



**(Unapproved) Minutes of the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council (held using Zoom).**

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 7.30pm**

**Present:** In the Chair: Rhona Teale  
Roger Burns, Maureen Dale, David Hollis, Sylvia Brazier, Mary Bacon,  
Jonathan Elvy, Janet Western, Brenda Hill

Meeting Started: 19:30

**1. Opening Remarks**

Roger thanked everyone for attending through Zoom for the first time. Whilst not the preferred mechanism for a PCC meeting it was in the current circumstances the safest.

**2. Opening Prayers**

The meeting opened with prayers from Jonathan.

**3. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2020 were agreed as a correct record and signed. Roger signed off the minutes on behalf of Rhona.

**4. Matters Arising**

Mary confirmed that a new iPad was purchased and had recorded services successfully. All hymns are loaded ready for when we can sing.

**5. Apologies for absence**

Arthur Watts was unable to connect to the meeting through Zoom.

**6. Lay Chair's Report (Rhona)**

Rhona welcomed everyone to the Zoom meeting. She had not provided a written report before the meeting as there is a lot changing information at this time.

After the second lockdown we will restart services at 0930 this Sunday.

Maintenance work has started on the vicarage. The boiler is not working so Jonathan will take a look.

Maureen and Rhona collected the church Christmas Tree from Stribers farm and will decorate it on Saturday, Brenda and David Hill are decorating the Church Porch. Thanks go to Jonathan for getting the tree in place in the stand.

**ACTION: Roger to write to Holker Estates to thank them for providing the tree.**

The Diocese confirmed that Carol singing or carol services can take place safely if you follow advice in conjunction with the [guidance for the Performing Arts](#).

Rev'd Clive Shaw has confirmed that he can conduct a service in St Mary's on Christmas Morning at 1000. This will be the only Service on Christmas Day for both Walney and Barrow Island as we can't get cover for the Midnight Communion.



Jonathan continues to talk to other clergy in the diocese to see if they if they would be willing to help with interregnum services.

Rhona thanked Maureen for taking some of the pressure off her Church Warden role following the birth of her grandson.

#### **7. Christingle (Rhona)**

It has been agreed, with the help of Monica, that we distribute 150 bags with Orange kits and explanation from the Church Porch on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December between 1100 and 1400. It will include the link to the Children's Society Live streaming on the Sunday. Jonathan, Janet, Brenda, Denise and Maureen offered to help distribute the bags if required by Monica. Jonathan asked if we could offer selection boxes too. PCC felt this would be a nice gesture but it's too late to organise this time. Mary suggested parents could take Christingle photos of children such that we could post them onto the church Facebook page.

**ACTION: Mary to talk to Denise Elvy to see if this can be arranged.**

PCC acknowledged the hard work Monica puts into Christingle and are very grateful.

The Advent banner is ready and on display, thanks to the good work of Margaret Harrison, St John's Craft Club.

**ACTION Roger to send a letter of thanks to Margaret.**

#### **8. Treasurer's Report (David)**

David's report was circulated before the meeting. He noted that Stewardship income was going well this year at nearly £26k, only £630 down on last year. This is outstanding given the Covid situation as we have seen reduced income from use of the hall and fund-raising. Increased Parish Centre fund donations but reduced Fabric donations means that General Funds income is down by £6.8k compared to 2019. Expenditure is down by £7.6k. It's likely we will be able to fund over 60% of the Parish Offer this year.

#### **9. Churchwardens Report (Maureen)**

Our Harvest Festival Service on 25th October was led by the Local Team. Feedback indicated that it had been well received. Our thanks go to Mary Bacon in preparing this Service. The food was taken to the Barrow Food Bank by Jonathan who advised that it would provide 100 meals.

Our last Service in Church was on Sunday, 1st November at which the Archdeacon, Vernon Ross presided. He informed the congregation that we were likely to have a long vacancy and said he would be arranging to meet with the PCC to further discuss the way forward. To date this meeting has not taken place.

We opened the church for private prayer on Sunday, 8th November (Remembrance Sunday) at which suitable pictures were shown on the overhead and appropriate music played. The last post was played at 11.00am and those present stood for the 2 minute act of remembrance. Thanks go to Steve Bacon for organising this.

The decision was made to not open the church until after lockdown and the readings for the following three weeks together with a newsletter were sent out to everyone on the Electoral Roll. Thank you to all those PCC members who helped to deliver these.



During the past few weeks we have had 3 funerals which Revd. Martin Williams has taken and we have had enquiries about the possibility of when baptisms might be able to take place. One was requested for within the Communion Service on 20th December to which Fr. Jack has agreed.

Unfortunately Johnathan's Licensing as Lay Reader has been postponed until 27th February, 2021 and the Admission of Churchwarden's (Rhona and Maureen) took place via zoom yesterday 2nd December.

The Vicarage is to be rented out as soon as some necessary work on it has been completed, likely to be the end of December.

Our thanks go to the Connect and Communication Group for all their hard work over recent weeks to update the website and Facebook pages.

#### **10. Fabric Report (Maureen)**

There are two items of importance at the present time.

