

ST PETER'S PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 12 SEPTEMBER 2016 IN THE PARISH ROOM

Present

Monsignor Kerr (President), Peter Nicholson (Chairman), Alan Chudziak, Aga Allan, Gillian Ferguson, Roger Eggins, Salvatore Callea, Liz Brown, Stephen Dolan.

Welcome and apologies

1. The Chairman welcomed new members Gillian, Salvatore and Liz. Apologies received from new member Joyce Cullen, also from Jacqueline Heron, Ian Stewart and Anne Donnelly.

Opening prayer

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

PPC membership and secretary

3. All 12 places on the Council are now filled. Liz Brown took the minutes of the meeting.

Minutes of the meeting on 13 June 2016

4. The minutes were approved, subject to the completion of Elaine Fyfe's name as the second parishioner attending the meeting.

Matters arising from the minutes

5. 5.1 Volunteering Sunday – as far as was known, volunteers had come forward to Steve Hand for the Family Masses, to Peter Nicholson for the Readers and for PPC, to Alan Chudziak in relation to church security and fire alarms, and for Children's Liturgy. Enquiries had also been made about Altar Serving. No volunteers had come forward for Youth Rock. It was felt that Volunteering Sunday should be repeated next year. It was noted also that Peter's Pals was restarting on Friday 16 September.

5.2 Eco-Congregation Application – Liz Brown reported that the final draft of the application for the Second Award was being circulated and it was hoped that it would be agreed for submission at the next meeting of the Eco-Group on October 3.

Annual report on parish activities

6. Annual report is complete and Jacqueline Heron has offered to format and arrange for printing, as she did last year. Another possible sponsor has come forward, but it was felt that we should also approach the firm whose advert helped with the cost of printing last year. **Action: JH**

Parish clusters

7. Report has been circulated from second Cluster Meeting in June. Final meeting is on Saturday 8 October 10am -12noon in St. Columba's Parish Hall.

Mgr Kerr introduced the idea of having a volunteer at St. Peter's responsible for driving Vocations Awareness, throughout the year. He hoped to have a weekly prayer for vocations on Thursday evenings.

John Smith is to be ordained a deacon, but deacons are at the disposal of the Archbishop. From early next year there may be nuns at St Columba's, which would help it remain open as a parish.

Mgr Kerr pointed out that parish closures need to be referred to Rome.

Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy

8. Archbishop Cushley continues his tour of open sanctuaries. Mgr Kerr felt the emphasis now was on works of Mercy. The Year ends on the Feast of Christ the King. This is usually a Family Mass, it is also a stage in the RCIC, and so it was felt that it would be difficult to mark another event during Sunday Mass. Consideration was also given to inviting the Diocesan Missionary of Mercy, Fr MJ Galbraith, but the concern is that numbers attending may not justify the invitation. Alan and Ann Chudziak are joining the Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to Rome to mark the end of the Year.

Doors Open Day 2016

9. Sunday 25 September 1-7pm. Bruce Royan is taking the lead. St Peter's entry is unfortunately not in the brochure, but that should not discourage us. There will be as much on offer to visitors as last year. Full details are on St Peter's website and members are asked to publicise it as widely as possible. Training for volunteers has been arranged for Friday 16 September 6pm and Sunday 19 September after Mass.

Reports from sub-group leaders

10. 10.1 Liturgy Links – nothing new to add to submission already made for Annual Report (see Point 6).

10.2 Property – Fire evacuation went well and Passkeepers have a published strategy that can be presented if required. (This is a requirement.) We have 3 designated Fire Wardens, and Fire Exits have been inspected.

Lead-lined tanks and piping have been removed, and plastic, fully insulated replacements installed in the Presbytery and Flat.

Umbrella receptacle has been installed in porch, as requested.

10.3 Consideration of Social Events – post Sunday Mass celebrations work very well, but PPC members are asked to bring forward any ideas for other events. Weather permitted the Parish Picnic to proceed and it was a relaxed event attended by small number of families. Social events arranged by the Outreach Team – Alternativity Lunch, Lenten Lunch, Afternoon Teas, have all been sold out. It was noted that no arrangements have been made yet for the Parish Carol Party. The chairman will enquire whether we have anyone willing to organise it this year, and also whether St Columba's have any plans. **Action: PN**

Reports on current parish pastoral activities

11. Library - Anne Donnelly had sent a report in her absence. She will be reviewing stock in light of a recent substantial donation, which contains books both recently published and relevant. She is constrained by space, so will undertake a further audit of current stock so that the new books can be added to the shelves. This will take time to complete, but will be a welcome 'refresh' of the Library, which can then be promoted again.

Protection of vulnerable groups

12. A date is to be set for another training evening in November, which will use revised material.

Security arrangements

13. This was debated in light of a checklist issued by the Insurers for all Churches in England and Wales (there has been no specific guidance for Scotland, which does not have a countrywide arrangement for insurance). CCTV has been discounted at this stage from a cost and manpower point of view. It was felt that St. Peter's was a low risk target, but it has always been Mgr Kerr's advice that no one should be working alone in the Church (also to cover the aspect of personal safety in the event of an accident). Alan Chudziak felt, in light of the checklist, that St Peter's was about as secure as it could be. It was agreed that we do not wish our activities to be curtailed by the fear of terrorism, or the terrorists have won.

Safety was considered for the times when the Church was very busy for special Masses, especially Easter Sunday. The question could be asked of the Passkeepers, of whether they needed any additional manpower at these times, although it was noted that they are in careful control of the placement of extra seating.

Date of next meeting

14. Monday 7 November at 7.30pm

Any other business

15. Facebook – Stephen Dolan asked for interest about “lifting” the prominence of St. Peter's Facebook page so that it would receive more views. He will report back on the cost of paying to promote the page further and having canvassed Sacred Heart and St Columba's. It was agreed also that personal phone numbers that appear in the newsletter should not go on Facebook.

Survey of Combined Churches – Following our participation, Roger Eggins asked if we were to receive any results. Nothing has been heard since our return went in.

Bereavement Mass will be held on Saturday 12 November at 12 noon.

Closing prayer

16. Led by Mgr Kerr.

