

## Minutes of Rushen PCC meeting held in St Mary's Church Hall Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2019 at 7.00pm

**Present:** The Rev'd Joe Heaton (Chair), Rev'd Liz Hull (Curate), David Bowman, Stephen Curtis, Janet Morley, Philip Verschueren, Inger Perkins, Claudia Köenig, David Inch, Peta Mills, Malcolm Hale, James Dale, Daniel Heaton, Peter Hayhurst and Margaret Galloway.

### 1. Welcome and Prayers:

The chairman welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the year. He was concerned about the low attendance, especially as there were quite a few absences. This meant that there was just about a quorum present. He then invited the Rev'd Liz Hull to read from the Bible and to open the meeting with prayer. She read from Luke 5:1-11.

### 2. Apologies for Absence:

Suzanne Ali, Alan Grace, Lesley Scott, Christine Deakin, Voirrey Kinley, David Ali, Ann Curtis, Gerald Callister, Harry Dawson, Wendy Heaton and Adam Kelly.

### 3. Minutes of previous meetings held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2019 and Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2019:

The chairman referred to the minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2019. He asked if there were any corrections or omissions. As there were none Peter Hayhurst proposed and Peta Mills seconded that they were an accurate record of the meeting. There was unanimous approval. Secondly the chairman referred to the minutes of the short meeting held after the APCM on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2019 and again asked if they were a true record of the meeting. As there were no discrepancies David Inch proposed and Margaret Galloway seconded that they were. There was unanimous approval. The chairman signed both documents. He then asked whether there were any matters arising. David Bowman raised an issue which had occurred after the APCM when checking the numbers of PCC members. He found that there were six members representing St Mary's Church and realised that he had made a mistake in assuming that there were three vacancies for members from St Mary's when in fact there were only two. As a consequence he withdrew his own nomination. This reduced the six members to five. Assuming that the PCC were agreeable he would continue as secretary as a co-opted member of the PCC for the ensuing year. There were no objections.

### 4. Appointment of Vice Chairman and Standing Committee:

The chairman explained that the vice chairman needs to be a lay member of the PCC. Peta Mills proposed and Inger Perkins seconded that Peter Hayhurst stand as vice chairman for the coming year. There was unanimous approval. He then referred to the standing committee which always comprises the wardens and two other members who could be drawn from anyone on the electoral roll. After a brief explanation as to the workings of this committee he asked if there were any nominees. Inger Perkins proposed and Peter Hayhurst seconded that David Bowman be a member of the standing committee, and Claudia Köenig and Peta Mills seconded that the Rev'd Liz Hull should also be a member. There was unanimous approval.

### 5. Co-option of Individuals onto the PCC:

The chairman referred to Michael Porter who has always been a member of the PCC, and as such proposed that we co-opt Michael on to the PCC for the ensuing year. He felt that his position as Director of Music is of importance in the development of worship throughout the parish. By being co-opted it does not compel him to have to attend every PCC meeting, it does however give him the opportunity to attend committee meetings where his input is invaluable. There was unanimous agreement to the proposal.

### 6. PCC Vacancies:

The chairman referred to an application for membership of the PCC to represent Kirk Christ. This is from Elizabeth Jane Gunn. If appointed she would fill one of the two PCC vacancies at Kirk Christ. After discussion it was decided to vote whether Jane should be appointed as a PCC member. There was unanimous agreement.

### 7. Appointment of Sub-Committees:

The chairman referred to the appointment of PCC members to sub-committees. A document outlining the list of appointees to each committee had been circulated. He asked if everyone was happy with the committee to which they had been assigned. There followed much discussion. One PCC member had been omitted from any of the committees. Based on the number of suggested changes discussed the chairman stated that he would revamp the

list and that this would be circulated in due course. There was a concern raised about whether the present five committee structure ought to include another to cover children and youth. This prompted discussion about other areas such as baptism and pastoral care. One member felt that every area of church life doesn't need to have a sub-committee attached to it. A suggestion was made that perhaps youth work ought to be an item on the agenda of all PCC meetings. A further suggestion was made that in addition to usual discussions, each committee could focus on how its work impacts on all ages in society including children, young people and the elderly. *e.g. is the social committee inclusive when deciding upon the activities it arranges; does the building committee look at adaptations that can be made to buildings to include all ages etc.?* The chairman felt that such discussions could be aired at future PCC meetings, and that at the July meeting each committee could report upon the work that it hopes to cover during the ensuing year. A question was raised with regard to pastoral care which prompted some discussion. The chairman reminded everyone of G.D.P.R. regulations and to be mindful of them when discussing the needs of others.