A member of the public reported to the Local Council that the church boundary wall (channel side) had a bulge. Mr. Gordon Robson from Development Services together with Councillor Frank Cassidy met with Andy just before he left. Mr. Robson reported that the Borough own the strip of land in front of the wall that was adopted by County Highways but the wall itself is the boundary. The wall after examination by Building Control was assessed structurally sound and is not so bad as to represent a negative impact on amenity and would not warrant action to enforce its repair. Upon our own inspection there is a large tree just behind the wall which we should monitor as the Cemeteries Manager has confirmed it is our responsibility. Also the area behind the wall by the Kebab shop is unsightly with rubbish and pipes on the ground

**ACTION: Roger to investigate how the wall brick can be repaired in line with Church regulations. Arthur has offered his services to make the repair.**

**ACTION: Roger to contact the shop owner about tidying up the area by the wall.**

The tree beside the notice board at the car park entrance is in a very bad state and was tied up with rope a while ago. It is time to have it checked and take action if necessary.

**ACTION: Roger to contact tree surgeons to get quotes to assess and remove tree if needed. Secure quotes for a broader review of all trees in the churchyard.**

**ACTION: Given these and other likely repairs in future Roger proposed to set up a team with Maureen, Jonathan and Arthur to look at the capital investment needed across the church over the next 5 years so we could prioritise works, risks and costs. Rhona offered to help with grants applications.**

#### **11. Barrow Mission Community (Maureen)**

The MC continues to meet every Tuesday morning for prayer at 0915-1000 via zoom and is open to everyone. The link can be found on facebook.

Every Thursday there is an opportunity to pray for the nation led by people from churches within the MC. (on facebook). At 0900 every Thursday evening via zoom for about 15/20 minutes Night Prayer is led by the Mission Community. (see fb)

Faith in Furness is broadcast every Sunday morning at 1030 on Cando fm 106.3



Beginning on 1st December 'Hope in the Darkness' will be streamed at 8.30pm on the 4 Tuesdays and will pick up from the 4 titles from Isaiah 9 taking one a week and show why Jesus brings hope. Each of the 4 weeks will be a 30-40 minute online broadcast featuring an interview with a Christian from Barrow, a thought for the day on the Isaiah title and a song for reflection. The idea that hopefully Christians can 'share' it easily and it'll be watchable afterwards.

#### 12. Knox Street Hall (Roger)

Another Land Registry plan was completed showing the full scope of the Knox Street buildings and the Vicarage. This was sent to the Solicitor in October for action along with the appropriate Land Registry fees. Note our Planning Permission is valid for 3 years after approval (May 2019). I will continue to photograph the exterior of the Annex to check if there is any external degradation of the building over time.

#### 13. Safeguarding (Rhona)

Everything is up to date regarding signage in both Centre and Church. Test and trace sheets have been filled for everyone attending any service in the Church.

Hall Risk assessments have been done. Slimming World have their own risk assessment and will be starting up next Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December.

Jonathan completed Safeguard Leadership as part of his Reader training.

**ACTION: David to contact suppliers to order more Lumisan and cover off any outstanding payments.**

#### 14. Secretary's Report and Correspondence (Roger)

The APCM was held in October and successfully covered all of the required business. Meeting Minutes, Election Results and Electoral Roll notices have been sent to the Diocese, posted in the Church Entrance Hall and also on the Church Website.

PCC members were invited twice by Archdeacon Vernon to submit date preferences for a meeting to discuss our incumbent vacancy. Meeting date to be confirmed.

Notification was received from the Diocese Registrar that the process to replace Andy commenced officially from October 20th. There are a number of steps we need to take in the next six months including confirmation of the Patron and holding a PCC "Section 11" Meeting to agree PCC Representation in the selection and to prepare a Parish Statement. We should not proceed until PCC have Archdeacon Vernon's direction.

**ACTION: David to circulate the last Parish Profile for information.**

Our Communications & Connect workstream met twice through Zoom in November to look at the effectiveness of the Church Website, Facebook, Zoom, Noticeboards and Notice Sheets (ex-Pewsheets). Actions were taken to ensure we had mastery of the current technology and that their content is up to date. Initial data shows that daily in November we have between 50-100 Facebook views and 8-10 views of the Website, with half being new Website viewers. We are looking at requirements for a refreshed Website to connect better with the community. PCC members are encouraged to provide information we can post keep the community informed. We are assessing the potential of other Web applications like "A Church Near You" and "Life Events Diary".



I attended a very informative two day Church of England “Digital Conference” which showed how technology is being used and exploited by churches across the country.

**15. Any Other Urgent Business (Rhona)**

Arthur proposed to publish the Book of Remembrance online. PCC felt it would be helpful and would investigate.

**ACTION: Maureen to talk to Marie about process to register names in the Book.**

**ACTION: Roger to engage Comms & Connect team on how we could publish the Book online.**

**16. Improving PCC business and meeting (Roger)**

As time was limited Roger asked for ideas to be emailed to him to collate.

**ACTION: PCC members to email Roger with thoughts on improvements to the work of the PCC and its meetings.**

**17. Closing Prayers**

Mary closed the meeting with prayers.

Meeting Finished: 21:23

**Next Meeting:** Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January in the Parish Centre.