

Minutes of Rushen PCC meeting held at the Parish Church Tuesday 20th September 2022 at 7pm

Present: Rev Joe Heaton (Chairman), Heather Daykin, Eileen Thornley, June Davies, Stephen Curtis, Claire Jones, David Bowman, Lukas Hayhurst, Michael Porter, Iris Mitchell, Harry Dawson, Peter Hayhurst, Gerald Callister, Annie Curtis and Wendy Heaton.

1. Welcome and Prayers:

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and then presided over the first part of Evening Worship.

2. Apologies for Absence:

Apologies had been received from Peta Mills, Sylvia Wightman, Janice Withey, Ivan Ward, Grace Hibbert, James Dale and Margaret Galloway.

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

The chairman referred to the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 19th July 2022 and asked if there were any corrections or omissions, and were a true record of the meeting. Gerry Callister proposed and Michael Porter seconded that they were. A vote was taken and there was total agreement.

4. PCC Appointments:

The chairman explained that there were two vacancies on the PCC to represent St Catherine's Church. Since the last meeting Eileen Thornley has applied to join. Members were asked to approve her application and all were in favour. Two further applications to serve on the PCC had also been received. These were from Hannah Elphick and Pamela Crowe. Both have recently been placed on the electoral roll of the parish. As they have to wait the statutory six months before they can be considered for the PCC it was decided to wait until the APCM in April for them to be considered.

5. Reports from Sub-Committees:

Finance:

The treasurer referred to his report and the spreadsheet of the accounts to the end of August. He clarified that the position had improved since he last reported because the investment income of over £20,000 had been received within the period, a situation he suggested, was not his or the PCC's intention to always be in deficit. Had this interest not been received the PCC would be running at a loss of £20,000 plus. The chairman referred to the steps taken over the past ten years to keep the account in surplus and that this was the case until recently. The treasurer stated that collections were down before Covid struck and that the trend is still occurring.

The rent at Happy Valley Play School had been considered by the finance committee. At present it is paying a reduced rate of £500 as the numbers attending are relatively low. The committee felt that this reduced rate should continue for a further three months. This to be reviewed regularly. In view of the increased cost of living a question was raised with regard to the heating used by the playgroup. The chairman felt that this would not be a major impact as the group are paying 90% of the cost of energy and it does use the heating sparingly.

The payments made towards the Ukraine Appeal have yet to be cleared by our bankers.. Visits to the bank from Gerald Callister requesting immediate action have proved to be fruitless. David Bowman suggested that he write to Juan Watterson MHK to see if he could intervene. This was agreed.

David also mentioned a conversation he had had with a PCC member who couldn't be present at the meeting. This member had thought that the £16,000 quotation for a shed to store chairs was exorbitant, especially when local retailers such as B & Q sell sheds at a competitive price. The chairman responded by saying that sheds bought from retailers such as B & Q probably have a shelf life of about ten years and would not be suitable for storing chairs with soft upholstery which would get damp. He also felt that the size required would far exceed that of those sold by local retailers and that such a shed would not pass DAC regulations. The chairman then

raised the need for electrical heating at St Mary's Church which requires a 3-phase electricity supply at a cost of £1,200 which needs to be installed in preparation for the refurbishment. The treasurer also felt that the usage of electricity will need to be monitored now that it is going to cost more. Solar panels were raised as a means of saving costs and some discussion followed.

The chairman then raised the issue of 'Warmer Spaces', a government initiative, for public places to be open for anyone wanting to keep warm during the winter months, especially in view of the rise in energy costs. He suggested a scenario where the 'Soup Inn', on the first Thursday of the month, the heating could be extended until say 4pm. Discussion followed which suggested that the Standing Committee look further into this, and at the same time look at the cost of hiring the hall.

Worship:

The chairman referred to future services in the parish and the dates earmarked for them. (*Listed below*) The Bishop is to attend the joint service on 27th November at Kirk Christ at 11am.

- *Christingle Service on 4th December at St Catherine's at 4pm*
- *Carols, Candles and Cake at St Peter's on Wednesday 14th December at 7.30pm*
- *Commissioner's Carol Service at St Catherine's on Thursday 15th December at 7pm*
- *Parish Carol Service at Kirk Christ on Sunday 18th December at 6.30pm*
- *Holy Communion at St Peter's on Christmas Eve at 7.30pm*
- *Midnight Service at St Catherine's on Christmas Eve/Day at 11.30pm*
- ***If St Mary's Church is closed Crib Service at Kirk Christ at 4pm on Christmas Eve***
- *Joint Christmas Day Service at 10am at Kirk Christ*
- *Joint Holy Communion at 11am at Kirk Christ on 1st January 2023*

Social:

The chairman referred to the report and raised some of the points. The Annual Flower Festival is a problem at present as its future seems to be in doubt. TT Café was successful although it was felt that if an outside caterer was willing to provide and possibly cook the food it might yield more funds. The Quiz Night on 18th November was mentioned as a good evening's entertainment as well as an opportunity for the community to get together. The next Soup Inn is to take place on the first Thursday in October. The possibility of a Beetle Drive in the new year was raised which met with approval. The treasurer raised the issue of the hall having been booked by Rushen Heritage Trust for the period of a month in September which prevented the normal monthly activities having to be curtailed.

Mission & Outreach:

The committee had not met.

Buildings:

Work on the tower at St Mary's has begun. Programmable thermostats are to be fitted at St Catherine's Church and Kirk Christ in the near future. The new heating system at the west end on St Mary's was also discussed. All these things to reduce the cost of energy.

6. Planned Building Work (*St Mary's Re-ordering, St Peter's West Wall*)

A signed faculty for the work at St Mary's is still in abeyance. Ideas have been suggested to resolve the damp issue at the west end of St Peter's Church. The Chairman proposed that the work should commence. The vote taken was unanimous.

7. Parish Website:

This is being updated at present. We are using a different web site provider which is cheaper than the one we have used in the past.

8. Safeguarding Matters:

There is a course taking place in the south of the island quite soon. The parish administrator is contacting those whose training has lapsed, and any new members of the PCC requiring guidance.

9. Correspondence:

The secretary referred to the following correspondence:

- *Data Protection Return which has been updated*
- *Letters to Eileen Thornley and Hannah Elphick re PCC membership*
- *A thank-you to the gentleman who loaned his 'cherry picker' so that painting at height could be undertaken*
- *Letter to the Relationship Manager at the Isle of Man Bank re the Ukraine donations.*
- *Application forms for inclusion on the Electoral Roll received from Pamela Crowe and Hannah Elphick.*
- *Application forms for PCC membership received from Pamela Crowe and Hannah Elphick.*

10. Any Other Business:

The chairman referred to the PCC Away-Day taking place at Thie dy Vea Retreat House in Peel on 8th October at 9.45am. The limit is 24 participants and as the PCC comprises less members it will be opened to others by invitation only. These will include Margaret Galloway, Claudia Koenig, Rev Ginny Viner. Hannah Elphick and others.

11. Confidentiality:

No items discussed were considered to be confidential.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm with a prayer for the Royal Family and the conclusion of the Evening Prayer Service led by the chairman at 7pm.

Signed: _____

Rev. Joe Heaton
15th November 2022