

Minutes of Rushen PCC meeting held in St Catherine's Church Hall Tuesday 15th November 2022 at 7pm

Present: Rev Joe Heaton (Chairman), Eileen Thornley, Stephen Curtis (PCC Treasurer). David Bowman (PCC Secretary), Peta Mills, Janice Withey, Sylvia Wightman, Michael Porter, Iris Mitchell, Harry Dawson, Peter Hayhurst, Gerald Callister, Annie Curtis, James Dale, Wendy Heaton and Voirrey Baugh (Safeguarding Officer).

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 Heather Daykin, Lukas Hayhurst, Grace Hibbert, Claire Jones and Margaret Galloway.

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

The chairman referred to the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 20th September 2022 and asked if there were any corrections or omissions, and were a true record of the meeting. Harry Dawson proposed and Gerald Callister seconded that they were. A vote was taken and there was total agreement.

4. Safeguarding Matters: *(This item was originally item 5 on the agenda)*

The safeguarding officer introduced herself to those who had not yet met her. She explained that members of the PCC are up to date with training although next year some will require to be re-trained. She will inform those needing this when the time comes. She also referred to the new website that is now in place. The PCC thanked her for her work in compiling this. A 'Safe Sunday' is to be held at some time in the new year.

5. Reports from Sub-Committees:

Finance:

The Treasurer referred to his report which had been circulated prior to the meeting. The following items were highlighted:

- An ordinary deficit of £5,640 was showing to the 31st October 2022 in comparison with a surplus of £2,105 at the end of August 2022 which indicated that the financial situation of the PCC account had deteriorated.
- It is anticipated that the PCC account will break even for the year to 31st December 2022.
- The account would show a deficit of approximately £20,000 without the investment of Arthur Cregeen's legacy.
- A further £1,581 has been received from Arthur Cregeen's legacy.
- The outstanding cheques donated to the Ukraine Disaster Fund have now been cleared by our bankers.
- A donation of £1,000 has been received from the Diocese.
- A cheque for £2,500 has been received from an anonymous donor.
- The finance committee had discussed the continuation of a monthly rent of £500 for the hire of St Mary's Hall until the end of the year when it will again be reviewed.
- The reporting of the financial position at the end of each month in Rushen News is to be reduced to once a quarter from now on.
- Our charitable giving was discussed by the finance committee, with a recommendation of £500 being given to five charities. These were: Port St Mary Beach Mission, Scripture Union Ministries Trust, Isle of Man Food Bank, Crossroads and St Christopher's. As only five charities had been named, and a sixth is still to be chosen, it was decided to revisit this during Any Other Business.

Worship:

The chairman referred to the worship committee report and highlighted the following:

- The Christmas programme had been discussed to ensure that the dates and times of services were correct.

- An evaluation of the service structure across all four churches is to be undertaken by the PCC.
- The purchase of new hymn books, for use at Kirk Christ, was discussed and felt to be inappropriate at the present time.
- A chalice in memory of Arthur Cregeen had been chosen by parishioners and has now been purchased from Hayes and Finch.
- The congregation of St Mary's Church will worship at 11am at Kirk Christ during its re-ordering. This will begin on 8th January 2023. It is not known how long the project will take.
- Should there be a shortage of priests on the island, it is possible that our service rota may not be adhered to and that non-Eucharistic services will replace communion services.

Social:

The social committee met on 5th October in St Catherine's Church Hall. The following items were highlighted:

- Arrangements for the Quiz Night were discussed at length.
- A Beetle Drive to be held towards the end of February 2023. Details to be finalised at the next meeting.
- A proposed meeting of the Isle of Man Flower Festival Committee on 29th October 2023 was to be attended by three social committee members.
- The outcome of that meeting was that the Festival Committee will cease to exist and that parishes will have the opportunity to hold their own flower festival. Liaison with other churches in the south of the island would be advisable.
- Warm hubs were considered and it was decided to consider this at its next meeting at the end of November.

Mission & Outreach:

The committee has not met.

Buildings:

The building committee highlighted the following:

- **St Peter's Church:** a number of items are still outstanding including ventilation issues; removal of mould on the back wall; door and window frames to be re-painted; external polycarbonate glazing to be installed; and water has been seen dripping from the east window.
- **Kirk Christ:** Windows cleaned; new putty and frames repainted; vestry windows to receive the same treatment; a programmable thermostat has been fitted.
- **St Mary's Church:** Broken windows on the tower replaced; repair to the front door to prevent scraping to be attended to; missing slate on the vestry roof has been replaced; vegetation to be removed from walls; ridge tiles to be fixed on to the vestry roof; steel mesh to be affixed around the chimney; flower bed to the rear of the church has been cleared; the faculty application for re-ordering has been approved.
- **St Catherine's Church:** a temporary repair to the hall kitchen floor has been undertaken; a programmable thermostat fitted.
- All four churches and the hall require PAT testing.

The PCC expressed its thanks to Chris Barnes and Steven Rycroft for the work they have undertaken on its behalf.

