

Minutes of Rushen PCC meeting held in St Mary's Church Hall Wednesday 25th September 2019 at 7.00pm

Present: The Rev'd Joe Heaton (Chair), David Bowman, Stephen Curtis, Grace Hibbert, Philip Verschueren, Lesley Scott, Inger Perkins, Claudia Koenig, David Inch, Peta Mills, Jane Gunn, Malcolm Hale, Christine Deakin, Voirrey Kinley, Ann Curtis, Daniel Heaton, Gerald Callister, Harry Dawson and Peter Hayhurst.

1. Welcome and Prayers:

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Daniel Heaton read two short passages from the Bible with the theme of seeking God and seeking the Kingdom of God. These were followed with a prayer.

2. Apologies for Absence:

Rev'd Liz Hull, Alan Grace, James Dale, Margaret Galloway and Wendy Heaton.

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

The chairman referred to the minutes of the meeting held on 16th July 2019 and asked if they were a true record. Gerald Callister proposed, and Inger Perkins 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 treasurer reported that the finance committee had met on 13th September. He reported that at present the financial situation was that in the first eight months to 31st August 2019 the PCC was looking at an ordinary surplus of £5,176 compared with a budgeted forecast of £2,300 for the full year. These figures included the £10,000 matched funding from an anonymous benefactor received in respect of the 2018 budget. Based on these figures he predicted with some confidence that we are looking at least to breaking even at the end of the year including the matched funding. In his opinion this would be a positive outcome. The downside is that the PCC is unlikely to achieve the level of income necessary to trigger any matched funding this year unless we have a spur in income by the end of the year. A question was raised regarding the matched funding and whether it might be lost or reviewed each year. The chairman stated that it is reviewed each year with the outcome being up to the generosity of the benefactor. Nevertheless, he felt that there had been some positive outcomes during the current year where large funds had been raised and quoted the flower festival, and TT café as examples. The questioner followed this by asking if the congregations could be encouraged to contribute more. The chairman responded by saying that there had been such a request four years ago and that he didn't feel it appropriate at this time to have another for a while. He referred to the totals advertised at the end of each month in Rushen News so that people are made aware of the financial position.

Worship Report:

The chairman explained that the Worship Committee had met on 6th September and referred to the report that had been circulated. A question was raised regarding the Songs of Praise harvest service at St Peter's Church on 6th October, and the form it is to take, to which the chairman responded. He referred to the Remembrance Day services, one at Kirk Christ and the other at St Mary's Church. A question was raised connected with the type of service to be held at St Mary's on that day. The chairman stated that it would include communion. He then discussed the pattern of services to be held during the Christmas period and that the parish would be hosting the Diocesan Carol Service for the Mothers' Union at St Catherine's Church. A question was raised about the Meadowside Choir and whether it would be having an event towards Christmas this year. The chairman explained that this would not occur but is likely to in the future. Finally, the chairman referred to the fact that at present there is no Sunday School at St Mary's Church and that it is hoped that all services would be more inclusive to children and young people.

Social Committee Report:

Gerald Callister referred to two meetings that had been held. Regarding the Rev. Liz Hull's ordination, he suggested that it would be helpful if those wishing to contribute to the Faith Tea would put their names on the sign-up sheets, he also requested help at the event itself. Posters and tickets were now ready and will be circulated prior to the Christmas Tea event. He and James Dale will be attending a meeting on 29th October with Jane McGregor-Edwards

in connection with a Murder Mystery Evening and for an event to take place next spring. A Film Night is still being discussed with Alan Grace. In connection with a Beetle Drive, Kate Hughes has been contacted and seems keen to organise one for us. A Cheese and Wine event has been mentioned but such an event is in its early stages at present. Jane Gunn referred to a sponsored walk around the parish which is being considered. The Treasurer raised two issues regarding finance. He asked if a licence was required to hold a film night and suggested that it might be quite expensive. Some discussion followed regarding this and it was decided that all avenues would be pursued before such an event could take place. The chairman suggested that Liz Hull be contacted as she was parish clerk at St Peter's Onchan, and that film nights take place at that venue. The second issue raised was in connection with the minutes of the Social Committee which state that £1,500 was raised at the flower festival. This figure does not agree with PCC records which state that only £949. This matter is to be examined to see why the discrepancy has occurred.

Mission & Outreach Report:

The committee did not meet but Claudia Koenig mentioned the farm service which had been an item discussed by this committee previously. The chairman explained that contact has been made with the farmer who has suggested that it will be better for the service to be held whilst the animals are housed within the barns during the winter period, and that a good time might be to hold it in the spring.

