

# The Parish of Rushen Parochial Church Council

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## **Minutes of Rushen Annual Parochial Church Meeting held at Kirk Christ Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at 7.00pm**

### **Present:**

The Rev'd Joe Heaton (Chair), David Ali, Suzanne Ali, David Bowman, John Bregazzi, Gillian Budgen, Gerald Callister, Carole Coole, Ann Curtis, Stephen Curtis, James Dale, Harry Dawson, Colin Edwards, Janet Edwards, John Gulland, Mary Gulland, Elizabeth Gunn, Malcolm Hale, Peter Hayhurst, Daniel Heaton, Inez Joughin, Adam Kelly, Jean Kershaw, Voirrey Kinley, Claudia König, John Martin, Anthony Murphy, Marie Oliver, Roy Oliver, Michael Porter, Rev'd John Sheen, Elizabeth Sheen, Jennifer Stewart, Jean Taylor, John Taylor, Jonathan Taylor and Sylvia Wightman.

### **Apologies for Absence:**

Pauline Bowman, Arthur Cregeen, Margaret Galloway, Margaret Kelly, Dorothy Kewley, Michal Kewley, Peta Mills, Margaret Mahood, Margaret Moore, Elizabeth Noble, Philip Preston, Sheila Preston and Janice Withey.

The vicar welcomed everyone to the meeting and began with prayer and a reading from Philippians. He then felt that it was appropriate to thank the many people who have contributed so much to the parish during the past year. He included: churchwardens, PCC members, Diocesan Synod representatives, Southern Mission Partnership representatives, clergy, readers, children's leaders, those who intercede or read lessons at our services, sidespeople, the magazine editor, PCC secretary and treasurer, the director of music, the parish administrator and safeguarding officer, and Jean and John Taylor who carry out weekly photocopying duties. Finally, the chairman thanked Arthur Cregeen who has diligently undertaken his role as churchwarden at Kirk Christ for many years, and for the advice he has given to him during the past seven years. He then apologised to anyone who he may have forgotten and ought to have been named. Gerald Callister offered thanks to the vicar for all his work during the past year and passed on the best wishes of Arthur Cregeen who was not present at the meeting.

## **Meeting of Parishioners – Annual Vestry Meeting**

### **Election of Four Churchwardens:**

The vicar asked for the names of those nominated to act as churchwardens for the ensuing year. The secretary read the names who were; Gerald Callister, Harry Dawson, and Peter Hayhurst. There were no other nominations. As the parish is entitled to have four wardens it now had a vacancy for this position. The vicar asked if there were any nominations from those present. As there were none, the three nominees named above were elected to serve for the year April 2018/April 2019. The vicar then informed the wardens that they were to attend the Chapter Court at St George's Church, Douglas, on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June at 8pm to be formally accepted in their role.

## **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

### **Minutes of the APCM held on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

The vicar referred to the minutes of the last APCM and asked if there were any omissions or corrections. Sylvia Wightman referred to the fact that she had only received her copy of the minutes that evening and as such was not able to state whether there were any changes that needed to be made as she hadn't had time to read them. She asked if it would be possible to have the minutes earlier, perhaps a week before the meeting. The secretary stated that he would ensure that they would be available earlier next year. The vicar apologised for the error. It was proposed by Harry Dawson and seconded by Gerald Callister that they be accepted as a true record. The vote was carried unanimously. There were no matters arising.

## **Election of Four Representatives to the Southern Mission Partnership**

The vicar explained that the group meets roughly four times each year. It comprises of all the parishes in the south of the island which are Arbory and Castletown, Malew and Santon and Rushen. There are 10 churches and therefore 10 representatives. Incumbents and readers are asked to attend. The aim is to find ways of improving mission across the partnership. Its successes have included the training of the pastoral care group. A joint service at Rushen Abbey has already been held, with another planned for later this year. It is hoped that these will attract people from across the south of the island. The vicar then asked the secretary for any nominations of which there were two: Gerald Callister for St Catherine's Church and Peter Hayhurst for St Mary's Church. The vicar asked if there were any of those present interested in joining the group this year. There were none, so the two nominees named above were elected. The vicar hoped that others will join the partnership later in the year.

## **Election of representatives to the PCC:**

The vicar explained that there were three vacancies for representatives of St Mary's Church and two for St Catherine's Church and asked the secretary whether there had been any nominations. He stated that there had been a nomination from Suzanne Ali to represent St Catherine's and one from Claudia König to represent St Mary's. This meant that there were still three vacancies to be filled. The vicar asked if there was anyone willing to fill these. Jonathan Taylor stated that he would be willing to serve on the PCC to represent St Catherine's. Steven Curtis proposed, and Daniel Heaton seconded the proposal. There was unanimous approval.

## **Election of five representatives to the Diocesan Synod:**

The vicar explained that as the parish is large it is entitled to five representatives and made clear that the number of representatives is always proportionate to the total of people on the electoral roll. The secretary was asked to name any nominations. There were four who were Gerald Callister, David Ali, James Dale and Daniel Heaton. A question was asked what being a representative entailed. The vicar explained a little of the workings of the synod, how often and where it met. This led to a further nomination from Ann Curtis. As the required number of representatives had been nominated, they were all elected to serve in the synod for three years.

