

St Andrew's Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Tuesday 28th May 2018

1 Introduction and welcome:

Trish Clyde welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting and thanked all for coming.

2 The Opening prayer: Fr Gerald opened the meeting with a prayer.

3 Present:

Fr Gerald Donnelly, Trish Clyde (chair), Mary Buckley (minute secretary) and 29 parishioners.

Apologies: Claire Reid, Annette Barnett, Mary Hairstains, Jo Kemp and Susan McBride

4 Minutes of the AGM 2016:

Approval: The minutes of the AGM 2017 were approved; proposed by Gerald McGill, seconded by Yvonne Copland

Matters Arising:

1. Workshops for lay ministries.

At the last meeting it was agreed that the liturgy group would organise workshops for the various lay ministries. Kevin mentions this in his report and said that there had been some delays but it was hoped that these would take place around September.

2. Tabernacle project

Father Gerald explained that following a general meeting of interested parties from the parish a working group had been set up. This has met several times and some ideas formulated and decisions made about location, style and design. The matter was progressing.

5 Chairman's Report: *Trish Clyde.*

Trish explained that the purpose of the Parish Pastoral Council was to provide support to the parish priest and the parishioners and urged anyone who had a particular issue that was concerning them, or a matter they wished to be discussed that was relevant to the PPC, to mention it to her or one of the members and it would be discussed at a subsequent meeting. In accordance with the constitution some members of the PPC were due to stand down and there were vacancies for members of the PPC. She had approached several people with a view to joining the PPC but so far no one had agreed. This matter will be discussed later in the meeting (item 7) Trish thanked all - seen and unseen - who help in the work of the parish; they are not thanked enough.

6 Reports - *the full text of all the reports is available on request and on the web site*

Parish Finance and Accounts for calendar year 2017: Gerald McGill

The most pressing issue in 2017 was the need for urgent repairs to St Mary's, New Abbey but the money did not get spent until January 2018 so are not recorded in this year's accounts. Overall the accounts show a healthy surplus, mainly due to a substantial donation. So while the parish account is higher than it has been for some time a good part of this money has been spent already in 2018. This has also increased the diocesan levy payable by the Church at the beginning of 2018. Fr Gerald explained that a new requirement of the diocese was that any monies over £50,000 had to be lodged with the diocese. This money still belongs to the individual parish and can be used if required.

Liturgy: Kevin Jones

Kevin touched on the need for recruitment to all lay ministries and the need for parishioners to 'step up to the plate'. As previously stated, it was hoped to mount a series of workshops around September. He also mentioned some previous workshops held by Sister Helen and the Galloway Music Group. **ACTION** remains with the liturgy group.

Children's Liturgy: Ana Price

Ana reported that the Children's liturgy continues to be popular and well attended. Recruits are always welcome and are needed but Ana also thanked all who help and support them at the moment.

Ninian Club: Rebecca Crosbie

Three children are making their First Holy Communion in June and were confirmed in February along with other children and teenagers from the Deanery. As always, more help would be appreciated.

200 Club: Andre Barallon

Andre reported that membership is down. It was wondered if this was because the membership date had been moved to April but this is not confirmed. Membership has been going down for a while - no real reason identified. He suggested that notices could be placed in the bulletin (although this is done regularly especially in the run up to subscription time). Andre is concerned that the club may, at some time, run at a loss and asked if it should be closed down in March next year. This was not thought necessary and he agreed to continue as before.

Fairtrade: Josephine Rennie

Fairtrade sales have been good this year and the Rice Challenge was also a success. Thanks to all who help on the rota, and to St Andrew's PS pupils too.

Jars of Hope: Josephine Rennie

The Jars continues to provide small but welcome funds for the needy of the world. Many charities have benefitted, especially SCIAF and Mary's Meals..

Safeguarding report: Rebecca Crosbie

New regulations have been issued by the diocese and all who are involved with children and vulnerable adults have to undergo Level 1 training. Rebecca confirmed that some volunteers in St Andrew's have still to undertake this training and that she or others would get in touch with them to organise the training. Fr Gerald said that the clergy had had a service day recently on this subject.

