

Minutes of Rushen PCC meeting held in St Mary's Church Hall Tuesday 16th July 2019 at 7.00pm

Present: The Rev'd Joe Heaton (Chair), David Bowman, Stephen Curtis, Janet Morley, Grace Hibbert, Inger Perkins, Claudia Köenig, David Inch, Peta Mills, Jane Gunn, Malcolm Hale, Christine Deakin, Ann Curtis, James Dale, Daniel Heaton, Gerald Callister, Harry Dawson, Peter Hayhurst and Wendy Heaton.

1. Welcome and Prayers:

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. After a short prayer he read from Luke Chapter 18.

2. Apologies for Absence:

Rev'd Liz Hull, Philip Verschueren, Suzanne Ali, Alan Grace, Lesley Scott, Voirrey Kinley and Margaret Galloway.

3. Minutes of previous meeting *(and matters arising therefrom)*

The chairman referred to the minutes of the meeting held on 21st May 2019 and asked if they were a true record. Daniel Heaton proposed, and Janet Morley seconded that they were. There was unanimous approval. He then asked if there were any matters arising that would not be discussed later. There were none.

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

Finance Committee Report:

The chairman asked the treasurer, Stephen Curtis, to comment. He referred to the documents that had been circulated prior to the meeting and stated that there was a small surplus showing of £659 in comparison to the budget forecast of £2,300 for this financial year. This included the matched funding from 2018 which amounted to £10,000. He reported that if this amount was excluded the total income would be £10,500 less than the budget for the first six months. This was because of a shortfall in collections and planned giving. The overall effect would be that if things continued at this rate the PCC would be £10,000 short of the level required to trigger matched funding for the current year. Stephen then compared the figures at this stage a year ago and stated that there wasn't much difference. The comparisons are that collections and planned giving are £800 down and income slightly up from a year ago and that the overall figure is just over a £1,000 down. He then explained that we deposited some very good donations towards the end of the last financial year which resulted in the positive outcome. However, if this isn't repeated, we will not break even this year, nor qualify for the £10,000 matched funding. In addition, he compared planned giving from a year ago and stated that there has been an increase in the amount given, and in the number of standing order contributors which have gone up from 37 to 39. The two extra standing orders may have been a contributory factor in the slight decrease in collections taken at services. The chairman commented on the fact that although we are not having a soiree this year the funds raised at the flower festival and the recent parish walk might offset the funds we would have raised. The treasurer also referred to the recent TT café which raised just under £1,000. There followed some discussion about the changes to be made to the Ladies Working Party bank account, and it was reiterated that at our previous meeting in May it was decided 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). In addition, the treasurer was keen to involve the new account in internet banking so that as with the general PCC account he could keep abreast of income and expenditure.

Worship Report:

The chairman explained that the committee had not met but hoped that a meeting would be convened in due course now that Michael Porter was recovering from an operation.

Social Committee Report:

James Dale reiterated that the soiree was not going to take place this year. Gerald Callister stated that the committee had met and had discussed one or two ideas including a sponsored silence and beetle drive. Other ideas raised were a talent evening, and a murder mystery and suspense evening. James explained a little about the latter which could raise about £1,000. Other ideas were put forward such as a games afternoon. The committee were open to ideas for social activities from anyone.

Mission & Outreach Report:

Claudia Köenig displayed coloured Christian posters that had been laminated and reported that these would be displayed in church notice boards throughout the parish. Janet Morley explained that she was now the coordinator for Fairtrade goods being used at churches throughout the parish and had a stock which could be sold. The chairman suggested that we could have Fairtrade stalls at the back of St Catherine's and St Mary's churches when all-age services were held. He also said that the other two churches could also be involved perhaps once per month. There followed some discussion including the proposed farm service and harvest services. The twinning of toilets was also discussed. The chairman felt that some of our charitable giving could be used for this purpose.

