

Reports from Parish Groups for PPC Meeting Monday 5 November (in order of receipt)

Report for PPC from Joyce Cullen Parish Safeguarding Coordinator

The safeguarding training session for volunteers, which took place at St. Peter's on 19 September, was very well attended and most of our volunteers have now completed the basic training. There are opportunities for those who have been unable to do so in the next few weeks.

There have been several new volunteers go through the PVG and Church application processes, particularly for the Youth Club, which has been set up for young parishioners at both St Peter's and St Columba's.

We were very pleased to welcome Angela Hughes, a member of the Archdiocesan safeguarding team who was invited by Fr Kevin to speak to the parish at the end of Mass on Sunday 7 October about measures which had been taken and were continuing at Archdiocesan level, following the McLellan Commission and the Bishops' Conference review of the Church's safeguarding processes. Angela outlined the Commission's main recommendations, which had been accepted in full by the Bishops' Conference, and the progress made in implementing the necessary changes, explaining the combination of updated and transparent processes of vetting and training of those entrusted with the care and safeguarding our children and vulnerable adults, mandatory reporting of concerns, annual audits of all parishes and the independent monitoring of the effectiveness of the updated policies. At St Peter's we are also playing our part in implementing the updated policies and procedures.

From **Rosemary Rogerson**: Got 2 new volunteers for Church Laundry and 1 for Bereavement Befriending from the Volunteering Sunday

Annual Bereavement Mass Saturday 24th November at 12noon, with usual refreshments after. Rosemary has emailed Fr. Kevin and Sophie and Ivor. St. Columba's have also been invited: it will be advertised in their newsletter and we have a list of recently deceased parishioners of St. Columba's to add to those of St. Peter's.

Facebook – Trish Dolan

I had a quick look at stats and the post that got the biggest reach recently was me having typed in the Prayer of St Francis of Assisi :-)) and the one that got the most 'click throughs', was details of local roadworks shared from Morningside Community Council page which I've started following since Doors Open. Likes/ follows are very slowly increasing still, now at 145. Could be a lot higher than that of course.

LITURGY LINKS OCT. 2018 Ian Stewart
"Reporter" for the Liturgy Links Group.

Summary of Meeting held on Monday 1st October in Parish House at 7.45pm
This meeting was attended by all in the Group. We all enjoyed Fr. Kevin's hospitality in his newly refurbished Dining Room. It was a lively, friendly and positive meeting.

The following points /items were discussed /agreed :-

(1)The proposed Saturday Vigil Mass 'trial' agreed by the PP and Parish Council earlier this year.

Fr.Kevin is extremely busy at present with the 2 parishes and other tasks and this venture will have to be postponed until the new year. Careful planning will be necessary so that there will be a sacristan, a minister of the eucharist, altar servers, a reader and a 'passkeeper' available for duty. It is also likely that Fr.Kevin *himself* will not be available to say this Mass regularly.

(2)School Masses and next year's First communion Mass.

The School prefers to hold Full School Masses rather than individual Class Masses (as Fr.Kevin had suggested) on the first Friday of the month. There are suggestions that the participation and the singing could be improved and the Parish has offered to assist. Ivor Clarke will be liaising with the school, as will Therese Stewart re.the music - that is the plan.

Next year there will be over 40 first communicants again, so arrangements will need to be made by and with the school to avoid the confusion and overcrowding that resulted this year. That is also the plan.

Putting these plans into practice will not necessarily be easy, as was discussed and agreed.

(3)Parish Family /Children's Masses.

Three are envisaged as in previous years - one the Sunday after the First Communion Saturday service, one before Advent and the other in the Spring. Fr.K's suggestion that he would seek the Sundays with the most appropriate Gospels for youngsters was welcomed by all. Allan will liaise with others.

(4)To ease the congestion and speed up the distribution of Communion it was agreed with Fr. and the passkeepers that a row of kneelers approx half way down the church would be removed for a 'trial run' one coming Sunday, to see whether this has a positive effect. Additional ministers of the Eucharist will need to be available each Sunday if this experiment continues.

Ministers of the Eucharist are also urged to adopt a set (hopefully explained and simple?) practice to ..'Pick up a purificator'!

(5)The introduction /welcome at Sunday Mass.

Fr.Kevin would himself prefer if the "welcome" currently provided by the Reader was omitted, except on days when there is something 'special' to announce. There are several other ways in which a 'welcome' is extended to all those attending the service /visiting the parish. Not everyone agreed totally with this though it was generally agreed that *some of* the remarks often made could be omitted.

A little time might be saved at this point with no real loss?

(6)It has been suggested that the Music Group and the Altar Servers should use chairs that are more closely suited to the decor of the church. Perhaps the servers should use benches, as previously suggested, as they occupy less space? Fr.Kevin was encouraged

to look for suitable chairs /benches in the appropriate catalogues and discuss this matter with Sophie and Ivor. He agreed.

(7)The Church floor carpet and linked issues.

The carpet is worn in places, there is also damp coming through in places. The condition of the parquet flooring underneath also requires investigation. Should we dispense with the carpet, or parts of it? Such investigation raises the whole issue of flooring, of damp in the church and the issue of heating too. The Church buildings and Fabric committee have instigated necessary reviews and examination of these matters, also possible remedies for the problems?

