

**ST. PETER'S PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING 1 FEBRUARY 2021 (ZOOM)**

Present

Fr. Kevin Douglas (President), Josephine Beech-Brandt (Chair), Liz Brown (Secretary), Joyce Cullen, Jo Mulvagh, Ros Macaskill, Francis Katamba.

In attendance

Anne Marie Douglas, Ana de Bonrosto, Sophie Bennett, Patricia Cairns, Mary Wastle, John Wastle.

Apologies

Salvatore Callea, Rossella Riccobono.

Opening Prayer led by Fr. Kevin

Draft Minutes of PPC Meeting 16 November (Zoom) had been circulated.

Update from Fr. Kevin

- Christmas arrangements went as well as possible. Extra Masses were put on (as many as possible, with Fr. Kingsley sharing the load) and were attended at maximum allowable limits. Candlelit Reflection evenings with speakers and confession in the week before Christmas, were also well attended. There was a great response to the Crib in the Courtyard, with at least 3/4 passers-by a day during January. It was much appreciated by some Spanish and Italian visitors, and by several grandparents bringing their grandchildren.
- Churches were required to close again on January 6th. Since then, there have been two Zoom Coffee Mornings on Sunday 10-10.40am. There have been a couple of funerals, and masses are being said in private. Details are published in the newsletter. (The newsletter is sent electronically (160 subscribers) and to those not on the internet, a paper copy is sent in the post (20 copies)).
- Fr. Kevin is writing some Catechetics courses for the Archdiocese.

Governance structures

- When it is possible to meet and agree this in person, Fr. Kevin wants a structure for how the Finance Council (FC) and PPC work together. Chris McGill (FC) has experience advising the Episcopalian Church on internal structure.

Finance Council (Anne Marie Douglas)

- Annual Return has been completed and sent to Archdiocese.
- 2020 Income £55,485 of which £44,535 was Gift-Aided. (81%)
- 2019 Income £59,847 of which £39,012 was Gift-Aided (66%)
- It is very pleasing to see the percentage increase in Gift-Aided donations. There has also been a substantial increase in number of parishioners paying direct to the parish bank account by Standing Order.
- Building Fund Total is £62,083 of which £20,109 was Gift-Aided.
- Including building costs in 2020 (£199,588), Expenditure has exceeded Income by £105,869.
- Cash in Parish bank account is £190,888. Balance of loan to Archdiocese is £1,006,876.

PPC recorded thanks to Finance Council and to Anne Marie for her report.

Property Matters (John Wastle)

- Towards the end of 2019, it was necessary to buy a burner for boiler to try and keep the old heating system running. The burner is no longer needed, and Lothian Heating have assisted us once again by finding a buyer for it (£750).
- Closure of the church building during Lockdown was an opportunity to get a lot of small jobs done as evidenced by the 2020 Schedule of Works (attached and available on the website).
- The plan proposed to sink a staircase into the basement to allow easier access to storage was found to be more difficult than expected and has been set aside for the moment.
- Sophie Bennett commented about water ingress in the organ loft. This will be kept under review.
- Hardies have reviewed the present state of the building and have advised on a systematic maintenance programme over next 5 years. Rough estimate of cost of this is £400,000. The Archdiocese has seen the report and is generally supportive of the need to maintain the building, part-financing where needed. It will be necessary to negotiate for each project as it arises.

PPC recorded thanks to John for his attention to property matters over the year, including the substantial effort needed to see through to completion of the heating project.

Christmas Decorations

- It has been raised by a parishioner that the flickering lights on the Christmas tree had caused visual disturbance, inducing a feeling of nausea. It was agreed that the lights should be re-set for next year from the flickering setting.
- The wider issue of the siting of the Christmas Tree will be reviewed again at PPC in November 2021. **Action: Liz Brown for agenda purposes.**
- The decoration of the church for Christmas this year has been much complimented.

Any other business

- Livestreaming. This issue has been raised again by a parishioner. It is the medium/long term plan for the digital infrastructure to be put in place.
- SCIAF Wee Box Lenten Appeal. The St. Peter's Justice & Peace Outreach Group will focus on supporting this as fully as possible within the parish.
- First Communions. Parents of First Communicants were very appreciative of the change in arrangements to move the Masses to Saturdays, which enabled more family members (especially siblings) to attend (within legal limits). They had also much commented about the music, supplied by Sophie Bennett from the organ loft.
- Confirmations. P7(2021) will be the first cohort to receive Confirmation under the revised timetable of sacraments. Josephine Beech-Brandt reported that the parents have been invited to collect the Confirmation material from St. Peter's School. Fr. Kevin is involved in the support provided by the Archdiocese to the schools. He will liaise with Mrs. Hunter, Headteacher of St. Peter's School. Josephine Beech-Brandt will canvass interest in a possible Zoom support for parents. **Action: Fr. Kevin & Josephine Beech-Brandt.**

- Reconfiguration of Sanctuary.
 - Fr. Kevin had circulated to the meeting a drawing showing potential changes to the Sanctuary. He has been concerned for some time about safety on the altar, given the uneven design, varying step heights, colour and surface of the marble flooring. This would also be an opportunity to right some aspects that are theologically problematic e.g., position and size of lectern.
 - The next stage is to get detailed costings; ballpark figure is £65,000.
 - Specialist church furnishers are advising.
 - It is intended that the marble floor will be replaced with sandstone; no original features will be lost.
 - It is not anticipated that the church will need to be shut again whilst work is going on. Indeed, it is preferred that parishioners will be able to see what changes are happening.
 - Upgrading the sound system and preparing for digital connectivity will also be considered, ideally concurrently. The cost of these projects will be additional.
 - It is hoped to canvass the opinion of all parishioners.
 - All projects will be thoroughly vetted by the Finance Council before submission for approval from the Archdiocese.
 - Once the work is complete, there may be opportunity to open the church up for appropriate use, other than liturgical.

PPC was in agreement that work does need to be done to make the Sanctuary as safe as possible as well theologically correct. FC will proceed with thorough preparation of the case to the Archdiocese.

Closing Prayer.

Date of next meeting: Monday 29th March (Zoom, unless advised otherwise).