

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING OF
MORECAMBE PARISH CHURCH HELD IN CHURCH
AT 11.30 AM ON SUNDAY, 2ND APRIL 2017**

1 Prayer

The meeting was opened with prayer led by Revd Mike Peatman.

2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:

Miss C Ogden, Mrs A Peak, Mr M Peak, Mr M Perkins, Mrs J Pollard and Mrs L Sayer.

3 Election of Churchwardens

There were two nominations for Churchwardens: Mr Paul Hope proposed by Fiona Whyte and seconded by Susan Morrison and Mrs Christine Suthers proposed by Susan Morrison and seconded by Ruth Nightingale, agreed unanimously and declared duly elected

4 Minutes of the APCM held on the 17th April 2016

The minutes of the last APCM meeting were agreed as a true record, proposed by Brian Robinson, seconded by Carol Bennett and approved.

5 Matters Arising

5.01 The stained glass window tribute to May and June Smith has been put on hold at present.

6 Review of the Annual Report and Accounts

The first few pages of the Annual Report give details of the administrative information and a review of 2016.

Finance

In the absence of both the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer, Mike highlighted some of the areas of the accounts.

An amount of £5,430 has been spent from the legacy fund. Our operating loss was approximately £3,000.

Mike was asked whether the PCC actively looks at grant funding. Due to the fact that when we present our accounts we appear to be relatively well off this means that some of the grants are not available to us.

Revd Anne said that she has sent in accounts for Messy Church but that this is not shown in section 2b. Fiona replied that we are hoping to purchase a recognised package dedicated to church accounting which will ensure that receipts and expenses are placed in the correct slots. This will be pursued by the PCC.

Mike was also asked whether there was a reason that there are no rectory costs shown this year and replied that these have been put in church running expenses.

Mike also stressed that we need to place some of the money in our legacy fund between two institutions as we are only protected for £8,000 currently. At present we bank with TSB for our current account and the reserve fund is in the CCLA investment account.

We acknowledge the amount of hard work put in by the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer. We also appreciate that John Pollard acts as Independent Examiner and a small thank you gift will be arranged.

7 Elections

To Deanery Synod: there were two nominations for three vacancies. As there were no other nominations, Carol Ogden and Ruth Nightingale were elected for a period of three years.

Barbara Howitt has served over 20 years as a Deanery Synod representative and our grateful thanks were expressed to her. Karen Jones has also decided to stand down and our thanks go to Karen.

To PCC: there were four nominations for four vacancies and Carol Bennett, Jackie McLeavy, Marilyn Prescott and Fiona Whyte were re-elected for a further period of three years. Following Christine Suthers' election as Churchwarden, there was a vacancy for one year and Brian Robinson volunteered to serve and was duly elected.

8 Appointments

1. Thanks to all those who are willing to serve as Sidespeople and Assistant Wardens. The proposed Assistant Wardens are Barbara Howitt, Trevor Blaylock, Eileen Hutchinson, Douglas Lee, Carol Ogden and Phil Ramsden. The proposed sidespeople are Christine Wilkinson, Lesley Sayer, Phyllis O'Leary, Nancy Shepherd, Carol Hurst, Carol Brocklebank, Ann Hope, Wendy Gallagher, Gerry Lewis, Bryan Milner, Wendy Clegg, Joye Heald, Jaimie Heath, Michael Moorhouse and Jean Greenhough. It was proposed by Brian Robinson, seconded by Barbara Howitt and agreed that these people be appointed.
2. We were assured that John Pollard is willing to continue as Independent Examiner for the coming year and he was proposed by Fiona Whyte, seconded by Geoffrey Wilkinson and duly appointed.

9 Rector's Report

Mike reported that he was very conscious that this time last year he was unable to attend the APCM. Debbie was in the hospice and Mike was with her. Debbie's illness, death and its aftermath inevitably overshadowed a lot of last year.

He would like to record his thanks to the little support group that was formed in September 2015 in anticipation of what was to come. The ministry team – Anne Cunliffe, Sue Kiernan and David Bolster - all had to take additional responsibility in that period. He is also aware that the wardens – Paul Hope and Susan Morrison – had to carry additional responsibilities. It is also important to note that our Area Dean, Linda Macluskie, provided important backup during that time.

