

St Andrew's Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Thursday 25th May 2017

1 **Introduction and welcome:**

Trish Clyde welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting and thanked all for coming; she explained that she had been elected as chair of the PPC following Charlotte's departure to Ayr.

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

3 **Present and apologies:**

Fr Gerald Donnelly, Trish Clyde (chair), Mary Buckley (minute secretary) and 26 parishioners.

Apologies: Berni Jeavons, Diane Britton, Yvonne Copland, Louise Clark, Claire Reid, Sean McKay

4 **Minutes of the AGM 2016:**

Approval: The minutes of the AGM 2016 were approved; proposed by Gerald McGill, seconded by Rebecca Copland

Matters Arising: There were no matters arising.

5 **Chairman's Report:** *Trish Clyde. Full text available on request and on the web site*

Trish remarked on the changes since the last AGM, with the departure of Fr David and the arrival of Fr Gerald. She 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. She encouraged new (and younger) members to consider becoming members of the PPC.

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

Parish Finance and Accounts for 2016: *Gerald McGill*

In presenting the accounts Gerald noted that the parish recorded a deficit of £16,982 against a surplus last year of £37,622. There was a large expenditure on repairs and maintenance, due in part to the painting of the church, but this had been expected and budgeted for. Outlays on maintenance had to be expected with the number and age of buildings in the 'estate.' Last year, two Gift Aid amounts had been received in the one year and this year's was still to be received from the government. The higher diocesan levy reflected a higher income.

Gerald explained the curious entry 'War stock redemption': It seems that the parish had invested in the so called 'War Bonds' in the 1940s which had paid an annual interest of 3½ until recently when they were redeemed, bringing in £4,000 for the funds.

Gerald agreed that the parish was in a healthy financial position although we could not be complacent.

PLEASE NOTE that there was a simple copying error in the accounts sheet presented with the reports at the AGM - this has been corrected on the version on the web site.

200 Club: *Andre Barallon*

Andre reported that there were fewer than 200 members of the club this year. The primary purpose of the club is to help pay for the senior citizens' dinner but in recent years it had been agreed that It would pay half of the cost.

It was **AGREED** to have frequent mentions in the bulletin to encourage new members. There was some discussion about the timing of the subscriptions: asking people for £12 or more in January could be difficult.

ACTION: Andre will consider a suggestion that ANNUAL subscriptions might run from April.

Liturgy: *Kevin Jones*

Kevin outlined various parts of his report and drew attention to a few items:

He noted that music practices had stopped before Christmas; **ACTION** - this to be discussed at the next liturgy meeting.

Kevin proposed the idea of workshops for all ministries, not in technique but prayer, meditation, spiritual aspects of their ministries. This idea was enthusiastically received. **ACTION** - liturgy group to progress this at their meetings.

Children's Liturgy: *Ana Price*

In Ana's absence her report was received and discussed. She is asking for more volunteers to lead the Children's liturgy although it was also noted that fewer children were coming forward. The question was raised (but not answered) as to when children should stop attending the children's liturgy, after Confirmation, in P4 ... ? Ana was thanked for carrying on this ministry.

Ladies Circle: *Catherine Scott*

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

Dumfries Christian Network: *Ana Price*

Ana was thanked for continuing as the parish representative on the DCN. Mary stressed that the DCN is a valuable resource for all churches in the town and asked if anyone would volunteer to assist Ana.

Fairtrade: *Josephine Rennie*

Fairtrade goods are sold after Mass on the last weekend of each month but sales have been declining and Josephine asked whether the parish should continue to sell the goods. Various suggestions were made to improve the 'reach' and interest, including reducing stock to some core items, selling in the hall during Sunday coffee, an 'honesty' stall permanently somewhere in the church. **ACTION:** Mary Frances, Josephine and Mary to discuss various options.

Jars of Hope: *Josephine Rennie*

The Jars continues to provide small but welcome funds for the needy of the world and the income and support is holding up well.

Secretary: Mary Buckley

Mary commented on the changes at the end of the year. She highlighted the website and Facebook pages which are all widely used and the bulletin and Orders of Service produced and thanked all who had helped during the redecoration last year.

Ninian Club: Rebecca Copland

Three children in P3 attended the Ninian Club this session. They made their First Reconciliation during Lent and will prepare for Confirmation and First Holy Communion when they are in P4.

