

**ST JOSEPH & ST PATRICK'S WEMYSS BAY
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY 22ND FEBRUARY 2024**

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

Apologies: Kate Borthwick, Christine Malcolmson, Gillian Hall, Isobel Quinn

1. WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Helen requested a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on 18th January 2024. The minutes were proposed by Fr Berry and seconded by Martin McCauley.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Gerry provided an update on the current take up of the Church Suite platform. So far there have been 263 registrations and approximately 230 individuals have logged in. Gerry intends to publish a guide on a single page and send to Parishioners in email and add to the bulletin. In addition, he will arrange a drop-in session on the weekend of 16th/17th March 2024.

4. WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – 1ST MARCH 2024

Parishioners, Pat McLaughlin and Mary McCauley will be organising the World Day of Prayer (WDP) celebrations taking place in our church alongside Inverkip and Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay Parish. This year the WDP materials were prepared by the women of Palestine. Discussions ensued around some of the arrangements for the evening which included whether a flag would be on display; it was decided that no flags would be displayed.

5. CALENDAR EVENTS

St Patrick's Night

St Patrick's night will be held on Friday 22nd March 2024. Helen stated it was important to support this night as best we can. Both Anne and Louise have agreed to look at the format of the night e.g. games etc. Anne stated she was confident she could organise on the night but has requested that at least two other individuals volunteer to assist. Helen and Debbie offered to help. It is understood Pat McLaughlin (parishioner) is available to help too. Members discussed the provision of food and it was agreed there would be a light supper of cheese and biscuits.

In respect of tickets, it was agreed these would be on sale from the weekend of 25th February 2024. Members discussed who would assist with sale of tickets after mass.

Passover Meal

Discussions centred on when and where the next Passover Meal would be held. It was generally understood that given St Joseph and St Patrick's hosted the event last year, it should rotate to Inverkip Church. However, now that Inverkip Church has recently merged with Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Church, it wasn't clear on what arrangements were in place to host a Passover Meal. Helen agreed to contact the Session Clerk of Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Church to clarify.

Easter Egg Hunt

Anne and Louise stated that they would continue to organise this popular event. Louise will arrange additional helpers. It was noted that Kate Borthwick has also offered to help. Anne informed the Committee that she has already purchased the easter eggs. Members discussed what arrangements need to be made to ensure the Church Hall can be used for this event whilst parishioners are using the hall for after service tea. It was agreed an area adjacent to the door will be cleared for use.

Garden Party

Members agreed the Garden Party should be held again this year. The main concern was identifying a date that didn't clash with other events being held in Inverkip, Wemyss Bay and Skelmorlie e.g. Wemyss Bay Gala, Kip Fest and the annual Skelmorlie jumble sale. Following discussions, it was agreed 2nd June 2024 would be the most suitable date.

6. FABRIC COMMITTEE UPATE

Helen provided an update on the most recent Fabric Committee which she attends along with John Wilson. Several items were added to the already existing scheme (of works) that were not on the Diocesan survey e.g. boilers, and windows. It was identified that the Parish does not have, and should have, a record of maintenance. Whilst some areas of maintenance can be recalled from recent years i.e. painting, insulation and new lighting, it needs to be borne in mind there will be factors that will be on a rolling program e.g. carpets etc. The Fabric Committee will collate a retrospective record of maintenance as best they can.

Helen informed the Committee that the Parish would benefit from identifying parishioners who are, or were, tradespersons and who could advise on any work being undertaken. Fr Berry mentioned that he has sought advice regarding work required to the side of the Church. The work is scheduled for March 2024 but this is not confirmed. He added that a decision is required on what should be done to address issues with the windows. It is necessary to ensure they are wind and waterproof and energy efficient. Debbie updated members on her communication with Tony Murdoch (parishioner - joiner). He was asked to advise on the feasibility of secondary glazing in the Church. Tony was unable to assist as his suppliers don't provide materials for secondary glazing, and, in his opinion, he wouldn't recommend this option. Tony didn't give any further explanation.

An option to address the water penetration was the use of Belzona liquid. This is used in St Patrick's, Greenock.

Martin queried whether the Church would have to revert to heat pumps as per new Scottish Government legislation. John opined that whilst the current boilers are perhaps not the most efficient, it would be a false economy to replace at this stage. He advised that we should monitor the situation but no requirement for a decision on this for the foreseeable future (*NB – Scottish Government have proposed a target year of 2045 for replacing polluting heating systems*).

Helen stated that the Fabric Committee is meeting next month, and this would form part of discussions.

7. APPEAL TO PARISHIONERS

With reference to the previous agenda item, Helen highlighted the need to encourage those parishioners with the requisite skills and experience in trades to help with several areas of maintenance. She was keen to emphasise that any volunteers are there to advise and not to undertake any work.

Helen also expressed the need to encourage others to help with future events. Fr Berry added he would like to form a small group who could monitor vestments and supplies.

Helen agreed to speak to the congregation at Mass and prepare a leaflet for distribution.

8. STALL

Helen and Anne have been clearing the cupboard in the Church Hall. Surplus stock of Christmas cards have been stored securely. There is a stock of Easter cards and other items which are being overlooked. She asked members to consider options to either sell these items at the back of the Church or put on display to encourage parishioners to come to the hall to access the stall. It was agreed by members that the lack of space at the back of the Church presents the greatest problem therefore maintaining the stall in the Church Hall would be most practical. Other considerations were mooted regarding volunteers to work at the stall. There had been a rota previously, but this fell by the wayside due to the covid pandemic. This will be discussed further.

Further suggestions included placing leaflets or cards on each pew to advertise what was available at the stall or adding information to the Church website. This will allow parishioners to peruse stock at their leisure. Helen will consider the latter proposal in the first instance.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members agreed that the March meeting of the PPC would be postponed given the number of matters already taking place. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 2nd May 2024.

10. A.O.C.B

Paul Laverty Ordination

Fr Berry informed members that Paul Laverty, whose family lives locally, is to be ordained a Deacon on 13th April 2024 and likely to be ordained a Priest next year in Rome. Fr Berry said it was important our Church acknowledged this event and asked for suggestions to appropriately mark Paul's ordination in a practical way.

It was agreed by members that the Church would hold a Rosary and Benediction on Thursday 4th April 2024 to pray for Paul - this would be live streamed. Helen emphasised the importance of encouraging as many parishioners as possible to attend. A notification will be added to the bulletin.

Defibrillator signage

Michael advised that the permanent marker on the current sign is weathered and clearly not permanent! He will take steps to redress this.

Readers Lectern

Marcus updated on behalf of Mass readers. Now that the separate Lectern appears to be a permanent arrangement, he queried the possibility of acquiring one which is more substantial in structure. The current Lectern is limited in size making it difficult to manage different reading material and the structure itself is unstable. Fr Berry outlined costs which ranged from £603 to £1641.

Fr Berry suggested Pauline Redmond or Gillian Hall could make enquiries with the Diocese in the first instance. Another option would be to approach other Churches to ask if they have any spare.

Lectionary

Fr Berry mentioned that a new Lectionaries will be coming out – likely to be around the Advent period.

11. CLOSE

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