

Minutes of Rushen PCC meeting held in St Catherine's Church Hall Tuesday 19th November 2019 at 7.00pm

Present: The Rev'd Joe Heaton (Chair), Rev'd Liz Hull (Curate), David Bowman, Stephen Curtis, Janet Morley, Suzanne Ali, Inger Perkins, Claudia Koenig, David Inch, Peta Mills, Malcolm Hale, Ann Curtis, Gerald Callister, Peter Hayhurst, Margaret Galloway and Wendy Heaton.

1. Welcome and Prayers:

The chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with a Bible Reading (Psalm 67), and a prayer.

2. Apologies for Absence:

Michael Porter, Grace Hibbert, Philip Verschueren, Alan Grace, Lesley Scott, Jane Gunn, Christine Deakin, Voirrey Kinley, James Dale and Harry Dawson.

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

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 25th September had been circulated previously. Inger Perkins proposed and David Inch seconded that they were a true record of the proceedings. There was unanimous approval. There were no matters arising.

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

Finance Committee Report:

The treasurer explained that the finance committee had met on 8th November and that the report circulated was a record of that meeting. He stated that the pattern of income and expenditure has continued in the same way as it has done previously. The report shows that there is a slight surplus but included in this is the £10,000 matched funding credited to the account at the beginning of the year. If this was excluded the account would show a deficit. The position suggests that it is unlikely that the PCC will achieve matched funding during the current financial year. He suggested that if parishioners were informed of this position, they might be prepared to give more during the last two months of this year and as such this might attract some matched funding. An issue discussed by the finance committee was that of charitable giving. **The treasurer proposed five beneficiaries. These were: Scripture Union Ministries Trust £500; Port St Mary Beach Mission £400; Safe, Strong, Secure £400; Toilet Twinning £420 and Tear Fund £400.** The treasurer explained that the PCC had budgeted £4,000 towards charitable giving and that the five charities listed amounted to just over £2,000. Discussion followed in connection with charities already in receipt of PCC giving this year such as the Leprosy Mission and Chernobyl Children which the Ladies Working Party work towards. Similarly, other charities in receipt of funds from the PCC were discussed. A question was raised in connection with giving 10% of all PCC income to charities. The chairman suggested that the finance committee would look into whether it would be possible to achieve such a goal, and if so this would be reflected in next year's budget. **The secretary asked for a seconder to the treasurer's proposal that we donate the amounts suggested to the five charities listed above. Gerald Callister seconded the proposal. There was unanimous agreement.** The chairman then referred to an email received from Inger Perkins which contained a proposal, by the Ladies Working Party, to donate £500 of its funds towards 'Monitor 4 Kids'. After discussion **Inger Perkins proposed, and Claudia Koenig seconded that the Ladies Working Party donate £500 of its funds towards 'Monitor 4 Kids'. There was unanimous agreement.** Finally, the chairman referred to the recent LWP Coffee Morning, from which £956 was raised. This is being donated to church funds. The chairman expressed his appreciation for this gesture.

Worship Report:

The chairman stated that the committee had not met and reported that nothing had changed since the Christmas schedule had been published at the last meeting.

Social Committee Report: Reference was made to the Murder Mystery Evening taking place next year. The chairman suggested that we leave discussions about this topic until nearer the date. The possibility of film nights was also raised. The chairman stated that he had investigated this and that cost of the licence required would not make such an event financially viable. Some discussion followed after which it was stated that the member who first brought this matter to the PCC's attention was absent, and that it would be better to discuss it when he is next present at a PCC meeting. Inger Perkins referred to a recent visit to Jordan made by Rev. Roger Harper. She suggested that if he was willing to participate he might give a talk with slides, and that this might be worth pursuing.

Finally, after some discussion, it was felt that a partnership with the Erin Arts Centre, which shows films from time to time, might be a way forward.

Mission & Outreach Report:

Margaret Galloway referred to the report that had been circulated and asked if anyone had any comments. A question was raised regarding the carol singing. She replied that it would be an ecumenical event and that she hoped to leaflet areas where the singing would take place. This would make the residents aware and could join the group if they so wished. The secretary referred to a poetry book which had been written by Margaret Couper. This would be on sale soon at probably £5 a copy, the proceeds from which being given to church funds.

Building Committee Report:

Peter Hayhurst referred to two items the first of which was the windows at St Catherine's Church. The tie bars, meant to keep the windows stable, are no longer functional. This means that the windows could become dislodged during high winds and potentially cause injury to parishioners. The vicar has now had an emergency faculty approved to have the windows repaired. Fortunately, a worshipper at St Catherine's, Steve Rycroft, has agreed to do the work free of charge, and will be assisted by Christopher Barnes who will only be paid for the labour. Once completed the windows will be protected still further by the covering of Perspex on the outside, like that at St Mary's Church. Another issue discussed by the committee was the quinquennial report which lists items requiring attention. Peter was pleased to report that much of the work required has now been completed but an outstanding item is the guttering at St Mary's Church. The diocesan architect has given advice so that this work can be undertaken.

