

# THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY'S ALLITHWAITE

## Minutes of PCC Meeting held on Monday September 25th 2023 at 7.30pm in Church

**Present:** Andrew Sherwin AS; John Lanham JL; Julie Lanham; Les Spring LS, Elaine Baldry, Michael Jackson MJ, Michael Fieldhouse MF, June Donnelly, Alan Hill AH, Steve Bell SB; John Tindale JT; Janice Tindale; Rev Jane Maycock; Helen Whitely HW; Andrea Mason; Jim Bloomer JB

1. **Opening Prayer** and reading from Psalm 46 v10 SB
2. **Apologies:** Amiel Osmaston; Fiona Dowle
3. **Approval of Minutes** of PCC meeting on 12/06/23 - agreed
4. **Matters Arising** Tree problem with school unresolved. Confirm land boundaries and resolve **MJ/JT**. Remove overhanging boughs above playground **SB**. Arrange a CRMI (Uganda) service **MJ**. Admin issue on hold.
5. **Treasurer's Report** JT confirmed that the general, unreserved cash fund stood at £13K but that much of this surplus was allocated for spending in the final quarter. The meeting discussed the wider issues around our Parish Share (PS). For '24 the cost of a vicar is £64.9K. In the medium term the expectation in the Diocese is likely to be that the new benefice will meet this cost. In '22 Flookburgh agreed a PS payment of £8K. JT will continue to add funds to our Strategic Mission Fund. MJ suggested this may have grown to £30K by the year end. Energy costs in '23 were better than budget thanks to Diocesan support. Approval was given to JT's suggestion that our PS for '24 should be at a rate of £26.2K up to the start date of the new vicar and £32.4K thereafter.
6. **Stewardship campaign** Giving levels have increased by <1% between '19 & '22, whereas inflation for the same period is 13.7%. In addition, we need to keep supporting Andrea in her new role and fund an Administrator too. It was agreed that our campaign would start in Lent '24. Sophie Hodge is preaching at the joint service at Flookburgh on 24th October and is a fountain of knowledge on the subject.
7. **Update on new Incumbent post and planning the interview process** JB stressed that the process was proceeding under the auspices of the old regime (CPTM) and so there will be no patronage matters to consider. The joint profile of the parishes and Job Description had been agreed by representatives of Flookburgh and Allithwaite and JL, on behalf of both parishes, is ready to submit them to AD Vernon. JT felt it important the PCC approve the joint profile document. JB said further approval wasn't necessary. LS emphasised his view that the preparation of our profile had been extremely thorough and democratic and the joint document had been regularly circulated to PCC members during its preparation. The document was approved unanimously. There is now to be an interview with a single internal candidate with Bishop Rob and AD Vernon on the panel, together with 4 church reps, two from each parish. Preparative meeting on 11 Oct with interview on 17 Oct. **HW, AH, SB & MJ** agreed to involve themselves in the process. They would decide, themselves, which pair would represent us at the interview. To close, AS led us in prayer with a reminder of how important it is that all our hearts are open to receive the new Incumbent.
8. **CYL update** Andrea has been in post since the beginning of the month, has been well received, and is excited by the opportunities ahead. On the youth front she had led an assembly at Cartmel Priory School, was doing Y7 assembly on Mondays, Origami clubs, pizza parties, some collective worships at Allithwaite and Lindale Primaries together with a lunch club. On the community side a Big Sing had been organised for 13<sup>th</sup> Dec, starting in church and culminating with Flookburgh band in The Pheasant. A singing workshop was planned. Andrea discussed her idea to augment the

Community Lunch program by using an external caterer (Pie and Peas £4.95 etc). It was felt this idea needed working through with the current team first.

**9. Old Graveyard** AS had sorted out a '1 off' contractor and they were awaiting better weather to set things right for the winter. MF felt the time was right to consider a single longer-term contract for both old and new graveyards. There was enthusiasm around the idea of developing a vision of a community outdoor space, with volunteer involvement. **MJ** to investigate if closure of old graveyard is possible such that Westmorland & Furness council contribute to upkeep.

**10. Financial Authorisation** A proposal to allow the Standing Committee to authorise expenditure up to £500 was approved.

**11. Future PCC dates** agreed 21/11/23; 29/01/24; 18/03/24; 20/05/24 & 08/07/24. The APCM was scheduled for 28/4/23.

**12. AOB** A stonemason had examined the tower and fallen masonry and recommended we involve an architect. **MJ** to action. JB pointed out this was a potential large cost item.

Expenditure on food hygiene training courses was approved.

It was agreed a vestry tidy involving throwing away junk, clearing exits, desk provision and rationalising vacuum cleaner numbers would proceed.

MJ and JL are our H&S Officers

Accident book had been found and needed bringing up to date to include Alison's and Janice's accidents.

**Next meeting 21st November 2023**