

ST. PETER'S PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 23 APRIL 2018

Present

Father Kevin Douglas (President), Josephine Beech-Brandt (Chairperson), Liz Brown (Secretary), Jo Mulvagh, Annie Royan, Salvatore Callea, Aga Allen, Ros Macaskill, Ian Stewart, Joyce Cullen (from item 5.4)

In attendance: Andrew Thackrey, Sophie Bennett (from item 9)

Welcome

1. The Chairperson welcomed all present, explaining that Fr. Kevin may be delayed in his arrival having said 6.30 Mass at St. Columba's. Future meetings will be at 7.45pm to accommodate this.

Apologies

2. Anne Donnelly, Jacqueline Heron, Francis Katamba

Opening prayer

3. Fr. Kevin led those present in saying the Parish Pastoral Council Prayer.

Minutes of the meeting on 5 February 2018

4. Minutes were approved.

Matters arising

5.1 Mass times – Change to Monday and Friday Mass times (10am from 9am) is now embedded. Also relevant here, although discussed later under Liturgy Links report, Tuesday and Thursday Service of the Word will stay at 9am. For the time being, this better suits the small team of individuals who lead the service. It is expected that new the Vigil Mass (Saturday, likely to be 6pm) will start on a trial basis from September. It was agreed that the wooden notice board could now be refreshed and updated. **Action: Liz Brown/Pat Cairns**

5.2 Library – Much progress has been made in clearing this area. A small collection of books has been retained. This collection will be catalogued and held for reference on request within the Presbytery. Further decisions about restoration and re-instatement for use as a chapel must wait until expert advice had been taken about areas of damp, in the chapel and in other parts of the Church. Fr. Kevin reported that the Property Committee had commissioned a report to diagnose the damp problems and to recommend solutions for dealing with them. Similarly, the Property Committee is taking expert advice on improvements to the church heating.

5.3 Annual Report of Parish Activities 2016/2017 – This is now in print and was distributed to parishioners after Mass. A very small stock is held with the Welcome leaflets. Mary Wastle has offered to produce a simplified form of the old Parish Directory. **Action: Liz Brown** It was also noted that it was very positive that an Altar Servers Handbook had been issued.

5.4 Letter to the Archbishop – Fr. Kevin did receive a prompt response to the letter from Parish Pastoral Council (PPC). He will pursue the suggestion that a Vicar General visits the parish to explain about changes in person. **Action: Fr. Kevin**

5.5 Parish Support for Charitable Causes – Jo Mulvagh and Pat Cairns had volunteered to join a sub-committee of PPC, already comprising Fr. Kevin, Chairperson and Secretary, which will receive, review and approve fundraising requests for support for charities other than SCIAF. We will ensure the new procedure is advertised in the newsletter. **Action: Liz Brown**

5.6 Raffalovich grave – Andrew Thackrey reported he has obtained an acceptable quote for the repair to the memorial to Florence Gribbell, which has fallen onto the grave of parish benefactor, Andre Raffalovich. Unfortunately, there has been further disintegration, and it is likely that he will seek the advice of the stonemason about tidying sympathetically what remains of her memorial stone. It was agreed that the work should proceed. **Action: Andrew Thackrey.**

Reports from parish organisations/activities

6 Full reports are attached, but PPC discussed reports received from:

- Website – baptismal forms can now be downloaded and there is an Arranging a Funeral page. Record high of 1700 visits in month leading up to Easter.
- Christian Aid – Priority given to house-to-house collection, and support of Holy Corner Book Sale.
- Eco-Congregation – Annual Gathering on Saturday 28 April has been advertised.
- Freshstart – Regular general donations from parishioners, and also in response to appeals. Box for donations at back of church.
- Readers – Following discussion with Fr. Kevin, there have been slight changes to procedures. Volunteers always welcome to join the team.
- Hospitality – Full programme continues after Sunday Mass. Cups have been changed to compostable Vegware product.
- Facebook – Almost daily postings now made on our Facebook page, and we have 127 followers.
- SVDP - Mainly due to lack of suitable venue, Mass for Sick and Elderly will not take place in June. Other possible venues were suggested, and will be passed to the SVDP team, but it was noted that the PPC would provide what support it could. Fr. Kevin has asked for details of Mini Vinnies, the junior division of SVDP.
- SCIAF – A cheque for in excess of £4000 will soon be sent. The UK Government will match this sum.
- Outreach Justice and Peace Report – Lenten Lunch and raffle of Fairtrade hamper in support of SCIAF, plus other awareness raising.
- Liturgy Links – in addition to 5.1 (above),
 1. It is very good to see altar servers at some Masses during the week.
 2. Fr. Kevin was missed during the Tridium in St. Peter's. He will consider joint liturgies with St. Columba's for next year.

3. Welcome and Passkeeping team was under pressure on Easter Sunday morning, and consideration could be given to attracting extra volunteers.
- Children's Liturgy – There has been a healthy influx of new volunteers, and after many years of service, Joyce Cullen can pass on leadership of this ministry.

Update on Mythological Scene: John Duncan Picture (Mural)

7. All present had seen the paper, examining all options. In the absence of suitable hanging space, the decision has been made to sell the mural, and we have a firm of auctioneers acting for the parish.

Data Protection

8. Parish response to the new legislation, General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) was discussed. Guidelines are awaited from the Archdiocese. It is possible that we can obtain simple checklists to share with group leaders in the parish. **Action: Joyce Cullen/Liz Brown**

Doors Open September 2018

9. Subject to a positive response from canvassing past volunteers for their continued support, it was agreed that an application should be made to become a venue again in 2018. New volunteers would also be welcome, particularly from our younger parishioners in line with this year's Edinburgh Doors Open theme, "Celebrating the Scottish Year of Young People". **Action: Bruce Royan/Liz Brown**

Parish Social

10. St. Andrew's Day Ceilidh will be repeated in November. Parish Picnic will be on Sunday 2 September and it is planned to make extra effort to increase participation, possibly adding an all age cricket match. **Action: Josephine Beech-Brandt.**

Date of next meeting

11. Next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting
Monday 11 June at 7.45pm (please note change of time)

Any other business

12. Food in Church – the meeting was sympathetic to the needs of our youngest parishioners, particularly given the timing of Sunday Mass. Fr. Kevin will give a gentle reminder about each of us clearing up as we leave the church.

Junior Youth Club for all P4-P7 parishioners of St. Peter's and St. Columba's will start on Friday May 4th.

Catholic Parliamentary Office – we are invited to engage with local politicians, inviting them to events and making them aware of parish initiatives. **Action: Liz Brown**