## **Appointment of Sidespersons**

The secretary explained that the list of sidespersons proposed at the last APCM had been circulated with the minutes of last year's meeting, and that all that was required was to add or delete names from this list.

**St Mary's:** S Bould, M Hartley, P Hayhurst, D Kelly, P Thomson, Jean Taylor, John Taylor, C Gelling and B Darroch.

**Kirk Christ:** J Bregazzi, P Clucas, A Cregeen, J Gunn, J Martin, R Oliver, I Joughin and P Gunn.

**St Peter's:** W Callister, C Crossley, H Dawson, J Deakin, D Hibbert, S Maddrell and J Morris.

**St Catherine's:** C Barnes, G Callister, S Gale, F Geddes, G Hibbert, G May, P Preston, S Preston, B Trustrum, J Dale, D Ali and S Ali.

The vicar then asked if anyone wished to be added or deleted from the lists. For St Mary's Stephen Charmer was added, and for Kirk Christ Gerald Callister was added. There were no additions or deletions to the sidespersons in post at the other two churches. He then stated that he expected that all sidespersons would be required to attend a basic level of safeguarding course.

## **Report on changes to the electoral roll since the last APCM**

June Harper, the Electoral Roll Officer, had compiled the Roll for 2018. In her absence, the vicar reported that there were 215 names on the 2018 Electoral Roll, compared with 208 names on the roll as at April 2018 and that since 2017, two names had been deleted who were: Brian Jessop and Peter Wilkinson (both deceased), and nine six new names had been added, and these were: Lukas Juan Hayhurst, Kayleigh Anne Johnson-Patterson, Alice Leadbetter, Jamie Lewis, Matthew Malcolm Looker, Faye Pendlebury, Lucy Mai Pendlebury, Jonathan Mark Taylor and Charlotte Vale. The vicar then explained that the electoral roll officer, June Harper, was standing down from this position.

### **Reports from the various groups in the Parish:**

The vicar referred to the booklet that had been distributed to everyone at the meeting but suggested that it, like the minutes, ought to be distributed earlier so that if anyone wanted to raise an issue, they would have read it beforehand. The secretary was happy to publish it prior to the next APCM in 2019. The vicar referred to his report which had indicated that much has been done during the past year, but the focus has been the refurbishment of Kirk Christ. This project was the culmination of work done at all four churches in the parish over the past six years to ensure that all of them were in a good state of repair. He then referred to the appointment of a curate to the parish later in the year. He explained that having a curate didn't mean that his work was made easier as it was his responsibility to train the curate, just as he had been responsible for the training of Mark Payne, Matthew Robinson and Alex Brown. A question was asked regarding the progress made by Alex and Mark since they left the parish which received a positive response.

### **A report on the financial affairs of the parish:**

Stephen Curtis referred to the annual accounts which had been examined and accepted by the PCC as a true record of the financial affairs of the parish during the year 2017. These were available to anyone who wished to see them. He explained that taking the year as a whole, there had been a slight improvement and that this was due mainly to increased giving. The main project in 2017 had been the reordering of Kirk Christ at a cost of £151,000 which was funded entirely from two legacies. The diocesan quota for 2018 is £63,261 and this is being paid monthly, whereas previously it had been paid annually. Finally, the treasurer referred to financial planning for the future. He explained that the current rate of deficit was unsustainable, so the PCC had agreed to a financial plan to reduce the annual deficit to nil over the next four years. This will involve increasing the parish's income, firstly through increased planned giving, and secondly through fundraising. As an incentive to increase church giving and fundraising the PCC received a generous anonymous offer to match-fund any increase in the total amount of income raised this year over last year up to a maximum of £10,000. The vicar thanked Stephen and then referred to discussions he has had regarding a variety of ways in which the parish could raise funds. A question was raised about the parish fete which seemed to have been abandoned. The vicar explained the logistics as to why this has occurred. Discussion followed most of which centred around ways in which the parish could increase its funding.

### **Appointment of Independent Examiner of PCC Accounts**

Gerald Callister proposed that Justin Unsworth be appointed as the auditor of PCC accounts. This was seconded by Roy Oliver. The vote taken was unanimous.

### **Any Other Business**

The vicar referred to a Christian Aid event taking place later in the month. Elizabeth Sheen mentioned that her husband John will have been in ministry for 60 years on Trinity Sunday. The vicar replied by stating that he would honour this on Trinity Sunday in some way. Inez Joughin referred to the poor notice board at Kirk Christ. The vicar responded that its repair was in hand and will be dealt with when other repairs are undertaken at the lych gate. Signage at the other churches will be dealt with in the future. Anthony Murphy referred to safeguarding in the light of an incident which had happened previously at another church on the island. The vicar responded by stating that Rushen Parish was rigorous in ensuring that all relevant personnel will be trained. He outlined the training procedure that has to be covered. As there was no other business the vicar thanked everyone for attending and asked the new PCC to assemble for a short meeting.

After prayer and the Grace, the meeting closed at 8.35pm