5. Report from Diocesan Synod:

The chairman explained that discussions had centred around the budget and that the diocese is capping the parish share to 3%. In real terms it should have been near to 11%, but it had been agreed that during the first three years of the Bishop's tenure, it would be left alone. This would give struggling parishes breathing room to organise their own finances. It has meant that the diocese had had to dip into its own funds to meet the shortfall. Another item discussed was that each parish produce a 'Parish Profile' every five years. This gives it a chance to look at the progress it is making, rather than producing it whenever there is a vacancy.

6. Report from Mission Partnership Meeting:

The chairman stated that it had taken some time for the partnership to meet. Discussion centred around the partnership and its present achievements. He also suggested that minutes were in draft form and that there might have been some omissions. He also said that he was looking for a minute secretary to attend meetings. Finally, the chairman stated that he didn't think the partnership had fared well during the past five years and gave several reasons for this.

7. Eco Church:

The Rev Liz Hull and Peter Hayhurst attended an event at which our parish and parishes along the west coast were represented. She explained that each church within the parish should look at its eco credentials and suggested that a sub-committee be formed to deal with eco concerns for the entire parish. Another way might be for each of the existing sub-committees to look at its own eco issues. Alternatively the PCC could decide on the best way forward. The chairman felt that another sub-committee would probably be more cumbersome, and that it would be better if each sub-committee looked at its own eco issues. It was suggested that each committee include this as an agenda item whenever it meets. Liz explained that other aspects such as: community, global engagement and lifestyle, be considered. Finally, she stated that she would arrange for the paperwork to be given to each committee. The chairman asked that she disseminate the work to be covered by each of the committees. Discussion followed regarding the cups used for refreshment at the end of services.

8. Update on Legacies: (*Patricia Spriggs' Legacy/The Leigh Squire Trust*)

A substantial legacy from the late Patricia Spriggs, of approximately £133,000, has been left to the parish for the use of St Peter's, Kirk Christ and St Mary's Churches in equal proportions. The chairman gave an account of the position as it stands. The Leigh Squire Trust originated after the death of Stella Squire who was married to a former vicar of the parish. She left money to be invested in war stock. Three years ago the UK government wound up this stock and paid everyone back, something that was never expected to happen. Originally it was anticipated that the dividends received from the war stock had to be spent at St Mary's, although if not required there it could be spent elsewhere in the diocese. Each year we receive approximately £100 from the trust. The trustees are the Vicar, St Mary's

Churchwarden, St Mary's Treasurer and the President of the Ladies Working Party, and they have now written to the Attorney General to wind up the Trust so that the income of approximately £20,000 can be spent. The chairman has also requested that the PCC become trustees of the account so that any decisions made as to the spending of the funds can be made by it, and not the existing trustees. If this is approved by the Diocesan Board of Finance the funds would be placed in the PCC's restricted legacy account. The chairman then referred to the refurbishment of St Mary's Church Hall toilets to include disabled facilities and that he was meeting with the diocesan surveyor to discuss this. Margaret Galloway requested that the vicar write to all parishioners explaining the position regarding leaving a legacy to the parish on their death. The chairman stated that he intended to do this in due course.

9. Proposed Re-Ordering of St Mary's Church:

The chairman circulated a document connected with the re-ordering of St Mary's Church (See Appendix). It had been suggested at the last PCC meeting that the building committee look into the re-ordering of the church to make it more accessible to children's activities, a place for fellowship after church services, to offer crèche facilities for families during services, to create a better space for baptisms, and offer an area to meet for Beach Mission and Play & Praise

activities. He then explained the work proposed as detailed in the appendix. Discussion followed regarding certain aspects of the proposition. One aspect brought to the chairman's attention was that at all services, regardless of who is taking a service, the choir at St Mary's should be seated in the nave and not remain in the choir stalls. After further discussion **Ann Curtis proposed and Inger Perkins seconded that the west end of St Mary's Church be re-ordered as detailed in the document entitled 'Proposed Re-ordering of St Mary's Church' and attached as an appendix to these minutes. There was unanimous approval.** The chairman stated that initially he would hold another LCC meeting at St Mary's Church prior to the PCC meeting in January to inform the congregation of the proposal and the likely timetable. Some discussion followed in connection with the carpeting! Other issues were raised including the cost which was likely to be in the region of £40,000.