Ladies Circle: Catherine Scott

The Ladies Circle meets every second Tuesday of the month with a varied programme of events, speakers and outings. The year starts in September and the circle is open to ladies from the parish of all ages.

St Vincent de Paul: Lynn Otty

The St Andrews conference is made up of nine members and meets once a fortnight at the Church House. This year they have made over 500 homes, hospital, prison and Bethany drop-in sessions visits. The work and social justice activities include supporting The Space in Glasgow, a twin conference in India, providing groceries for the Bethany drop-in centre and a weekly food shop for the First Base Food Bank.

Dumfries Christian Network: Ana Price

DCN exists to promote greater oneness, understanding and common life between churches, fellowships and organisations. It provides a website which has a large number of visits from local people and visitors from all over the world who are looking to connect with local churches. We can advertise our church events there and also have the opportunity to set up a link to the St Andrews parish website. There are regular activities to which anyone interested can come along. Ana mentioned the wonderful facilities at the new Baptist church.

Thomas Bagnall Centre: Jo Kemp

Dry rot in the church caused a lot of problems this year and curtailed many activities. A programme of talks is now being arranged interspersed with fundraising events.

Nursery: Fiona Douglas

The nursery started with 21 children this year with some vacant spaces. Fiona acknowledged with thanks the support of the parish through fundraising and also for the use of the hall and the garden. They were congratulated on maintaining their Excellent grading.

Secretary: Mary Buckley

Mary commented on the success of the children reading the bidding prayers, both at the 10am Mass and now at the Vigil. Facebook and the website are still widely used. She also commented on the success of the Russian choir again this year and the music evening arranged by Fr Gerald.

Marriage preparation and RCIA Fr Gerald

There were no marriages this year and 1 candidate for the RCIA in 2017.

7 Election to PPC: Trish Clyde

Trish explained that the Constitution allowed for 12 members of the PPC to represent the wider parish community. The PPC presently consists of Fr Gerald, three 'nominated' persons and 9 members. Maire Crawford and Edwina Cummings had to stand down as they had served 6 consecutive years (they can stand again after a year).

AGREED: Graeme Campbell and Kate Sherman were elected to the PPC, proposed by Kevin and Edwina and Fr Gerald co-opted Edwina back to the group as an ex-officio member.

The full membership of the PPC is listed below.

8 Any other competent business:

The proposal for an order of Nuns to help in the deanery - Nick Kemp asked about progress

Fr Gerald said that following a well-attended and productive meeting of the PPCs from all the parishes of the Deanery, and discussion with the priests and the bishop, it had been decided to write to the bishop declining the offer. The main reasons were financial and also that much of the work they proposed to do could - and in some cases was - carried out by parishioners already.

Catholicism series of DVDs:

Nick Kemp asked if the Catholicism series of DVDs could be revived in the hall, particularly in view of the Usher Hall being sold out for Bishop Barron.

ACTION: PPC to consider this at their first meeting.

Problems with Microphone:

Fr Gerald explained that the aerial on the radio microphone had been damaged but was now repaired and the mic should now be working properly.

Pilgrimage to Carfin:

It was agreed with Jo Rennie's suggestion to run a bus to the Pilgrimage to Carfin on 8th September.

Mary's Meals:

It was hoped to have another 'Rags to Riches' collection in September or October.

9 Fr Gerald's Remarks

Fr Gerald thanked everyone who works in any capacity in the church; all such organisations rely very much on the good will of committed people and he was grateful for the help of so many, much of whose work is unseen but vital. The good work which goes on on the Lord's name is a cause for joy and celebration.

The meeting closed 8.30 pm with the Lord's Prayer. Thanks to Carol and team for refreshments.

Members of the Parish Pastoral Council from September 2018

Fr Gerald, Trish Clyde, (chair), Kevin Jones, Gerald McGill, Edwina Cummings, (all nominated persons)

Mary Frances Murray, Annette Barnett, Claire Reid, Shona Payne, Kate McKay, Stuart Irvine, Kate Sherman and Graeme Campbell.