

# St Andrew's Parish Pastoral Council

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2019

### 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:** Kate Sherman, Stuart Irvine, Shona Payne, Maire Crawford, Claire Reid, Diane Brittain and Susan McBride

### 4 Minutes of the AGM 2018:

**Approval:** The minutes of the AGM 2018 were approved; proposed by Gerald McGill, seconded by Edwina Cummings

#### *Matters Arising:*

#### **1. Tabernacle project.**

Trish reported that the tabernacle and sanctuary lamp were now in place and looked very good. A new Monstrance has also been purchased. She thanked all who were involved.

#### **2. Catholicism DVDs**

Kate McKay reported that she had copies of the DVDs which were available for anyone in the parish to borrow but there were no plans to show them in the hall; speak to her or any member of the PPC.

### 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 to foster prayer and spiritual development. It was governed by a Constitution devised by the bishop. She urged anyone who wished to raise an issue to do so but reminded the meeting that other groups, such as the Liturgy group and the Fabric and Finance committee, also exist to receive and resolve problems. She offered her thanks to the members and all who have supported the PPC and the work of the Church.

### 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 2018: Gerald McGill**

Gerald reported that although the income was lower this year it was really because last year's income had benefited from the substantial bequest; this year was more normal. However, the Diocesan levy was increased because it is calculated on the income of the previous year! There was a substantial amount spent on repairs to St Mary's, New Abbey. He pointed out that although the accounts were in deficit this too was due to various items of planned expenditure agreed because of last year's bequest.

There were no questions on the accounts.

#### **Fabric and Finance committee:**

Gerald reported that this committee had only met once this year and that recently but would now do so more regularly. There are various items to be discussed and implemented including various Health and Safety regulations. New members are welcome - please speak to Gerald if you are interested.

#### **Fairtrade: Josephine Rennie**

Fairtrade sales have been good this year as before. Thanks to all who help on the rota.

#### **Jars of Hope: Josephine Rennie**

The Jars continues to provide small but welcome funds for the needy of the world. Many charities have benefitted and all are appreciative.

#### **Liturgy: Kevin Jones**

Kevin reported on several positive activities, including more music practices resulting in enhanced liturgies.

All agreed that the children reading the Bidding Prayers was successful although some reported difficulties in hearing them and that some spoke too quickly, a problem not confined to the children. It was agreed that all readers could benefit from more training, particularly in the use of the microphone. ACTION; Liturgy group.

Musical accompaniment at Mass was discussed. As well as, or in some cases, instead of the organ, it was suggested that other musicians might be involved. ACTION: Trish stated that the matter would be discussed at the next meeting of the PPC and of the Liturgy Group.

#### **Children's Liturgy: Ana Price**

Ana reported that the Children's liturgy continues to be well attended. She would now put some of the spare quiz sheets used by the children on the table at the back in the church to enable children who do not attend on a Sunday to use them if they wish.

#### **200 Club: Andre Barallon**

Andre reported that membership continues to decline and the club runs at a loss and does not meet the full cost of the Christmas dinner which it was set up to do. Fr Gerald stated that the parish has been happy to meet part of this cost as prices rise. As before he suggested that the Club might be closed but this was not agreed and he indicated that he would continue for now although he hoped that someone would take over in the future. ACTION: Volunteers to be sought via the bulletin and in person.

#### **Safeguarding report: Susan Leask**

Fr Gerald reported that Susan has taken over the position of Safeguarding Coordinator this year and her main focus has been the renewal of PVG reports which is in hand.

#### **Ladies Circle: Catherine Scott**

The Ladies Circle meets every second Tuesday of the month with a varied programme of events, speakers and outings. There are difficulties in getting people to serve on the committee and there has been talk of the club having to close.

***St Vincent de Paul:*** Lynn Otty

The St Andrews conference is made up of ten members and meets once a fortnight at the Church House. This year they have made over 550 visits to homes, hospital, prison and Bethany drop-in sessions.

***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. Ana was thanked for continuing to represent St Andrew's at the DCN.

***Thomas Bagnall Centre:*** Jo Kemp

A programme of talks has been devised interspersed with fundraising events.

Paddy Murphy asked when accounts would be published; there had been more for three years. Jo said they would be given to Gerald McGill. ACTION: Jo Kemp and Finance committee.

***Nursery:*** Fiona Douglas

The nursery started with 24 children this year. Fiona acknowledged with thanks the support of the parish through fundraising and also for the use of the hall and the garden.

***Secretary:*** Mary Buckley

Mary commented on the continued success of the children reading the bidding prayers, but stressed the shortage of ministers and readers at the Vigil Mass. Volunteers would be sought through the bulletin but direct action was always more successful and all were asked to encourage others to these ministries.

***Ninian Club:*** Rebecca Crosbie

There was no Ninian club this year

***Marriage preparation and RCIA Fr Gerald***

No reports were 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; 9 elected, who could serve for a maximum of six years and three co-opted. Due to some confusion last year there was a surplus of members and Trish asked that no new nominations would be considered until after the next meeting of the PPC. However, Annette Barnett, who had served three years, was eligible for re-election. This was proposed by Rebecca, seconded by Edwina and carried unanimously. The next meeting of the PPC will be on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> August.

**8 Any other competent business:**

***Church sound system***

Several parishioners have commented recently about problems hearing readers and the priest and especially during the recent visit of the Bishop. ACTION; Fr Gerald to consider.

***Shortage of Eucharistic Ministers***

As stated before there is now a severe shortage of Eucharistic Ministers at the Vigil Mass and the need for more readers. All were asked to encourage others to these ministries.

***Kyuka Fund***

Jo Kemp reported that since Father Frederick had not come over last year (and would not again this year due to visa problems) the fund which existed for the education of the children had a shortfall which meant they would not be able to complete the project with two boys remaining in education. Fund raising or other activities were needed.

***Mary's Meals:***

There would be another 'Rags to Riches' collection in 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 number and variety of reports submitted show a vibrant parish community involved in both the parish and the wider community. There is a lot of what might be called non pastoral things going on in the Church, at a local, Deanery and Diocesan level, with which he has to be involved, such as health and safety, finance etc. which have to be addressed so such help is always welcome.

**The meeting closed 8.20 pm with a prayer.** Thanks to Carol and team for refreshments.

***Members of the Parish Pastoral Council from September 2019***

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.