

## Minutes of Rushen PCC meeting held in St Catherine's Church Hall Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2020 at 7.00pm

**Present:** The Rev'd Joe Heaton (Chair), Rev'd Liz Hull (Curate), David Bowman, Stephen Curtis, Janet Morley, Grace Hibbert, Philip Verschueren, Lesley Scott, Inger Perkins, Claudia Koenig, David Inch, Peta Mills, Jane Gunn, Malcolm Hale, Voirrey Kinley, Gerald Callister (8.30pm), Harry Dawson and Peter Hayhurst.

### 1. Welcome and Prayers:

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and a service of Evening Prayer followed.

**2. Apologies for Absence:** Michael Porter, Christine Deakin, Ann Curtis, James Dale, Margaret Galloway and Wendy Heaton.

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

The chairman asked if the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2019 were a true record of the proceedings. Peter Hayhurst proposed, and Inger Perkins seconded that they were. The vote taken was unanimous. He then asked if there were any matters arising that would not be discussed later in the proceedings. Discussion followed regarding the cups used during fellowship after services, and whether they were eco-friendly. It was decided to delay further discussion until the present stock of cups were near completion.

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

#### **Finance Committee Report:**

The treasurer, Stephen Curtis, referred to the copies of the financial position at the end of the year 2019, and the proposed budget, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. He stated that the news was good and that there was a surplus at the end of the year of just over £6,000. He also clarified the position regarding matched funding which had been improved towards the end of the year by extra funds being credited to the ordinary account. These led to a total income of £123,290 at the end of the year, £5,290 above the threshold of £118,000. As a consequence, this will attract a similar sum of matched funding. We were also assured that the anonymous donor is prepared to extend the matched funding offer for another year. The subject of legacies was raised with the legacy from Patricia Spriggs (£133,220.36) having now being credited to the Vicar and Warden's account. A further legacy of £1,000 from the estate of Norman Quillin has also been credited to the same fund although this is restricted for use at Kirk Christ. The Leigh Squire Trust is in the process of being liquidated and should amount to approximately £20,000 which will be credited to the PCC account later this year. The chairman stated that he would refer to this matter later. He also added that there is a likelihood of a further £5,000 to come from the Spriggs legacy which is the residue kept by the lawyers to tie up loose ends. Finally, with regard to day to day expenditure in 2019, the treasurer referred to the accounts which had been prepared for the examiner and were available for anyone wishing to take them. The treasurer then referred to the budget for the year 2020. He explained that the parish share had increased by £2,000, and that he had accounted for an increase in mission and outreach of £2,000. He also anticipated an increase in planned giving and collections of approximately £5,000. The overall budget prepared shows a surplus at the end of this financial year of £2,300. The treasurer then explained the rationale behind the exceptional items in the 2020 budget. Finally, he proposed that the budget for 2020 be approved. This was seconded by David Inch and the vote taken unanimous.

David Bowman raised the transformation made to St Mary's Churchyard by Eddie Perkins and wondered whether the PCC should recognise this as it had done a year ago. Discussion followed during which Inger, Eddie's wife, suggested that her husband would be willing to accept any plants no longer of use to gardeners. It was decided to put an article in the parish magazine to this effect. The chairman suggested that Eddie might also want to put a request in 'Parish News' and asked if he would write something appropriate to facilitate this. He also asked if Eddie required further supplies to complete the pathway and that if so, he was to invoice the PCC for the cost. The chairman then referred back to the current position regarding the Leigh Squire Trust. He explained how the trustees have had control in the past and that it is now time that the governance of the trust be given to the PCC. At present there is approximately £20,000 in the trust. To expedite proceedings the chairman contacted Ken Gumbley the former diocesan registrar. This consultation has resulted in a scheme entitled the 'Leigh-Squire Trust Scheme 2020'

being produced which, if agreed, will be taken to the Attorney General who would decide as to whether we can go ahead and act as new trustees. It would also have to be considered by the Diocesan Board of Finance. The funds would have to be disbursed as directed by Mrs Lillian Squire in her will. Discussion followed which resulted in **the chairman, the Rev'd Joe Heaton, proposing that the PCC accept the 'Leigh-Squire Trust Scheme 2020' in its entirety (See Appendix A). 16 members voted for acceptance of the proposal, nobody was against it and there were no abstentions.**

#### **Worship Report:**

The chairman stated that the committee had met on 14<sup>th</sup> January. A review of the Christmas services was discussed. A statistical report had been produced which showed that attendance at the services was increasing, and the overall feeling was that congregations were happy with the format. Looking ahead the committee outlined the service structure over the Easter period. Finally it was decided that the choral music during services at St Mary's Church is to increase, and that on the first Sunday of the month the music group will be the only source of music at St Catherine's Church.

