

St Peter's Pastoral Parish Council
Minutes, Tuesday 1st December '09 at 7.30pm

Present:

Father Kerr (President), Patricia Cairns (Chair), Bruce Royan (Secretary), Margaret Addly, Joyce Cullen, Mike O'Dwyer, Rosemary Rogerson, Josephine Beech-Brandt, Scott Moffat

Apologies:

Sister Catherine (Vice-Chair), Derek Buglass, Jo Mulvagh, Kevin Flynn

1 Opening Prayer/Reflection

Fr Kerr opened the meeting with a prayer and a reflection based on the next Sunday's Gospel reading (Luke 3: 1-6). The key words were "repentance" and "reconciliation", in preparation for the coming of Our Lord.

2 Minutes of AGM

The Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday 29th September were *approved*. There were a few matters arising that did not already appear on the Agenda:

2.1 Parish Calendar. Fr Kerr had produced a very comprehensive list of all the events and activities planned for the coming liturgical year. Bruce agreed to investigate ways in which this could be automated for ease of update and so that regular extracts could be made, for example for the Parish website.

2.2 Welcoming Group. Investigation of the establishment of a group to identify newcomers to the parish and offer them support and information and introductions to other parishioners, would be left until work on the other Action Points carried over from 2008/09 had been completed

2.3 Communication of PC Activities. PPC formally recorded their thanks to Douglas Hunter for producing the new photomontage of current PPC members, which was now on display next to the notice board. Pat had obtained a dedicated notice board which would be erected next to the general one, and dedicated to PPC business and announcements. PPC also formally recorded their thanks to Juliet MacKellaig, who with the help of her husband had created a very attractive new version of the Parish website.

2.4 New Facilities. Father Kerr reported that the costed proposal for the new toilet was still with the Archdiocesan Finance Committee, but it seemed likely it would go ahead.

3 Cluster Conversations

Sessions of the Cluster Conversations had taken place on Tuesday 8th September (in St Mark's), Tuesday 6th October (in St Columba's) and Tuesday 7th November (in St Peter's). The Chair had compiled a summary of the findings and recommendations, to be distributed after Mass on 6th December. Fr Kerr will explain the background and that this is a Diocesan activity, and parishioners will be asked to indicate their agreement/disagreement with each point, and also make suggestions for priorities (perhaps up to three). The sheets would be collected after Mass in each parish on 13th December, and the responses would be analysed by each parish. One further Cluster meeting would be held in January, at a date yet to be agreed, to finalise an action plan for the agreed priorities. The completion of this process would be marked by a social event for all three parishes, on 5th March 2010 at St Columba's – based around a Fairtrade Wine Tasting.

4 Service Descriptors/Parish Handbook

Joyce distributed copies of a 37 page document which Bruce had compiled, by bringing together all the Service Descriptors available to date, attempting standardisation wherever possible. Some of them had had to be input to the computer from photocopies, and several had needed massaging to fit the style and layout of the others, but most of the words were as provided by the coordinators of each ministry. Sometimes, where no actual descriptor was available, text had been taken from either the website or from an earlier flyer: Contribute to the Life of the Parish. The Descriptors had been arranged in alphabetical order within 5 categories: "Liturgy", "Parish Life", "Education and Formation", "Finance and Fabric", and "Outreach".

PPC were asked to look over this document, and report any errors or omissions. Once an agreed draft was available, each Descriptor would be circulated to the Coordinator of that Ministry, for them to update and eventually approve, as a permanent resource for Ministers and potential volunteers.

Joyce then distributed copies of an initial draft of the Parish Directory itself, in which each of these 32 descriptors had been boiled down to no more than about 50 words. This had been illustrated with photographs by Scott, and a mock-up of how the Directory might eventually look was circulated, to general approval.

Fr Kerr thanked the working group (Mike, Joyce, Scott and Bruce) for the effort put in so far. He would mark up a copy with suggested amendments. He pointed out there would be a need to obtain appropriate consent to use images of children in any of the illustrations.

It was agreed to try to fund the Directory from Advertising or Sponsorship. Local printers MBE of Church Hill had already offered to place an ad. Other suggestions were Waitrose, Marks & Spencer, Marin Funeral Directors, and local vets and dentists. Bruce to see what might be possible.

5 Parish Outreach Meeting

The Parish Outreach Group collaboration between SCIAF, Christian Aid, SVDP and Justice and Peace) had had two meetings. Fr Chris Boles SJ had spoken at Mass on 25th September on Justice and Peace, and the flyers that had been handed out at that time had been well received. The next meeting of the Group will be 5th January, and it was planned to dedicate Mass on Sunday 31st January to the Homeless: special prayer cards will be distributed. Fairtrade fortnight will be 22nd Feb – 7th March, and will culminate at the Cluster Fairtrade Wine Tasting mentioned above (there is a possibility that Sacred Heart will join in on this activity as well). It is hoped eventually to put on one Outreach event every month throughout the year.