He would also like to thank Fiona Whyte, the lay vice-chair of the PCC. Not only did she have to chair meetings of the council in his absence, she also had to cope with last year's annual

meeting at short notice. Subsequently she also chaired meetings of the Church Council, even when he was present, in order to help him back into the role. That was very helpful and he is very grateful.

To conclude, he would like to thank all of you. Your cards were read, your prayers were appreciated, the meals that were delivered were greatly valued. As a community you helped to carry us through those challenging weeks and months. Gary Ingram said what a supportive church we are and this has been borne out.

Our Diocese has been encouraging us to make vision the watchword since the launch of its Vision 2026 programme. That wasn't easy for Mike to engage with in the early stages, and the Bishop made it clear that he shouldn't worry about it. However, we have spent some time thinking and responding and we held our Crossroads weekend and have also discussed the issue at PCC meetings regularly.

So far, no one 'big idea' has emerged, but it has started to shape the way we think about the regular things we do. For example:

- Making Contact – the first stage of mission. Poulton Playtime, lunch club, crossroads weekend, but also reviewing things like baptism preparation and school involvement.
- Nurture – exploring faith. During 2016, three groups met regularly to discuss and study, and we're working on things like Messy Church and all-age worship to make them accessible starting points for faith.
- Growing Leaders – that had to happen with Mike out of action, and it did. But other examples are forming an all-age team and encouraging people to take up training opportunities.
- Responding to Needs – we are living in challenging times with government cutbacks, and there is uncertainty ahead. We have taken a number of actions to address poverty and need in our town, working in partnership with Impact, the Foodbank, our school and others.

We won't thrive as a parish church if we only look to survival – hanging on and keeping the show on the road. Mike believes we will flourish if we prayerfully and committedly discern where God is calling us and are prepared to take the risky steps of faith to embrace His call.

10 Memorial Hall Trustees

There are six people listed on the last document who are willing to continue. These are Rodney Waggett, Trevor Blaylock, Susan Gerrard, Janet Robertson, Anne Peak and Eva Wood. A further six people are willing to act as Trustees, namely: Anne Sharples, Jackie McLeavy, Stuart Whyte, Chris Stebbing, Richard Prescott and Carol Bennett. All Trustees are required to be lay people on the electoral roll of this church. Rodney Waggett has agreed to arrange for a new document to be drawn up. It was proposed by Audrey Woodhouse, seconded by Karin Ramsden and agreed unanimously that these people form the new Board of Trustees.

11 Any Other Business

1. The green annual report booklet is a supplementary report provided by groups associated with the parish. Thanks to Karin and Phil for putting together this report.
2. We were asked if the cost of the repair of the pinnacles on the bell tower was being taken from legacy money. It was suggested that we do all the pinnacles at the same time as there

is a significant cost involved with work which requires scaffolding. We are in the hands of the Diocese and have to wait for their approval of any firm involved. There may be extra fund-raising required or we may be able to apply for a grant.

3. Michael Peak is unable to be present at this meeting, but has sent in an email requesting that thought be put into purchasing some hand-held microphones so that all may be able to hear. Brian Robinson agreed that they would be useful for this meeting and also for dramas. There are people with hearing aids who do not hear all the comments. The microphones need to be compatible with our system.
4. Janet Robertson reminded us that Christian Aid Week takes place from the 14th to the 20th May this year and appealed for additional help. She also has one or two extra Fair Trade Easter Eggs for sale. At present the handbells are not being rung as there needs to be an extra 4 ringers to make up the team. It was also pointed out that the church bells are not ringing at present as we do not have fit, well and appropriately trained ringers.
5. Audrey Woodhouse commented that there is no Uniformed Groups report in the green booklet this year. The Uniformed Groups are a church sponsored group. Audrey requested that this be discussed at a PCC meeting in some depth.
6. Val Vose was thanked for being PCC Secretary and keeping minutes etc up to date.

11 Grace

The meeting closed with the grace.