#### **Social Committee Report:**

Peta Mills reported that the PCC meeting had clashed with a Flower Festival meeting at St John's and as such two members of the PCC were attending that meeting and would report back at the next meeting. A list of available windows for floral display was presented to the PCC. The Murder, Mystery Evening is to go ahead in April and details are likely to be available at the next PCC meeting. The committee was still looking into licensing so that films can be shown in the parish.

#### **Mission & Outreach Report:**

The committee has not met. However, after consultation with Margaret Galloway, the chairman reported that a date for a farm service was yet to be arranged. Philip Verschueren asked about the possibility of arranging an Alpha Course in the parish. The chairman explained that there were many courses available and that this was something that needs to be investigated. However, at present there were a number of building projects which needed to be finalised with faculty applications to be prepared, and that once they were the PCC could then look more into mission, which is also a major part of its responsibility. The chairman hoped that the agenda of the next PCC meeting would reflect these projects and provision made for any resolutions. Finally he mentioned that a confirmation course across the partnership is in the process of being investigated.

#### **Building Committee Report:**

Peter Hayhurst referred to the findings of an ECO report on the parish which showed that we were not doing too badly. (This Report can be found in Appendix B). The chairman suggested that the findings be published in Rushen News. Peter then referred to the guttering at St Mary's Church, the windows at St Catherine's Church, and the progress made so far. The chairman suggested that the diocesan surveyor be consulted prior to any decisions being made with regard to the windows.

### **5. Proposed Re-ordering of St Mary's Church:**

The chairman presented everyone with plans for the reordering of St Mary's Church (on the reverse were plans for agenda item 6). He explained the drawings and stated that the list presented at the last meeting had been adjusted slightly to take account of what was said at the recent LCC meeting. These reflected the positioning of the remaining pews at the back of the church and levelling the floor which at present is raised. The rest of the plan was as stated at the last PCC meeting. The chairman then explained that the plans have to be submitted to the DAC in March and hopefully will be accepted. Assuming that they are we will be required to display a public notice for 28 days after which we can submit a faculty. It is hoped that by the meeting in May the PCC will pass a resolution for the project to go ahead. It is anticipated it will cost in the region of £35,000. A question was asked about the ease at which the floor can be levelled. It was felt that this would be not too difficult especially as some exploratory work had already been done. The speaker system is to be upgraded.

### **6. St Mary's Hall Toilets:**

The chairman referred to the plans on the reverse of those presented at agenda item 5. He explained the positioning of the toilets so that they fall in line with current regulations allowing for disabled use and baby changing facilities. Quotations have not yet been sought, and because this project is in the hall a faculty is not

required. Nevertheless, it is good practice to use an architect. Guy Thompson has been asked to act on behalf of the PCC and will expect a 10% fee based on the overall cost. Discussion followed regarding the outline plans. **The chairman, the Rev'd Joe Heaton, asked permission to go ahead with quotations from contractors. This was agreed unanimously.**

## **7. St Mary's Signage:**

The chairman referred to directions to the church for those who visit it, perhaps for the first time. After entering through the main gate the pathway splits into two and to those not familiar with the layout there is no indication as to which pathway to use. It is proposed to place a sign into the ground, at the base of the tower, which indicates the direction of travel to the church entrance, and the hall, for visitors. Because the ground in the churchyard is going to be disturbed a faculty application has to be made. An application to the DAC has already been lodged. Some discussion followed, after which **the chairman, the Rev'd Joe Heaton, proposed that a direction sign, as indicated in Appendix C, be permanently affixed in the ground at the base of the tower at St Mary's Church. The vote taken was unanimous.**

## **8. Report from Mission Partnership Meeting:**

The chairman referred to the recent partnership meeting which had been designed as a forum for each parish to share its activities. This would give everyone an idea of what was available for people to attend, or join, throughout the partnership. It was felt that a Facebook page would be a good way of advertising and sharing these activities with everyone. It was also hoped to get the Methodist Churches involved. Another item of discussion was 'The Southern Signpost' a new online directory for the south of the island. This is in its infancy at the moment. The chairman explained the concept around this initiative.

