

ST PETER'S PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 13 APRIL 2015 IN THE PARISH ROOM

Present

Monsignor Kerr (President) Alan Chudziak Trish Dolan
Roger Eggins (Deputy Chairman) Agnes Dolan Anne Donnelly
John Wastle (Secretary) and one parishioner as observer.

Apologies

1. Apologies were received from Stephen Dolan, Paul Gilmour, Peter Nicholson and Ian Stewart.

Opening prayer

2. Mgr Kerr led those present in the Parish Pastoral Council Prayer.

Minutes of the meeting on 16 February 2015 and matters arising

3. The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

4. The following matters arising from the minutes were addressed:

- paragraph 7 - the Secretary reported that Juliet MacKellaig had completed work on the new parish website including updating the online parish directory; and he had just learned that Bruce Royan had restarted work on producing the paper version of the directory.
- paragraph 7 - a note on procedures for receiving newcomers to the parish will be circulated to members shortly [**Action: Secretary**].
- paragraph 17 - Mgr Kerr reported that the Pastoral Resources Department at Gillis Centre were very interested in the DVD "Catholicism - The New Evangelisation" and there was the prospect of developing a course in collaboration with our Prayer Group.

Organisation of parish clusters in the Archdiocese

5. The Secretary gave details of events relating to this matter subsequent to the Council's discussion of the Archbishop's letter of 10 January as summarised in paragraphs 8-11 of the minutes of the meeting on 16 February:

- As planned, Mgr Kerr, the Chairman and Secretary hosted a meeting with representatives of the other parishes in our proposed cluster on 25 February. The meeting was friendly, co-operative and open minded and resulted in a letter being sent to the Archbishop on 5 March setting out our joint concerns. Copies of the note of the meeting and the letter were circulated to members and also posted on the parish website. The Archbishop sent a short letter of acknowledgement, referring to his forthcoming Pastoral Letter which he hoped would answer many of our concerns.
- The open meeting for parishioners arranged for 9 March had to be postponed in the light of changed circumstances.

- The Chairman attended an all-day meeting at Lauriston on Saturday 14 March organised by the Vigil Group. Over 100 people attended this day of prayer, reflection and discussion on the theme "Sharing Vision - the future of the Church". Further information is available at <http://www.thevigilgroup.org.uk/sharing-vision---the-future-of-church-14-march-2015.html>.
- The Archbishop's Pastoral Letter was distributed to parishioners at the end of Mass on 29 March, Palm Sunday. It did not after all address the concerns in the letter sent by the cluster parishes; and contained nothing which would take forward our discussion of the re-organisation proposals.
- Finally, the postponed open meeting for parishioners has been re-arranged for Wednesday, 22 April at 7.30 in the parish room. This will provide an opportunity to update the parish on recent developments, to listen to views and to prepare for a meeting which the Archbishop will hold at with the proposed cluster parishes in due course. Mgr Kerr reported that this series of meetings at cluster level will not start until the autumn and will run over 7-8 months.

Reports from sub-group leaders

6. In Ian Stewart's absence the Secretary reported that, while it had not been possible to arrange a meeting, the *Liturgy Links Group* had been addressing the following matters in email correspondence: a new member to replace Coleen McCrone; the questions raised by Ivor Clarke relating to the Altar Server Ministry; and a range of comments made in the parish survey, each by a single individual. An update on these matters will be circulated in due course [**Action: Ian Stewart**].

7. Anne Donnelly spoke to the paper which she had prepared and circulated on behalf of the *Parish Organisations and Activities* sub-group. Noting that the parish already provided a wide range of activities and services for parishioners, scrutiny of the parish survey responses revealed that there were perhaps some social events and faith-development initiatives that could be introduced. However, some events, such as theatre outings could be organised by groups of interested parishioners without formal parish intervention; and it would be desirable to have a more focused survey to determine what the real level of interest in particular events might be.

8. The reality is that we should not underestimate the time and effort required to mount many of the events mentioned in the survey. More positively, we should recognise that a wide range of activities are already run at parish, cluster and Diocesan levels and in the wider community. We should identify and promote what exists rather than replicate them. Overall, the role of the PPC might be to foster and facilitate social interaction and faith development within the parish, rather than taking a formal organisational role.

9. At this stage there was nothing more to be done by the *Fabric, Technology and Information Systems* sub-group whose report had been considered fully at the last meeting. Members considered that each of the sub-groups had performed a valuable task in analysing the parish survey comments and suggestions. More work would be needed to implement those that had been recommended for adoption and also to consider how the results of the analyses should be conveyed to parishioners.

Reports on current pastoral activities

10. A note had been circulated setting out activity on: Family Services (Steve Hand); the Reader Ministry (Peter Nicholson); Youth Rock (Liz Brown); and on works carried out on the church property (Alan Chudziak). In addition, Anne-Marie Douglas had reported that during Lent the parish had raised the splendid sum of £4,500 for SCIAF from a wide range of activities with the prospect of more Wee Box donations to come. The total sum raised by mid-May would be matched by the UK Government. The Council expressed its appreciation of all those involved in these activities, and in the many others undertaken in the parish.

Date and arrangements for the Annual General Meeting

11. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is scheduled for Monday, 8 June. The Secretary proposed to follow the procedure introduced last year so that the proceedings would be in two parts: a short ordinary business meeting to enable the Council to conclude matters for the 2014-15 Session as far as possible; followed immediately by the AGM. Notice of the meetings will be given in the newsletter on Sundays 24 and 31 May, and papers will be available by 31 May at the latest. Members were content with these arrangements.

12. It was noted that the AGM is the traditional time to acknowledge those members who are retiring from the Council. The Secretary will circulate an email asking members to declare their intentions in this regard so that preparations can begin to fill vacancies in good time for next Session. Trish Dolan and John Wastle indicated that they would stand down at the AGM.

Any other business

13. No other business was brought forward.

Closing prayer

14. Mgr Kerr led the meeting in a prayer and gave a blessing.