



Parish Church of St. Mary the Virgin Walney Island

Minutes of the Meeting of Parishioners (Vestry Meeting) and Annual Parochial Church Meeting

12th October 2020 at 10:15 am in St Mary's Church

Meeting of Parishioners

1. The meeting opened with prayer led by Maureen Dale.
2. Rhona Teale, PCC Lay Chair, led the meeting. There were 20 parishioners in attendance. Apologies were received from Brenda Hill.
3. Rhona opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and stating that she had been appointed Lay Chair of the PCC following the Revd Andy Batchelor's move to a new parish. The Vestry and APCM meetings were scheduled for earlier in the year but were postponed due to the Covid lockdown. In order to comply with the Charities Commission requirements, the Diocese asked us to complete shortened Vestry and APCM meetings in October. Therefore, today's agenda will be reduced, presentation of reports will be selective and proposals will be made to rollover the names of those holding church posts until the next APCM, planned for April 2021. All attendees had received an information pack and booklet of Reports prior to the meetings.
4. Minutes of the Vestry Meeting held on 24th March 2019 were agreed as an accurate record and were signed by the Lay Chair.
5. There were no matters arising.
6. The proposal to roll forward current incumbents, Maureen Dale and Rhona Teale, as Churchwardens was nominated by Mary Bacon and seconded by Roger Burns. There being no other nominations, then Maureen and Rhona were duly elected unanimously as Churchwardens until the next Vestry meeting.

The meeting closed at 10.30am.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

This followed immediately upon the closure of the Meeting of Parishioners. These Minutes should be read in conjunction with the booklet of Reports which was distributed at the meeting.

1. Rhona Teale, PCC Lay Chair, led the meeting. There were 20 parishioners in attendance. Apologies were received from Brenda Hill.
2. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 24th March 2019 were agreed as an accurate record and were signed by the Lay Chair.
3. There were no matters arising.



4. Churchwardens' Report

The Churchwardens' Report was not presented however it is included in the booklet of Reports.

5. Lay Chair's Report

Rhona said that the Revd Andy Batchelor's departure has led to discussions with church leaders including the Archdeacon Vernon Ross, Rural Deans Ruth Crossley and Jack Knill-Jones and Mission Community Leaders, Robin Ham and Martin Cooper regarding the way forward in the vacancy. It will be a lengthy vacancy due to Covid and the Diocesan financial position. She said there will be no recruitment at present though there is a possibility of a Pioneer Minister to be recruited early next year. Also, there are few Clergy in Barrow that can provide cover. This means we all have a responsibility to maintain what we already have in place and to improve as restrictions ease.

Rhona said that in the meantime services will continue based on a monthly cycle of Priest led Communion (1st Sunday), Communion by Extension (2nd Sunday), Priest led Communion (3rd Sunday), Lay led Service of the Word (4th Sunday) and joint Communion with St Johns, alternating the church venue (5th Sunday).

Rhona is the first point of call for funerals in both churches and Maureen will take enquiries and arrange appointments for weddings and baptisms.

6. PCC Secretary's Report

The PCC Secretary's Report was not presented however it is included in the booklet of Reports.

7. Treasurer's Report

A full copy of the approved accounts for 2019 is included in the information pack distributed to meeting attendees.

David presented a detailed report on the finances for the year and talked the meeting through the audited accounts. He drew attention to the fact that there was an overall deficit last year of £11,417 in line with his budget forecast. He reviewed the church's sources of income and noted a further reduction in planned giving, tax recovered and donations though charitable giving remained healthy. David said that fund-raising had increased in 2019 and the sale of a small piece of land in the Churchyard had generated further income. David thanked everyone who ran the Contact Club and Quiz Nights for all their hard work in providing a wonderful service to the community and in providing extra income for the Parish Centre and Fabric Fund.

On the expenditure side, David noted that our Parish Offer was underpaid at the end of the year by £10,750. Church building and repair costs have decreased though some repairs were necessary to the Lady Chapel window and church drain. He said general running expenses to the Parish Centre and Knox Street Hall have decreased also. David thanked everyone connected to the Church, Parish Centre and Knox Street Hall for looking after them and keeping costs down. We are thankful for the individual donations to the running of these buildings.



David re-iterated that 2019 was a challenging year financially and its likely to get worse in 2020 as the impact of Covid is felt. He thanked everyone who had provided support to him in 2019.

Finally David highlighted that he started in the Treasurer's role back in 1982 and today's APCM marked 38½ years in the role.

Rhona thanked David for his hard work with the accounts over the year and expressed the church's appreciation.

Attendees were invited to ask questions on the Treasurer's Report. Gordon Walker asked if we still have to pay the costs of the Vicar now he has left. The answer is yes we do. We already pay a reduced Parish Share and that needs to cover other costs associated with the interregnum, for example other Clergy.

Acceptance of the audited Annual Accounts for 2019 was proposed by Denise Elvy, seconded by Gordon Walker and agreed unanimously.

8. Appointment of Independent Examiner

It was reported that Robert Everett would be willing to continue as Independent Examiner of the church accounts. It was proposed by David Hollis, seconded by Sylvia Brazier and agreed unanimously that Robert Everett be re-appointed.

9. Electoral Roll Report

Roger reported that there were 76 names on the Roll, an increase of 4 since the last APCM.

10. Deanery Synod Report

The Deanery Synod Report was not presented however it is included in the information pack distributed to meeting attendees.

11. Elections to the Parochial Church Council

Rhona said that Arthur Watts was co-opted onto the PCC at its last meeting. There remain two vacancies on the PCC for anyone interested in joining.

The proposal to roll forward current PCC memberships was nominated by Mary Bacon and seconded by Roger Burns. All were duly elected unanimously as PCC members until the next APCM.

12. Elections to the Deanery Synod

There were three vacancies for Deanery Synod representatives. Jonathan Elvy had previously indicated he was willing to stand. His nomination was proposed by David Hollis and seconded by Maureen Dale. Jonathan was elected unanimously as a Deanery Synod rep for the next three years.



13. Election of Sidespersons

The proposal to roll forward current Sidespersons was nominated by David Hollis and seconded by Denise Elvy. All were duly elected unanimously as Sidespersons until the next APCM.

14. Questions from the floor

There were no questions from the floor.

The meeting closed with prayer from Mary Bacon at 10.50am.