## **9. Correspondence:**

The chairman referred to a letter he had received from John Morris concerning a windowsill at St Peter's Church. This was in connection with the proposal for the Wilson Memorial Inscription passed by the PCC on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2016. (See Appendix D). The letter requested that a change in the wording was required as the names as shown were felt unnecessary by a family member. The new wording was read to the PCC (See Appendix E). Mr. Morris hoped that this would be approved so that a private faculty application could be made. **Harry Dawson proposed, and Grace Hibbert seconded that the new wording, as shown in Appendix D, be approved by the PCC. 16 members voted for acceptance of the proposal, nobody was against it and there were no abstentions.** The secretary read a letter from Michal Kewley in connection with item 10 from November's PCC meeting minutes. This referred to the remuneration received by artistes after their performances at the forthcoming summer concert season. He felt that what had been proposed was confusing and gave the impression that the artistes seemed to be demanding more of the proceeds made at the concerts themselves. He felt that they were glad of anything they received whether it be high or low. There followed some discussion after which it was decided that the PCC revert back to the original arrangement which was £50 of the proceeds to be retained for church funds, and the remainder to be split between the church and the artistes. The secretary stated that he would reply to Michal with this decision.

## **10. Any Other Business:**

There was no other business.

## **11. Confidentiality:**

There was one item of confidentiality.

The meeting closed at 8.57pm with the conclusion of the Evening Prayer Service led by the chairman at 7pm.

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

Rev. Joe Heaton

14<sup>th</sup> July 2020

## Appendix A

2019-12-19



CHURCH ACT 1992

### LEIGH-SQUIRE TRUST SCHEME 2020

*Coming into operation*

*2020*

The Sodor and Man Diocesan Board of Finance, with the consent of the Parochial Church Council of the parish of Rushen, makes this Scheme under paragraph 2 of Schedule 3 to the Church Act 1992.

#### **1. Title**

The title of this Scheme is the Leigh-Squire Trust Scheme 2020

#### **2. Commencement**

This Scheme comes into operation on 2020.

#### **3. Interpretation**

In this Scheme —

"the Council" means the Parochial Church Council of the parish of Rushen;

"the Charity" means the charitable trust known as the Leigh-Squire Trust and established by the Trust Deed, the property of which is specified in the Schedule;

"the Trust Deed" means a deed made 29 September 1995 by Lilian Stella Squire, the Reverend Frederick Hinton Bird and others.

#### **4. Provision for administration of Charity**

- (1) The Council is appointed trustee of the Charity in place of the existing trustee or trustees of the Charity.
- (2) The property of the Charity is hereby vested in the Council.
- (3) Notwithstanding clause 2 of the Trust Deed the Council may exercise in relation to the capital of the Charity the general power of investment within the meaning of the Trustee Act 2001.
- (4) The Council may, if it thinks fit —
  - (a) expend any part of the capital of the Charity as income; or
  - (b) accumulate any income of the Charity by adding it to the capital.

## Appendix A (continued)

### SCHEDULE PROPERTY OF THE CHARITY

Cash at Isle of Man Bank £21,014.74

Rentcharge £230 per annum on land at Springfield Lane, Salford

Rentcharge £25 per annum on 2-28 Station Road, Eccles

The Common Seal of the Sodor and  
Man Diocesan Board of Finance is  
hereunto affixed on  
2020 in the presence of:

Secretary

I approve the foregoing Scheme

Dated

2020

Her Majesty's Attorney General  
for the Isle of Man

# Eco Church Report

At the buildings committee meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> Jan we completed separate Eco Church surveys for our four churches. These have not been entered onto the Eco church database and a score calculated. The results are as follows:

Scores	Worship and teaching		Buildings		Land		Community		Lifestyle	
St Marys	81/100	Gold	83/370	Bad	20/155	Bad	160/230	Silver	64/160	Bronze
St Catherines	81/100	Gold	63/370	Bad	30/145	Bad	182/230	Gold	71/160	Bronze
St Peters	73/80	Gold	40/300	Bad	45/155	Bronze	110/230	Bronze	61/160	Bronze
Kirk Christ	81/80	Gold	60/370	Bad	130/155	Gold	162/230	Silver	59/160	Bronze

The scores are out of different totals because some questions are not applicable in all cases (e.g. St Peter's doesn't have a hall, so doesn't answer the hall questions). The first results were surprisingly positive, highlighting good work in worship and teaching and in the churchyard at Kirk Christ.

