

St Joseph and St Patrick's, Wemyss Bay

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

Thursday 19th January 2023

Attendees: Helen McMunn (Chair), Louise McCauley, Michael Tormey, Gillian Hall, Canon Berry, Brian Blacklaw, Debbie Galbraith, John Wilson, Gerry McCauley, Martin McCauley, Rob Reid, Kate Borthwick, Hazel Mitchell, Anne Clark

Apologies: Christine Malcolmson, Marcus Barry, Isobel Quinn

1. WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

Helen (Chair) opened the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance. Canon Berry thereafter led everyone in prayer.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTE

Helen requested a motion to approve the Minutes from the meeting on 7th December 2022. The minutes were approved by John Wilson and Seconded by Gillian Hall. No amendments were proposed.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

• **Fashion Show Update**

The final total raised from the Fashion Show was £800. Anne Clark added that she is looking ahead to organising a future event this year.

• **Prayer Circle**

Hazel advised that unfortunately she no longer has the capacity to lead on this matter and sought assistance from other members. Michael Tormey volunteered to take on the role. Kate added she would also like to become a member of the Prayer Circle.

Discussion followed regarding information sharing. It's likely a Whatsapp group will be created for the Prayer Circle members only; Michael will progress. Canon Berry suggested a box could be located at the back of the church in which parishioners could provide details of their intentions on a proforma. The box will be checked weekly. Helen agreed to provide a draft template of the form to make submissions easier.

Canon Berry agreed to include information in the Bulletin and make an announcement at Mass. He stated that the intention is to make sure no one feels alone through the power of prayer.

- **Noticeboard**

Helen updated that this matter remains in progress. She had spoken to Billy McShane who will make a bespoke board however sourcing the correct materials (cork) is currently problematic.

- **Keys**

Helen led a discussion to establish the most practical solution for controlling the distribution of keys to the Church and Church Hall. Canon Berry is also looking to upgrade the locks. Any changes would need to consider key holders who are on cleaning rota etc. Helen has sought forbearance on this matter and requested that the number of new keys needs to be agreed as soon as possible.

4. INSULATION WORKS

Canon Berry advised that part of the Church had not been insulated and the cost of insulating the ceiling is circa £500.

5. CONTINGENCY PLAN

Debbie informed members that the main body of the report is complete however the Appendices need to be updated with member's personal details. Members are requested to update Debbie as soon as possible in order that the Plan can be completed and signed off. Canon Berry stated he would speak to the Group leads listed on the current Appendices and confirm their details are correct.

Church Hall management

Discussion re the Contingency Plan developed into a broader conversation regarding the Church Hall management and who was the point of contact for the purchase of general provisions for the hall i.e. cleaning materials. Kate Borthwick volunteered to assume responsibility for the purchase of items however it was proposed that a Hall Management Group should be established. Anne Clark offered to assist Kate for the management of the Church Hall.

Church Hall cupboard

Gerry provided an update on the chairs which had previously been stored in the cupboard during the pandemic. Some of the chairs are now back in the Church with a pew and 5 seats now in the Church flat. Thankfully there was no deterioration of items during storage.

Helen highlighted the importance of ensuring the Church Hall cupboard is well organised. Following previous Church Fetes, unwanted items have accumulated, and

it should be cleared. Items stored should thereafter be organised and labelled to improve organisation.

6. CALENDAR – UPCOMING EVENTS

Members were asked by Helen to consider future events. Louise highlighted that to organise a Race night required a lot of work – it was suggested that this might be best delayed until around September 2023. Louise added that St Patrick’s day falls on a Friday therefore it would be feasible to have an event on 17th March 2023. Helen agreed that the Church hasn’t held this event for a few years therefore this should be the short-term focus. All members concurred.

Helen thereafter apprised members of the Parish’s turn to hold a Passover Meal this year on 3rd April 2023. Invitees include Church members from Inverkip and Skelmorlie Churches. Canon Berry commented that we are limited to 60 persons which would mean 20 from each Church.

Louise added that she has previous experience of organising this event as has Isobel Quinn, Anne Di Paola and Marcus Barry. Helen will link in with them for guidance and assistance. Helen will update on progress.

7. REPORT FROM DIOCESAN PARISH COUNCIL

- **Progress Report from Commissions**

Helen referred to the progress report which had previously been emailed to members of the PPC. She advised that some of the actions contained therein have made more progress than others and that it was good to see progress in certain Commissions. She stated that the report was for general information however it may be something we consider adding to the Parish Website if it is not on the diocesan website.

- **The Pastoral Conversion of Parishes in Paisley Diocese**

Helen circulated two documents prior to discussing this Agenda item.

- (i) *“The Pastoral Conversion of Parishes in Paisley Diocese”;* and
- (ii) *“The Pastoral Conversion of the Parish Community in the Service of the Evangelising Mission of the Church – SUMMARY”*

Page 3 of document (i) provides details on the plan to engage with each ‘Cluster’ in the Diocese and the order in which the Clusters will be approached – St Joseph and St Patrick’s is second on the list (listed as: Notre Dame and St Columba’s, Greenock, Gourrock and surrounds).

Both Canon Berry and Helen strongly urged PPC members to read these documents given the importance of the content and the long-term impact on the future of the Diocese. Canon Berry outlined the current challenges faced due to a shortage of

Priests in the area and requested members consider what they can contribute positively. Moreover, he emphasised that our input as a PPC was very important.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 9th March 2023

9. AOCB

- **Space at rear of Church**

Gerry raised a point for discussion regarding the lack of space at the back of the Church specifically relating to Masses when there is a special collection. He suggested that a few seats or the long pew at the back can be removed to create room for additional storage. It was further suggested that locating a table at the rear of the Church was an option – the table could also house the noticeboard.

Helen added Billy McShane was going to modify some of the shelving at the back. Brian mentioned other parishioners had skills sets that would also be of benefit e.g interior designer. Other discussion points included the relocation of the gas meter. Helen requested that Gerry draughts a rough sketch of his proposal.

- **Altar Servers**

Canon Berry stated that he would begin to train some of our young people to be Altar Servers. Children from the Sunday School were volunteering. Assistance would be sought from some of the teenagers and adults in the Parish. There are practical considerations associated with this e.g Albs need washed and properly stored, therefore the previous discussion and points raised by Helen about the Church Hall cupboard were relevant.

- **Collection baskets**

Kate asked if there was an intention to reintroduce the circulation of the Collection basket at Mass. Canon Berry stated he had asked Parishioners to contribute via Gift Aid and most people now have. He has observed an increase in contributions. He expressed a reticence in introducing the basket circulation because many people who currently pay via direct debit may feel obliged to add to the basket as well. Canon Berry went on to explain how Special Collections need to be paid therefore there may well be a requirement in the future to pass the Special Collection basket amongst the congregation. There was concern raised re the personal contact that may occur consequently. It was also suggested that the basket is clearly labelled at the rear of the Church or some of the Church welcoming group could hold it so that it is visible to potential contributors.

10. CLOSE

The Chair closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance and contribution.