6. Update on Vision Focus Group:

The chairman gave a short resumé of recent conversations held with the group. These included the re-ordering of St Catherine's Church and hall, the employment of a family youth worker, compiling a job description of such a person to include: the formation of a mum's and tot's group, after school club, work with the Beach Mission and visits to schools etc. Employing such a person requires much thought and prayer.

7. PCC Away Day:

See Appendix

8. St Mary's Re-ordering

The chairman gave an update on the position. As previously reported the faculty for the work has been granted. He has made contact with the contractors with regard to the start date which is likely to be in January 2023. No end date was given. In view of this, the last event at St Mary's Church will be the Crib Service on 24th December.

The congregation will move its 11am service to Kirk Christ until the refurbishment is completed, hopefully before Easter. A quote for carpeting has been received.

9. Correspondence

No correspondence has been received.

10. Any Other Business:

Discussion about the five charities recommended by the finance committee was held. It was decided that Christian Aid should be the sixth charity. **Stephen Curtis proposed and Gerald Callister seconded that the six charities chosen should receive £500 each. The vote taken was unanimous.** The chairman reminded everyone that Bishop Peter will be attending the joint service on 27th November. During the service The Bishop will license Peter Hayhurst and Gerald Callister as Liturgical Assistants. An outline of the responsibilities that this position required was given. Finally the chairman proposed that both Gerald Callister and Peter Hayhurst be formally approved by the PCC to take on the role of Liturgical Assistants for the Parish of Rushen. There was unanimous approval. Because of a personal commitment the vicar has changed the date of the next PCC meeting to 24th January 2023. The standing/finance committees will meet at the vicarage on 13th January 2023 at 9.45am and 11am respectively.

11. Confidentiality:

No items discussed were considered to be confidential.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm with the conclusion of the Evening Prayer Service led by the chairman at 7pm.

Signed: _____

Rev. Joe Heaton
24th January 2023

Appendix

7. PCC Away Day:

The chairman reminded everyone of the day spent at Thie dy Vea. To those who could not attend he gave a brief resumé of the proceedings. His intention was to split those present into four groups and for each to discuss the following three areas:

- What would be the top three priorities for the Parish?
- Are there any low-hanging fruit? (*Is there anything we could do without much effort, that would make a sizeable difference*)
- Is there anything that's not on the list?

His expectation was that we would re-group in 25 minutes to discuss issues raised.

Outcome:

After the allotted time had been reached each group reported its response to the questions. These have been listed under the headings: Energising Faith, Engaging with the Church Family, and Engaging with the Community:

Energising Faith

- The importance of prayer.
- We should share our faith journey with each other.
- Having time at each service to talk to one another about the impact that God has had on our lives in the past week.
- Has God answered our prayers etc.
- Learn to be bold when relaying our own journey of faith
- Ask people to share their faith stories with us
- To give more time to talking about things involving faith. Perhaps an evening given over talking about things of faith e.g. what is the meaning of Advent? What is Lent all about? Things we can't fit into a sermon on a Sunday. Hold meetings, perhaps with food, so that inquisitive people can join us and ask questions etc.
- Energise our mission to be at the centre of the community
- Perhaps hold an Alpha Course. It would be a good exercise to find out more about such courses before embarking on one.
- To give people more confidence in sharing their faith with one another.

Engaging with the Church Family

- Although we belong to four churches, each with its own identity, we should be all-encompassing by getting to know one another from other churches in the parish.
- People's prayer life needs developing whether this is in small groups or in a pew.
- Praying out loud should be encouraged and we need to build up confidence in those too scared to do so.

- Looking at services, could we perhaps change the old-fashioned language into something more easily understood?
- Develop prayer within services to enable more participation
- A greater visibility by the incumbent so that people are aware of his presence. He should be amongst the congregation before services start, and welcoming people when they enter church.
- Time for notices at the beginning of each service to be minimal.
- Experiment with change continuously until we find ways forward.

Engaging with the Community

- Better communication, how can we improve this?
- How do we communicate with people who walk past the entrance to our churches?
- Talk more effectively to visitors e.g. give them some idea how God is working in the parish.
- We are better at washing up rather than talking to people on social occasions such as soup inn, quizzes and other social gatherings.
- Clergy and lay to form a pastoral group as before so that those in the community who are housebound, ill, in hospital or care homes, infirm, or those who no longer worship with us can see that we care and will give help where needed. The group to meet with one another on a regular basis.
- Publicise the events being held in the parish on every occasion e.g. leafleting on tables, notice boards etc.
- More home groups to be formed.
- We need to have more home groups to get together for Bible study, fellowship, social interaction.
- Encourage people to join a home group.
- Encourage people to talk about their experiences from being in a home group, perhaps in front of a congregation, the PCC at one of its meetings or the community at large.
- Family youth worker to be employed by the parish rather than sharing him/her with other parishes in the south of the island.
- Could mission be brought to the church? Invite people to churches as speakers. One member of the group has experienced a renewal in a church by mission coming to it. To encourage us to be a more outgoing church.
- To re-start podcasts