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

### **Finance Committee Report**

The treasurer (Stephen Curtis) referred to the financial report which had been circulated. He stated that it showed an ordinary surplus of £5,447 for the four months to the end of April 2019. He explained that this included the matched funding of £10,000 and that in real terms would have shown a deficit of £4,553 which is far from satisfactory, he also stated that the total income was disappointing too, £8,000 less than what he would have expected it to be. Planned giving was £3,000 short, collections £2,000 short and fund raising £3,000 short of last year's figures, although fund raising hasn't really started this year. Expenditure was very much in line with the figures predicted, although savings do not appear to have been made in connection with fuel costs. He then referred to a proposal made by the Ladies Working Party. This included four elements which were detailed in his written report. The first and third of these had already been approved by the PCC at a previous meeting. The second, in connection with authorised signatories, is a change from what was agreed at the PCC meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2019. However, the treasurer emphasised that when issuing a cheque the LWP would have to adhere to the 'Levels of Financial Authorisation' document which was circulated prior to the meeting. The fourth element covered charitable donations made by the LWP in the name of the church. Stephen explained that this wasn't necessary as all payments made from a PCC account are reflected in the church accounts. After further discussion Stephen Curtis proposed and the Rev'd Liz Hull seconded: **That the authorised bank signatories on the renamed LWP account, entitled 'Rushen PCC (Ladies Working Party)' previously 'St Mary's Church Port St Mary Christmas Tree', will be the PCC treasurer (Stephen Curtis), the LWP treasurer (Lesley Scott), and a third signatory, appointed by the LWP, (Patricia Thomson).** The vote taken was unanimous. A further proposal by Stephen Curtis and seconded by the Rev'd Liz Hull was that: **The fourth element of the LWP proposal be rejected as its content referred to PCC policy already in operation.** The vote taken was unanimous. In conclusion the treasurer proposed, and Daniel Heaton seconded: **That as with the main PCC account, the renamed LWP account be included in internet banking.** The vote taken was again unanimous. The treasurer then referred to a way in which money for church funds could be generated by the means of contactless payments. He suggested that at occasional services such as weddings, baptisms and funerals, having a contactless payment terminal available might encourage people to donate at the end of such services. There followed some discussion regarding charges for the facility, and the fact that only one terminal would be needed as it could be moved from church to church. The chairman suggested that the finance committee look further into this issue. He also asked if it could also look at internet giving as a way in which the church could raise funds. The chairman also raised the issue of cleaning charges. He gave details of the present cleaning regime which costs about £520 per month, and that the probability of employing another cleaner at a cheaper rate unlikely. He suggested that perhaps we could reduce the charges by having the cleaner once a fortnight instead of once a week. Further suggestions were made which prompted some discussion. The building committee had been asked to look into this but so far have not commented. Concern was raised regarding the concern a cut in the hours and wages of the cleaner may cause, and whether he would want to continue. After further discussion it was left that the chairman would speak to Gerald Callister and seek his opinion as to whether there could be a reduction in the number of times the brasses are cleaned. No decision was made regarding the monthly cleaning charges.

### **Social Committee Report**

The chairman referred to the social committee report which had been circulated. The report covered the forthcoming flower festival and plans for a summer coffee morning and the summer concerts. There was nothing to add. The chairman asked if the social committee could perhaps fill its diary with a few more social events.

### **Building Committee Report**

The building report had been distributed prior to the meeting. This referred to various minor tasks required to keep the church buildings in a state of good repair. The chairman asked if there were any comments of which there were none.

## **9. Wardens' Report:**

There was some discussion about the value of this item on the agenda. The chairman asked if there was anything that the PCC would like to see in this report. He added that in the past it had been an historical agenda item, and now that there is a building committee much of the work it covers coincides with the wardens' responsibilities. Consequently he felt that this item only needed to be on the agenda if the wardens have something specifically to report.

## **10. Eco Church:**

The Rev'd Liz Hull gave an insight into this initiative which was set up by A Rocha, a Christian charity working for the protection and restoration of the natural world. She referred to a document entitled to 'Eco Church Movement' which had been circulated prior to the meeting. This is a Christian charity working for the protection and restoration of the natural world. The movement aims to look at five key areas: worship and teaching within the church, buildings (*how we use them and make them as ecologically friendly as we can*), churchyard, community and global engagement (*how we use our land*), and lifestyle (*how we recycle, do we share lifts to church or functions etc.*). It is hoped to get all the churches in the Isle of Man engaged in Eco Church so that we can become an Eco Church island. What is required of the PCC is to give consent to logging on to the website, setting up an account, and evaluating how we are doing. This would give us a rating. Perhaps committees could look at this to see how we as a church are performing in the five key areas. There is no cost implication but our choices in making eco friendly decisions, even if the cost may not be the cheapest, may in the long run, have an impact on climate change and other eco-friendly initiatives. Discussion followed including how we are doing as a church and whether we could achieve a parish rating at all, and other matters relating to this. It was proposed by the Rev'd Liz Hull and seconded by David Inch that we should register the parish on the website. There was unanimous approval.

## **11. Correspondence:**

The secretary referred to a letter he had received from J.F. Electrical in connection with the laying of an electrical cable in the environs of St Mary's Church. The chairman was rather aggrieved about this as no permission had been sought from him regarding this work, which incidentally had already been completed. An email from Vanessa Gray from the Department of Infrastructure was received confirming that a dropped kerb is to be installed on the pavement adjacent to the car park gate at Kirk Christ. No date has been given as to when the work will commence.

## **12. Any Other Business:**

*Members of the Mission & Outreach Committee raised three items during the committee report section of the agenda. Thanks were offered to those who had helped with the Christian Aid Collection, and a request for more 'Try Praying' booklets to be purchased was made. The farm service which was to be held at Rogationtide has had to be postponed, but it may be held later in the year. Further details will be available at the July meeting.*

After a short explanation about the 'Diocesan Safeguarding Policy' the chairman proposed that the PCC accept it and adhere to it during the ensuing year. This was agreed unanimously.

## **13. Confidentiality:**

There were no items of confidentiality

The meeting closed with prayer at 8.52pm

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

Rev. Joe Heaton

16<sup>th</sup> July 2019