10. Correspondence:

A letter had been received from Michal Kewley in connection with the 2019 concert season at St Catherine's Church. Attached to this was a spreadsheet detailing the funds raised and a comparison with the 2018 season. Both documents had been circulated prior to the meeting. Within the letter was a request to the PCC to review its collection policy and how this is distributed to church funds and to the artistes. There followed discussion regarding the way forward. The PCC decided that it wanted the 2020 concert season, and the dates proposed by Michal, to go ahead, and that the distribution of the proceeds of each concert would be 60% to the artistes and 40% to church funds. There followed discussion regarding the actual cost of staging the concerts and refreshments, and whether the audience should be made aware of this cost and a suggested donation be requested. The chairman felt that the staging of the concerts was for the community and shouldn't necessarily be thought of as a fund-raising event. After further discussion the secretary stated that he would write to Michal with the PCC's decision.

11. Any Other Business:

The chairman informed everyone that he had had a meeting with all the children's leaders and some parents regarding the direction the church in moving in connection with children's work across the parish. Ruth Walker, S.U.M.T Leader, facilitated the meeting. This was the first of a number of future meetings where discussion will centre on the direction being taken by the parish with children's work.

12. Confidentiality:

There were no items of confidentiality

The meeting closed with prayer at 9.18pm

Signed: _____
Rev. Joe Heaton
21st January 2020

Proposed Re-ordering of St. Mary's Church

Reason for Proposed Re-ordering

St. Mary's Church is located at the heart of Port St Mary and is one of the most prominent buildings in the community. However, despite its visual prominence, it is under-utilised and is at risk of becoming increasingly marginalised by the community it seeks to serve. It is proposed that a sensitive re-ordering of the west end of the church be undertaken in order to re-establish the church back into the life of Port St Mary.

In brief, the west end of St Mary's Church would be re-ordered so that removal of the rearmost pews would create a space that would be used for a variety of activities. These include, but not limited to:

- *Fellowship after services:* In recent years, St. Mary's congregation have begun to use the back of Church for tea/coffee at the end of Sunday services. This time together allows congregation members to have fellowship and are greatly appreciated. However, the current layout is restrictive (at best), and with the changing floor levels particularly around the font means that the area has a number of trip hazards. The new proposal would alleviate both of these issues.
- *Crèche area:* There is a real and urgent need for there to be a space where families with small children can feel comfortable and catered for whilst in services.
- *Play and Praise Group:* Currently, this group meets in a small area near to the lectern before moving to the hall for refreshments. The proposed re-ordering would better cater for small children and allow room for the further growth.
- *Baptism Services:* The current location of the font (situated as it is surrounded by pews) makes it an awkward space for baptisms. The proposed re-ordering would centre the font with good spacing all around for guests and the families to be gathered. Additionally, the new siting of the font would give it greater prominence in the church, not only architecturally but also theologically.
- *PSM Beach Mission:* In recent years, St. Mary's Church has been used by Port St. Mary Beach Mission as a venue to support their missional activities (in particular, Godly Play). The proposed re-ordering would provide a much more suitable place.
- *Additional Storage:* St. Mary's Church has very limited storage with many items currently being stored in the rearmost pews, and as a consequence renders them unusable for seating. The proposed re-ordering provides cupboards to store items. This would include the storing of the Sound System located currently next to the lectern (which is a poor location should the Sound System need adjustment during a service).

Seating Capacity

Currently, the church is able to seat approximately 210 adults; this compares to an average Sunday attendance for 2018 of just 38 adults. It is proposed that pews at the rear of the church (i.e. to the left of the main entrance are removed). This removal will reduce the seating capacity to 170. This reduction would still enable joint parish services to be held in St. Mary's Church where attendance is approximately 110

For those services that occur (funerals and the Crib Service) where a larger congregation is envisaged additional seating from St. Mary's Hall could be provided.

Proposed Re-ordering

It is proposed that the West end of St. Mary's Church (Port St Mary) be re-ordered in the following manner.

- Remove six rearmost pews on the South side
- Remove seven rearmost pews on the North side
- Lowering the height of the floor where the pews were situated to that of the aisle
- Locate two pews against the south and north wall.
- Locate a westward facing pew behind the rearmost pew on the north-side
- Move the font to the centre line of the church.
- Make lower-level cupboards (from removed pews) and located across the entire west wall, with the upper surface being a display area. Convert the arches of the rearmost pews into pew doors.
- Move the Sound System to the back (housed in west-wall cupboards) and upgrade the speakers, cabling, etc.
- Dispose of existing aisle carpet and re-carpet the aisle and back of the church (possibly in the same design as Kirk Christ)
- Partially glaze the internal main door
- Build a bookcase (from removed pews) to store hymn books, etc.
- Dispose of surplus pews
- Re-locate the church noticeboard (currently on the west wall) to the right of the south door.
- To locate the bookcase above the piping on the new rearmost pew (adjacent to the door)
- Remove the section of heating pipe under the pew nearest the south door.
- Provide double socket electrical points (as necessary).