, Barbara Qualtrough and Janice Withey. *(Also present was Justin Unsworth – Independent Accounts Examiner)*

### 1. Welcome and Prayers:

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked the Rev'd Liz Hull if she would read from the Bible (Psalm 147) and open the meeting with prayer.

**2. Apologies for Absence:** Eight apologies had been received prior to the meeting, these were: David Ali, Suzanne Ali, Ann Curtis, Malcolm Hale, Adam Kelly, Roy Oliver, Michael Porter and Jonathan Taylor.

### 3. Minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2019

The chairman referred to the minutes of the previous meeting and asked for any amendments or omissions. Claudia Köenig referred to the vote taken at the last meeting in connection with the proposal regarding advertising signage and the questionnaire which is to be circulated to parishioners. She wished to state that she voted against the proposal and that this was not indicated in the minutes. The secretary explained that in future if members wished to vote against, or abstain from, a proposal they must make it clear in the future. Harry Dawson proposed, and Gerald Callister seconded that the minutes were a true record. There was unanimous agreement from those who were present at the meeting.

### 4. Approval of the 2018 Accounts

The chairman referred to the end of year accounts which had been circulated prior to the meeting and asked if there were any comments. Gerald Callister, on behalf of the PCC, thanked the treasurer for the diligence shown in the way that the accounts had been presented. Justin Unsworth gave a brief explanation with regard to his role as examiner of the accounts. He explained that recommendations made by him last year to streamline the accounting procedure had been activated and that as such the accounts had been presented clearly. There were no comments made. **Stephen Curtis (Treasurer) proposed that both the Rushen PCC Account, and Rushen Vicar and Warden's Account for 2018 be approved by the PCC, Peter Hayhurst seconded the proposal. 14 members voted for the proposal, there was 1 abstention and no vote against. The proposal was carried.** At that point the relevant documents were signed. The chairman thanked Justin Unsworth for his intervention.

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

#### Finance Committee Report

The Treasurer referred to the PCC accounts for February which had been circulated. He stated that at the end of the first two months of the year there was a surplus of £8,883. He then clarified that the £10,000 matched funding received from the anonymous donor in respect of 2018 was included in the present year's surplus. Without it there would have been a deficit of just over £1,000. The treasurer was pleased to announce that the anonymous donor had agreed to extend the offer to 2019 and to match fund any increase over 2018 into 2019 up to £10,000. To achieve this the donor has agreed a base figure of £118,000 in terms of ordinary income. This is not the same as the actual total income in 2018 which was £127,671. This is because there were two exceptional donations in 2018 which are unlikely to be repeated in the current year. The £10,000 just received will not be included in the matched funding calculation for 2019. The Treasurer presented a budget for 2019 showing a £2,300 surplus, largely based on the actual figures for 2018. On the basis of this budget, it will be very difficult to achieve the same level of matched funding in 2019. To secure matched funding of £10,000 as last year, we will have to achieve £128,000 in ordinary income with the extra £10,000 possibly coming from fund-raising activities. There followed a discussion about the budget. The cost of cleaning charges was raised and it was decided that the building committee should look into this and report back to the finance committee. The oil costs were also raised. Peter Hayhurst suggested that he was looking into this using St Mary's oil costs as a guide, and that the matter would be discussed again in the future when more data had been collected. **The Treasurer then**

**proposed that the budget for 2019 as presented be adopted by the PCC, Gerald Callister seconded the proposal. There was unanimous agreement.** At this point Justin Unsworth was thanked for his work by the chairman. He then left the meeting.

#### **Worship Committee Report**

The chairman explained that the committee had not met and as such no report was to hand. He stated that the services for Holy Week and Easter had now been planned and advertised in Rushen News.

#### **Social Committee Report**

Janice Withey was thanked for her report which had been circulated prior to the meeting. She explained that most of it had centred around the forthcoming flower festival. As this was an agenda item it was decided to discuss this aspect later in the meeting. Janice then referred to the dates of forthcoming events which had been notified in the report.

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

The chairman referred to Jennifer Stewart who had resigned from the PCC owing to family pressures. She had, nevertheless, submitted a report on which Margaret Galloway commented. She stated that colourful and thought-provoking posters had been purchased and that these would be displayed in church notice boards. Study materials such as Pilgrim Courses had been discussed as a means of information and encouragement for people to read their Bibles. Perhaps such materials could form the basis for study by home groups. Also, it was felt that literature should be available at the back of our churches for people to pick up, take away, and perhaps learn more about our faith. It was felt that the flower festival would be a good place for visitors to pick up such literature and hopefully give them an insight into church life. Margaret explained that she had been in touch with Paul Costain regarding a farm service. He had been very positive and felt this to be a good idea and suggested the afternoon of the second or third Sunday in May. He was to confirm this in the near future. Finally, Margaret wanted it recording that Jennifer Stewart has done an enormous amount of work whilst being part of the PCC and hoped that she would be thanked for this. The secretary explained that he had already sent an email to this effect. Jenny had been coordinating Fairtrade within the parish and been liaising with Margaret Newton who was going to give us a sale and return box of Fairtrade items for us to sell. Sheila Preston has kindly offered to coordinate stocks and sales. Margaret then referred to the report 'Port Purlers Charity Knitters' which she had submitted to the PCC to make it aware of another form of outreach taking place within the parish on a weekly basis. Those involved are not usually members of one of our churches but nevertheless take part in Christian projects. James Dale then referred to 'Rushen Roamers', a relatively new initiative, which takes place once a week and involves members of the community walking prescribed routes within the parish. This too encourages people to talk about their experiences and is a link between the church and the community as a whole.