There is however still a lot to be done before we can think about applying for a Bronze award, particularly with our buildings, where gaining points is a more expensive job (often impractically expensive). Note that for a Bronze award we need all four churches to reach the Bronze standard. However even with the buildings score there are still some sensible small steps that make economic sense (e.g. changing to LED light bulbs at Kirk Christ / move to environmentally friendly cleaning products) and improve our score, so we are working on it.

We have allocated tasks to Peter, Gerry and Liz to find out more, make easy small changes and increase awareness of our Eco Church progress. We are looking at a Lent activity, a monthly page in the Parish News and regularly changing notices of good ideas on our church notice boards to spread involvement more widely throughout the congregations.

To that end it would be great to recruit an Eco-champion for each building (not necessarily the church warden) to push the project forward, watch out for wastage, spot improvements that can be made and make the Eco Church project feel more grass roots congregation led and less of a top-down imposition.

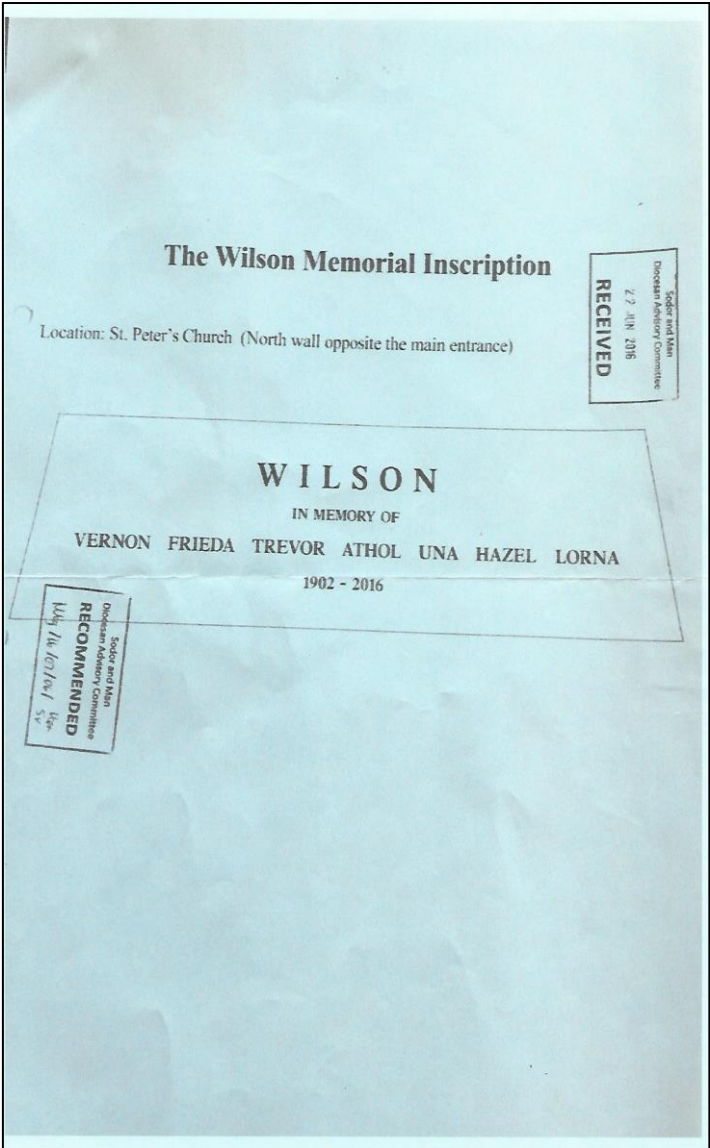
We also intend to update the scores grid on a quarterly basis to monitor our progress.



Appendix C



Appendix D



Appendix E

