

**ST. PETER'S PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING 22 APRIL 2021 (ZOOM)**

Present

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

In attendance

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

Apologies

Salvatore Callea, Jo Mulvagh.

Opening Prayer led by Fr. Kevin

Draft Minutes of PPC Meeting 1 February (Zoom) had been circulated.

Update from Fr. Kevin.

- Restrictions have eased since the last minutes, so the church is open once again for celebration of Mass, subject to the max capacity of 50. In terms of increasing the numbers able to attend Mass, further guidance from the Archdiocese is awaited.
- Bookings for Saturday/Sunday Mass have remained strong, although there have been some cancellations.
- Paschal Tridium went well. Fr. Kingsley's sudden illness complicated arrangements for celebration of Easter Sunday across the two parishes.

Planning ahead.

- **Database.** In trying to contact all parishioners by telephone during Lockdown 1, Fr. Kevin discovered that his list of contact details was very out of date. He would like to collate a fresh and current list of contacts to enable contact with parishioners. To remain GDPR compliant, this would need to be a new exercise, and ideally digital. **Action: Josephine Beech-Brandt** to investigate.
- **Saturday Night Mass.** Fr. Kevin intends that this Mass will continue in the longer term in its current simple, quiet format. In contrast, and once restrictions allow it is hoped that over time Sunday 11.30 Mass will return to its historic format. Fr. Kevin was assured of the support of the Parish Council if he wishes to make any changes to that format.
- **Internet Strategy.** Fr. Kevin is concerned about the parish having the right interface online. The website is the primary source of content and since it is kept so current by Juliet Mackellaig, it is of great value. Fr. Kevin is concerned to speak with those parishioners who have a new enquiry wherever he can, rather than relying solely on email correspondence. There was, however, debate about the appropriateness of the Facebook page. **Action: Liz Brown** to draft a future internet strategy.
- **Recruitment for PPC.** It was felt that a personal appeal from Fr. Kevin would be the most effective way of attracting new members, but that it was also helpful to advertise on the website and in the newsletter. **Action: Liz Brown/Fr. Kevin.**

Reconfiguration of Sanctuary and other property matters.

- Fr. Kevin said that reports are still awaited from builders about the proposed reconfiguration of the Sanctuary.

- John Wastle reported on the continuing programme of maintenance of the church building (see works schedule attached). The Crucifix in the Sanctuary has been cleaned and restored.

Update from Finance Council

- Anne Marie Douglas reported that the current bank balance is £196,180.95 (balance as a 1.1.2021 was £189,639.96) of which £86,056 is designated as Building Fund. VAT refunds are due back from the payments for heating and asbestos.
- Gift Aid position is currently good, and the annual refund is expected.
- £5000 has been sent to the Archdiocese for the Aged and Infirm Clergy fund.

Can St. Peter's become a Zero Carbon Parish? COP26.

- Francis Katamba presented outline proposals that:
 - St. Peter's commits to becoming a Zero Carbon Parish over an agreed period.
 - St. Peter's petitions the Archdiocese to ensure that it has an ethical investment policy.

It was agreed that the next step was to work with the Eco Group to get a plan together for approval at PPC. **Action: Francis Katamba**

Confirmations and First Communions 2021.

- First Reconciliation took place in the school before Easter.
- Fr. Kevin is meeting with St. Peter's School on Monday to discuss arrangements for Confirmations and First Communions.

Any other business.

- Could the toilets be opened again? Subject to advice for users that the surfaces touched should be cleaned down after use, and a further clean be undertaken by the stewards as part of the general cleaning process after Mass, yes, they could.
- Joyce Cullen reported that the Annual Safeguarding Audit was submitted to the Archdiocese in February. Safeguarding training by the Archdiocese is to commence online and this has been communicated to volunteers at St. Peter's.
- Concern has been expressed about the absence of names of St. Columba's parishioners in the list of prayers for those who are sick, published in the Joint Newsletter. It is possible that Fr. Kevin will be reviewing the current arrangements for publishing names, but subject to the necessary consents for GDPR purposes, it is simply a matter of advising the editor whose contact details are clearly stated on the newsletter.
- Some parishioners had found the recent changes to the weekday Mass schedule difficult to follow. It is helpful to receive the feedback, but PPC is supportive of Fr. Kevin making the changes to balance his workload.

Closing prayer

Date of next meeting: Monday 13th September (by Zoom)