(8)Sunday Bidding Prayers.

Proposal that additional "local /parish" petitions could be included, suggested by individual parishioners or families. It was agreed that an invitation will be included in a Sunday newsletter soon to judge whether this receives a positive and relevant response. Framing relevant petitions is not always easy.

(9)The Children's Liturgy.

Those responsible for this important liturgy are concerned that not all *parent* parishioners fully understand the aims and approved format of this. It needs to be stressed - and the *Diocese is currently issuing relevant guidelines to all parishes* - that this Liturgy is for children of school age (primary 1 to 5 in fact), not for children younger or older than that. It is also stressed (Diocesan policy) that if any parent wishes to stay with their child during the liturgy they will now require PVG approval. All parents are requested to assist those leading this valuable work by cooperating with the guidelines.

(10)Prayers at the Preparation of the Gifts (pre-Preface).

Liturgically speaking, these may be said audibly with the congregation or by the priest silently if appropriate music is being played /sung. Fr.Kevin follows the correct procedure depending on the situation that applies at that point during parish Sunday and weekday masses.

(11)The St.Andrew Chapel.

"Clutter" has been removed and the doors have been removed to assist efforts to reduce damp. Looking ahead, Fr.Kevin hopes to develop the decor and the spiritual role of this chapel, eventually hoping it could become a suitable Altar of Repose for the Blessed Sacrament, that parishioners would be able to visit at various times during the week. That is the aim. This was welcomed.

(12)The 'Gloria' at Sunday Mass.

Representations /suggestions have been made to the PP. Agreed that this matter should *not* be discussed by us until Fr. and Sophie have met to discuss same.

Children's Liturgy Update – November 2018

Aoife Palmer and Ana de Bonrostro Palacios have now taken on a joint lead role in the Children's Liturgy (CL) Team.

A recent CL meeting at the parish house was well attended and a lot covered. St. Peter's CL team now has 8 members with one potential new member who helps at Youth Group and is considering joining but would like to visit first and see what we do.

The CL team (with help from previous members) hosted a successful picnic on Sunday 2nd Sept. We would like to extend this invite to parishioners at St. Columba's parish and Aoife will ensure they are given more notice next summer.

A CL day for leaders on 17th Sept was attended by 3 members of the team and was a very enjoyable and informative day. A key learning point was that the Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh's guidelines recommend that children's liturgy is delivered to children from P1 to P5 (approx age 4-10). A letter will be sent out with the parish newsletter informing parents of these guidelines. We want to avoid a 'creche' but also want to be supportive of parents with small children. Father Kevin suggested asking parents of younger children how we can support them more including asking if there are any changes to the crying room that parents might find useful.

There will also be a reminder that in keeping with the safeguarding of children, parents should not be present in the CL room. If coming as a one off with their child (eg first time) they will be accepted but if coming every week then a PVG is required (checked with Joyce).

We will no longer advertise asking the children to bring money (for SCIAF) to children's liturgy and Aoife will arrange for this to be removed from the website. This is something that has not been done for some time. Where possible however, we would still like to be supportive towards SCIAF in other ways.

We are looking forward to the festive period ahead. Our creative member, Eleonora, is planning a fabulous Christmas advent wreath for the children to make over the weeks leading to Christmas.

PARISH PROPERTY COMMITTEE

REPORT TO THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING ON 5 NOVEMBER 2018

John Wastle

General

1. Since our report to the meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council on 10 September, members of the Committee have undertaken minor internal and external works on the church buildings.
2. The John Duncan mural *Mythological Scenes* failed to sell at auction on 7 June and is currently in the care of Lyon & Turnbull. St Thomas of Aquin's High School have now declined the opportunity to display the picture and we continue to seek other disposal options, including its return to Gillis Centre.

Health and safety

3. Statutory weekly checks of the fire alarm and emergency lighting systems have been carried out.

4. Following the test evacuation of the church during Mass on Sunday 8 July, we have reviewed our procedures and made some minor amendments. The procedures are displayed at the back of church.

Miscellaneous works

5. In line with the recommendations of the report by Hutton + Rostron Environmental Investigations Ltd we have been addressing the priority areas we identified for action: repair of the roof coverings; improvement of the damp proof course and drainage around the buildings; and action relating to dampness problems on the east elevation.

6. We have recently received and considered a short preliminary report from Blackwood Partnership, Consulting Engineers, which outlines options for upgrading/replacing the church heating system. So far, we have been able to eliminate underfloor heating as a viable option and we are now considering other options. As part of this, we hope to arrange a visit to observe the heating system in Our Lady of Loretto and St Michael in Musselburgh, designed by Blackwood Partnership. In preparation for the coming winter months, a comprehensive testing and servicing of the current system has been carried out and we are exploring the possibility of increasing the heating at the porch and front door. We will also adjust the system controls to improve heating levels before and during Mass times.

7. The St Andrew Chapel has finally been cleared and the remaining wooden frameworks have been removed. The stone and plasterwork have been repaired, cleaned and painted and, after some further cleaning and polishing, the way will be open to return the space to use as the St Andrew Chapel. The original artwork for the Chapel mural has been hung in the Presbytery.

8. Among other minor works, the Sacristy toilet has been refurbished; five benches have been repaired following an outbreak of woodworm; and the area at the presbytery back door has been improved.