Building Committee Report:

Gerald Callister was concerned about the windows at St Catherine's Church. He and David Ali had noted that the tie-bars, aimed at preventing the windows from falling in, were in a bad state of repair and that if nothing is done soon the matter will worsen. He stated that an offer had been made by Stephen Rycroft, a parishioner, who would undertake the work at no cost. He and Christopher Barnes could repair all the tie-bars, throughout the church, during the winter period. This would probably need the Archdeacon's permission, or a faculty. An alternative would be to put Perspex protection on the outside of all the windows. The chairman responded by saying he had written to the Archdeacon asking for permission to repair all the tie-bars and to fix secondary glazing to the outside of each window. He suggested that the Archdeacon might grant a licence to do the work on one window, but not on all of them, probably because it is too large a project for a licence to be approved. It is anticipated that the reply will request a faculty application. Another concern would be that anyone undertaking the work, and this would include Mr. Rycroft, would have to have appropriate insurance cover. Gerald then mentioned the other jobs listed in the report which were in hand and would be completed soon. Claudia Koenig asked if the building committee could consider the reordering of the west end of St Mary's Church to create a space for children during services and at other times. The chairman stated that the committee would consider this. Claudia also mentioned the possibility of installing a disabled toilet and baby changing area in St Mary's Church Hall. The chairman stated that this matter had been raised on other occasions and had been brought to the attention of the Ladies Working Party in the hope that funds for such work could be raised through the fund-raising activities that it holds from time to time. Whilst all three of the projects raised at this meeting needed consideration by the building committee, the chairman, having run projects simultaneously in the past, would prefer to undertake them one at a time, and it seemed that the most urgent was the restoration of the windows at St Catherine's Church. Following a question in connection with diocesan financial help to pay for such projects, the chairman explained that all such work must be self-funded.

5. Liz's Ordination Service & Faith Supper:

The chairman referred to Liz's ordination which is taking place at Kirk Christ on 5th October at 3pm., and to the faith supper afterwards in St Catherine's Church Hall. He was confident that Liz would get support from Rushen Parish, and from St Peter's Onchan. He then suggested that the PCC mark the event by presenting Liz with a gift for her contribution to the parish, and something appropriate to mark this important event in her ministry. He suggested a stole which Liz would choose herself. The cost of this purchase would be met from PCC funds. Peta Mills then asked if a card ought to be purchased so that members of the congregation could have the opportunity to pass on their good wishes to Liz. It was suggested that this should be available at the Harvest Festival service on 29th September at St Mary's Church. The chairman agreed to purchase the card.

6. Faculty Application (Churchyard Wall):

For those not yet aware of this, the chairman explained that the Rugby Club, which has the field next to the churchyard, has asked permission to lower the churchyard wall for a specified distance. This is from the entrance of its field towards the entrance of the churchyard. The reason for this is to improve the sightline for drivers emerging from the field and turning on to Barracks Road. Whilst Southern Nomads had obtained civil planning permission,

they were unaware that a faculty application would be required to lower the churchyard wall. Part of the faculty application requires the consent of the PCC. In the first instance the PCC would have to give its permission for the work to be undertaken. It would involve lowering the wall to a height of 1.05 metres, throughout its length from the entrance to the rugby field to the entrance of the churchyard. The PCC will not be expected to pay towards the cost. **Gerald Callister proposed, and Peter Hayhurst seconded that Rushen PCC gives its permission for the height of the wall, adjacent to the churchyard, from the entrance of the proposed rugby club, to the entrance of the churchyard, be modified to a consistent height of 1,05 metres throughout its length. The vote taken was unanimous.**

7. Correspondence:

The secretary referred to items of correspondence received. These included:

- An application has been received for an entry on to the church electoral roll.
- Correspondence has been received in connection with the PCC being registered for Data Protection. We are now registered.
- Correspondence was received from Ken Gumbley in connection with contracts between PCC's and PCC members. The chairman explained the reasoning about this, after which discussion followed.
- The secretary received a copy of Daniel Heaton's resignation from the Diocesan Synod. He has acknowledged this and thanked Daniel for his contribution to both the Synod and the PCC. The chairman added that Daniel's resignation from the Synod means that we now have two Synod vacancies which now must be placed on subsequent PCC agendas.
- An email in connection with broken paving slabs outside the church entrance was received from Peter Hayhurst. These were reported by Ray Halford and Inger Perkins who are parishioners. The chairman has investigated the matter and it is now in hand by the Department of Infrastructure.
- The secretary referred to letters he had sent to the Commissioners of Rushen, Port St Mary and Port Erin, thanking them for the positioning of Christmas Trees during the Christmas season in 1918 in our church grounds, and requesting that this be repeated this year. Gerald Callister confirmed that it will.

8. Any Other Business:

The chairman informed the PCC that the kerb from the car park at Kirk Christ has been dropped to allow access for wheelchair users.

9. Confidentiality:

There were no items of confidentiality

The meeting closed with prayer at 8.17pm

Signed: _____

Rev. Joe Heaton
19th November 2019