Safeguarding report: Anne Murdy

Anne's report stated that the Audit had been carried out, Statements issued and some co-ordinators' training is in the pipeline.

Marriage preparation Fr Gerald

Fr Gerald reported that three couples had sought marriage preparation this year - only one of which will be married in St Andrew's. He had not realised that a group existed and had taken the courses himself. He asked any couples interested in taking on this work to volunteer.

Nursery: Fiona Douglas

The nursery started with 22 children this year with some vacant spaces. They celebrated their 30th anniversary this year and thanked the community for their support. Thanks to Fr Gerald for the continuing use of the hall and the garden.

Thomas Bagnall Centre: Jo Kemp

Jo reported on a difficult year for the Bagnall centre; some members of the committee resigned, there was uncertainty over its future but when Bishop Nolan said St Mary's would not be for sale in the near future this allowed them to rebuild the committee and look forward again. Bookings are more promising than last year, a wedding was held in the church and groups of army veterans have come to recuperate. They do need to replace the oil tank so fund raising will be next on the agenda!

St Vincent de Paul: Tommy Neeson

No report was received.

7 Election to PPC: Trish Clyde

Trish explained that the Constitution allowed for 12 members of the PPC to represent the wider parish community. On the appointment of a new parish priest the PPC should be dissolved and re-constituted unless the new PP is happy to continue with the existing membership, which was the case. The PPC presently consists of Fr Gerald, three 'nominated' persons, Mary Buckley as minute secretary and 9 members.

Charlotte resigned as chairman when she moved out of the parish and Trish was elected in her place.

Claire Reid, Mary Frances Murray and Berni Jeavons are all due to stand down this year after three years and Claire and Mary Frances are willing to stand again for re-election. Louise Clark, who was elected at the last AGM, has tendered her resignation due to family commitments, which leaves a further vacancy. Trish explained that nominations should have been sought from the parish in advance but apologised that this had not been done and invited nominations from the meeting.

AGREED: Claire and Mary Frances were re-elected unanimously. Kate McKay was proposed by Gerry Lynch and seconded by Kevin Jones and elected unanimously. Stuart Irvine was proposed by Kate McKay and seconded by Gerald McGill and elected unanimously. Berni was thanked for her service.

The full membership of the PPC is listed below. There is one vacancy and it may be filled later either by election or co-option.

Mary had decided to stand down as minute secretary after 11 years, effective after the AGM. On behalf of the PPC, Trish thanked her for her service and presented her with (very welcome) flowers and a bottle of wine.

8 Any other competent business:

Marist 200- Kevin urged as many parishioners as possible to attend the Marist 200 celebrations in the College this weekend.

Position and style of the tabernacle and future of the Blessed Sacrament Chapel

There was discussion on the position and style of the tabernacle which had been relocated to the niche at the side of the sanctuary. Gerry Lynch, and others, felt that the round tabernacle was not appropriate in the position (reported that it looked like a tea urn) and that structural or decorative alterations to the niche should be considered.

As an adjunct to this discussion, Mary Hairstains wondered if the Blessed Sacrament chapel could now be re-designated the Sacred Heart chapel and the statue of the Sacred Heart, at present in the corner near the organ, could be reinstated there.

ACTION: PPC to consider this at their first meeting.

Handrail on the sanctuary

Mary Frances asked that a handrail be considered on the sanctuary. **ACTION;** Fr Gerald to consider.

Readers and ministers at the Vigil Mass.

Mary reported on the difficulties she and Diane are experiencing in making up the rotas because of the shortage of ministers and readers at the Vigil Mass. The situation is especially acute during holiday periods. It was agreed that while a message asking for volunteers should be put in the bulletin, more success can be obtained by the direct approach and all were asked to think of anyone who might be interested in performing this duty. Training will always be given.

The situation does not seem so critical at the 10 am Mass.

9 Fr Gerald's Remarks

Fr Gerald thanked everyone who works in any capacity in the church and to the members of the PPC for their help and ministry.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm with the Lord's Prayer. Thanks to Carol and team for refreshments.

Members of the Parish Pastoral Council from September 2017

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

Edwina Cummings, Mary Frances Murray, Annette Barnett, Claire Reid, Maire Crawford, Shona Payne, Kate McKay and Stuart Irvine (1 vacancy)

the first meeting of the new PPC is Wednesday 6th September at 7 pm.