#### **Building Committee**

Gerald Callister reported that he had been in contact with the diocesan architect in connection with condensation at St Peter's Church. Peter Hayhurst raised an issue at St Mary's Church where the ceiling at the west end of the church appeared to be bulging and was therefore a hazard to parishioners. The chairman suggested that the pews immediately below the problem be roped off until the matter is investigated by the relevant authorities.

### **6. Synod Report**

The chairman reported on the Diocesan Synod meeting held recently. He stated that the Bishop had two announcements to make one of which was that Rev'd James McGowan has moved from Malew & Santon to a parish in Newcastle. The second was that Rev'd Christopher Lowdon vicar of Maughold and South Ramsey is also leaving. The consequence of Rev'd James McGowan's departure now means that our vicar is now in charge of the Malew & Santon parish during the interregnum. The remainder of the Synod meeting was broken off into partnership groups discussing how there could be common ground in accomplishing mission together and sharing resources. The chairman suggested that he would like to continue such discussions within the Southern Mission Partnership and that any interested parties might consider election to it at the forthcoming APCM.

### **7. Wardens' Report:**

Peter Hayhurst referred to the notice boards that had now been erected at St Marys' and Kirk Christ, and that preparations are in place to erect one at St Catherine's. He then went on to explain about a meeting held at St Ninian's Church in connection with churches within the diocese being more invitational. A number of representatives from the parish attended. The chairman explained more about this initiative which was designed to make us look at ourselves as a parish, whether we are inviting people to join us, and ways in which we can improve.

## **8. Update on the Flower Festival:**

The chairman explained that there are 13 windows for organisations, other than us, to fill. To date there are 12 taken. A letter was sent to other organisations explaining that there was still one window to fill. Three of these have replied positively and it may well be others will too. St Peter's Church has agreed to join in so that those wishing to display at Kirk Christ but can't, because of oversubscription, have an alternative venue. A coordination meeting is being held in May which will be attended by Glenda Murphy who is overseeing the project for the parish. At the festival refreshments will be on sale and a sign-up chart is to be circulated around each of our four churches inviting parishioners if they would like to be on duty during the festival, or to provide refreshments. There followed discussion about the event.

## **9. Update on the new Marriage Legislation**

The chairman referred to new legislation regarding marriage legislation on the island from 1<sup>st</sup> March which is now going to fall in line with that of the Church of England. This will mean that anyone with a qualifying connection with a parish can now get married at the parish church by the calling of Banns of Marriage. For example, if a person has lived in the parish in the past, if a person's parents have lived, or are living in the parish, if a person's parents were married in the parish, if a person has been baptised, or prepared for confirmation within the parish are some examples which will now allow people to marry in a particular church. In the case of the Parish of Rushen, because three of our churches are chapels of ease, the only church available for marriage under the new conditions will be the parish church. This is likely to change in the future. Marriage in our three chapels of ease will still require a special licence for the time being.

## **10. Correspondence:**

The secretary stated that he had received two items of correspondence one of which was Jennifer Stewart's resignation from the PCC which had already been discussed. The other was in connection with Parish Plus, a circular sent by the archdeacon about parish insurance policies. The chairman explained that in line with other churches our insurance policy was with Ecclesiastical. However, whenever making a claim it was usually linked with churches in the United Kingdom. The archdeacon felt this to be unfair and as such Ecclesiastical has now appointed an island representative. The representative was invited to look at a parish on the island and came to Rushen to give him an example. This was because we have four churches, two halls and a burial ground. The idea behind this was to see if there could be an island-wide insurance policy. Whilst the Diocese can't have such a policy, individual parishes can. The chairman suggested that we as a parish should have such a policy and felt that this issue be brought to the new PCC at an appropriate time after the Standing Committee has had time to discuss it.

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

The chairman referred to correspondence he had written concerning the will of Patricia Spriggs. He stated that he had written to the solicitor's concerned on several occasions and that to date he had not had a reply. David Bowman referred to the APCM Booklet that he produces every year. This is an explanatory document which details the activities that have taken place within the parish during the past year. He explained that there were still some reports to be submitted. The chairman encouraged those who had not completed the electoral roll form to do so before 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Finally the chairman read out the names of those who are retiring from the PCC this year and thanked them for their contribution over the past three years.

## **12. Confidentiality:**

There were no items of confidentiality

The meeting closed with prayer at 8.40pm

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

Rev. Joe Heaton

21<sup>st</sup> May 2019