6 Prayer Group Agenda 2009/10

Douglas Hunter had provided details of the Prayer Group Programme for Lent 2010. These would take place in the Parish room in the CaFE (Catholic Faith Exploration) format that has proved successful. The evenings are set in an informal café style, refreshments are served, and a DVD is shown on a large screen. The theme of the sessions available for all is "Life to the Full (bringing the Bible alive)": on 25th February, plus 4th, 11th, 16th and 25th March.

Additionally there are special sessions for the parents of P3 children preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and of P4 children preparing for their first Holy Communion:

2nd March "The faith journey of children"

9th March "The power of Reconciliation"

18th May "Bread of Life"

25th May "Power of the Eucharist"

7 South Edinburgh Pastoral Grouping

Margaret reported on the quarterly meeting on 13th October of the South Edinburgh Pastoral Grouping, which comprises the South East Cluster (St Catherine's, St Gregory's, and St John Vianney's), our own Cluster (St Columba's, St Mark's, and St Peter's) and a Religious Cluster (St Albert's, and Sacred Heart).

It had been a short meeting, including feedback from the annual Deanery meeting in September. The South East cluster has a

different approach to their Cluster Conversation, involving an overnight session at Gillis.

St Gregory's and St John Vianney's reported some success in founding a Youth Group. It involved 30-40 people between the ages of 16 and 25 and was so far going well. Currently the focus was purely social, but it was hoped a spiritual dimension would emerge.

On this topic, the Chair reported news from Patricia Carroll (the Episcopal Delegate): a Youth Ministry Coordinator has been appointed – Anne McEvoy, who plans to give workshops for the year ahead on:

- How to set up and sustain a Youth Group
 - Spirituality and Prayer with young people
 - Towards World Youth Day,
- plus two Retreats:
- Lent: for Young Adults
 - Advent: for Youth Leaders

8 Catechists Session 1

The first session of the Course for Catechists had taken place on 24th October at Gillis Centre. Jo reported that the 3 trainees from St Peter's found it generally useful and interesting, but the room was too small for the numbers attending: indeed she felt that 40 trainees was too many. Fr Kerr said he thought a larger number had gone to the first session to see what it was about, and that there would be a smaller, more focused group for the remaining 3 sessions (6th February, 15th May and 21st August). Fr Kerr undertook to produce a Service Description for the Catechist Ministry.

9 Questions from Parishioners

9.1 Could we have more social events? Fr Kerr pointed out that quite a lot was done during the year, but much depended on the availability of people to help arrange them. It was agreed to explore setting up, not a formal committee, but a Social Team of people willing to help.

9.2 There was a discussion about conducting the singing at Mass. Fr Kerr was very much in favour of this arrangement.

9.3 Some Parishes elsewhere have a supply of envelopes so that visitors (and parishioners who have forgotten their own envelope) can Gift Aid their donation. Fr Kerr was concerned that we do nothing that might breach Archdiocesan rules.

9.4 A parishioner had asked whether it would be possible for the congregation to be seated, rather than remain on their knees, while the Parish Notices are being read. Fr Kerr said this could be done.

9.5 What advice should be given to parishioners regarding the female gypsy beggar at the gate of the church? SVdP generally recommend not giving directly to such people, as considerable help is made available to the really needy.

9.6 A baby changing table had been offered for the Parish Room: can it be accepted? This would be welcome, so long as it does not take up too much room

9.7 What is "St Peter's Pals"? A social group to which young mothers (and fathers), with or without toddlers, are welcome. This initiative was greatly welcomed, and it was agreed to advertise it more fully in the Parish Newsletter.

10 AOCB

- St Thomas of Aquin's School is hosting an Advent Celebration for Senior Citizens (with Carols and mince pies) on Thursday 17th December 2:15 – 3:30. A poster and signing sheet has been produced for the back of the church, and approximate numbers are needed by Tuesday 15th December.
- Fr Kerr announced that he will be celebrating his 40th Anniversary as a priest, with a Mass at St Peter's at 7:00 on Friday 19th February, followed by a reception at Gillis. It will be a joint celebration - for parishioners of St Columba's as well as St Peter's, and he hoped that the Cardinal would also be able to attend.
- The next meetings of the PPC would be Tuesday 16th February, and Tuesday 27th April.
- The meeting closed at 9.00pm