Building Committee Report:

Peter Hayhurst explained that Chris Barnes (decorator) is doing some work painting the guttering at Kirk Christ and St Catherine's churches. The hearing loop has been extended to the chancel at St Mary's and an investigation into improving the wheelchair ramp at St Catherine's Church is on-going. Gerald Callister and Harry Dawson had looked at ramps at St Mark's and the Abbey Church. It was felt that a lightweight aluminium ramp, about five feet in length which could easily be moved would be suitable. The cost would be approximately £150. The chairman said that if it was suitable to go ahead and buy it. Gerald Callister reported that contractors are lowering the pavement during the next few days. He also reported that an offer to replace the tie bars at St Catherine's Church windows has been received from a parishioner. If this work was to go ahead at no charge the archdeacon would have to give his permission. The chairman then referred to the oil tank at Kirk Christ which had sprung a leak. It bulged quite considerably but was spotted before it spilled its contents thus causing an environmental problem. A plumber came and decanted the oil which will eventually be placed into a new oil tank which is currently in transit.

5. Eco Church (an update):

The chairman referred to the report itself, which was far too long to circulate, and to the summary which had been sent to members. It showed that we scored highly in some areas and less so in others. We score low in buildings because of a lack of double glazing and loft insulation in our churches, things which are unlikely to happen. However, there are things which we can do to make us more environmentally friendly and we intend to look at these things. He suggested if anyone wanted more clarification to contact Liz Hull.

6. Synod Report:

James Dale summarised the discussions at a recent Synod meeting held on the 27 June 2019 at St. George's Church. These included the diocesan finances which are deteriorating, and that the rate of deterioration getting worse. There are at least two parishes on the island that cannot meet their parish share commitments which are adding to the difficulties. Group discussions followed to find ways of improving the situation. The findings of these were to be given to the Diocesan Finance Committee for its consideration. The chairman responded by stating that there were parishes far worse off than ours and that ways had to be found to resolve this. He reported that the Shared Ministry Fund for all parishes is to be reassessed as we are in year three since its inception. Another expense to the diocese has been the employment of a Diocesan Safeguarding Officer. Added to this is the employment of a secretary to the archdeacon for ten hours per week. He also added that careful stewardship of our own finances may lead us into surplus in the future and that having funds will give us the impetus for mission. He certainly did not want to build a huge pot of money. There followed some discussion regarding a rise in the parish share over the next three years. The chairman felt that the increase was likely to be in stages so that the impact would not be too difficult to overcome. He explained how the parish share was divided amongst the stipend of the incumbent, parsonage house, pension and other outgoings. He also suggested that the only way the parish share could be reduced is by having less incumbents on the island. A question was asked about the 'Developing and Directing the Growing Faith for Generations' project. The chairman referred to an initiative which involves each diocese bidding into a central pot of money from the ministry division. He explained that it was from this support the diocese appointed Alex Brown and Stacey Kelly as pioneer ministers looking at taking faith to young people. The chairman then referred to an earlier initiative 'Setting God's People Free' which aimed at getting lay people involved in ministry. He explained that this was devised to give lay people an understanding that they too could have a big role to play within parish life.

7. Correspondence:

The secretary referred to an email received from David Ali resigning from the PCC. He explained that he would write to him in due course thanking him for his work and support whilst being a member. Secondly, he referred to an

email received from the Ladies Working Party which requested that the PCC consider the positioning of a bench in memory of past members of the LWP. Financing the project was to be made from LWP funds. The secretary stated that the standing committee had discussed this and had felt that a meeting with the LWP to discuss the matter further ought to be arranged so that the matter could be discussed fully at the next PCC meeting. Inger Perkins, a member of the LWP, stated that there was now no need for that meeting to take place as the LWP had decided not to go ahead with the bench as they had other ideas they wished to pursue.

8. Any Other Business:

The chairman requested that the date of the next PCC meeting be changed to Wednesday 25th September 2019 as the original date clashed with Spring Harvest. This was agreed. Discussion followed regarding the travel to this event which is being held in Ramsey. Inger Perkins raised the issue of concerts being held in St Mary's Church. The chairman explained that traditionally concerts have always been held at St Catherine's. He suggested that we discuss this at a later date.

9. Confidentiality:

There were no items of confidentiality

The meeting closed with prayer at 8.05pm

Signed: _____

Rev. Joe Heaton
25th September 2019