

ST MATTHEW'S OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Date: 05.09.2019

Time: 19:00

Facilitator: Maureen Bradley

In Attendance

Fr Martin Chambers

Maureen Bradley

Larry Tommy

John Scott

Cherie Stacey

Charlie Kelly

Colin Mulhern

Opening Hymn led by Fr Martin and sang by all. (Christ be beside me).

Opening prayer led by Maureen Bradley (Colossians 1:9-14).

Agenda

1. Minutes of last meeting
2. VIDES
3. Adult Education Talks
4. Advent & Christmas
5. Financial Matters
6. Fabric Matters
 - a. Painting
 - b. Security
 - c. Windows
 - d. Signage
7. Other Matters
8. Date of next meeting

Approval of Minutes

Previous minutes were not available for reading and approval.

VIDES

Fr Martin discussed the activities they performed during their visit to St Matthew's and how they excelled in motivating the young parishioners. Fr Martin then noted that he was touched by their nonpublic activity; their morning prayer, the sharing of meals to name but two. VIDES attended this year over 10 days rather than the 5 days of previous years. The general feedback from those that attended was very good. Fr Martin has already had a request from VIDES to return next year, Fr Martin is looking at suitable dates and will update.

Adult Education Talks

This year we will have 4 talks which will follow Pope Francis' Extraordinary Month of The Mission:

Thursday, October 3rd at 7.00 pm

Sr Stacey Cameron – The Mission of the Church

Thursday, October 10th at 7.00 pm

Fr Michael McMahon – Mission and the Scriptures

Thursday, October 24th at 7.00 pm

Rev Mary Jepp – Mission – a Personal Journey of Faith

Thursday, October 31st at 7.00 pm

Fr David Boyd Mission – a Parish Community of Faith

Saturday, November 2nd from 10.00 am – 2.00 pm

Fr Martin Chambers – Retreat Day on Mission

Fr Martin gave a brief overview of the above schedule.

Feedback regarding last years talks was that when it comes to 'audience participation' then the numbers fall off as the weeks progress. It was noted that having speakers delivering the message is the format that parishioners prefer.

Advent & Christmas

It was noted that a lady who attended our homeless lunch on Sunday September 1st commented that she was housed in the Refugee Area of Kilmarnock, this is in the towns Longpark area. It was suggested that this Christmas we could extend a welcome to any refugees who are currently housed in this area. It was noted that most present were not aware that Kilmarnock had a Refugee area. This will be considered.

The Foodbank also increase their activity at this time of year by supplying festive goods to those in need.

Christmas Mass Times

The mass times will be the same as last year. Fr Martin put it to the group that times could change on Christmas morning, and left the group to consider this.

It was mentioned by Fr Martin that the children's Mass should involve the children of the parish in a significant way.

During Fr Martin's visit to the Relics of St Therese of Lisieux he found his involvement was taking individual confession, which he recalled resulted in a steady stream of parishioners. Fr Martin suggested that we have individual confession throughout the Advent Season, every Saturday morning after 10am Mass.

Financial

John McLean handed the Parish expenditure spreadsheets to Fr Martin to allow him to present to those in attendance. **See Appendix 'A'**

Fr Martin walked everyone through the highlights of the spreadsheet.

Fr Martin was delighted to see a weekly increase in contributions from the Sunday collections following his appeal to parishioners.

Fabric

Painting – Fr Martin is very happy with the recent painting of the Church.

It was highlighted that it was probably a waste of time and money painting the window frames as we already have plans to replace the existing wooden framed windows. Fr Martin felt that the shabby frames would have stood out now the rest of the exposed areas are painted. It was agreed this was the right thing to do.

Doors

The doors to the front and the rear of the building need to be changed to discourage antisocial behavior. There are few designs which were presented at the previous Parish Open meeting and they were reexamined to see their viability. The rear door would likely be a solid door that would encompass the steps, however that raised the issue of health and safety due to the step being obscured by the new door. It was suggested that a ramp be installed and that would remove the step, this will be looked into further to make sure building code is reached. The front could be a grill not unlike Our Lady of Mount Carmel's. This will be discussed once again at the next meeting. Costs for this upgrade range from £3,500 to £4,500 approximately.

At the front of the Church there is a door that no longer opens, this was highlighted as a possible fire risk due to restricting exit options. A locksmith will be engaged to replace the locks and free the door. This door will be opened every Sunday once repaired.

Lighting

Lighting all around the Church needs to be upgraded and a quote was presented to all in attendance. The quote was deemed to be very competitive and Fr Martin gave the go ahead to have all the lighting changed.

Windows

It was noted that now all the windows have been painted, the plan to replace all the wooden windows could be put on hold.

It was highlighted that the current glass would not meet modern building code due to its thermal properties, the heat being lost during the colder months is greater than it would be if we upgraded to double glazed units.

A list of quotes to replace all the wooden windows in the Church was presented to the group and each quote was examined in detail. **See Appendix B**

The overall cost was deemed too great to proceed with replacing all the wooden windows. However, Fr Martin suggested that the work could be undertaken in stages and requested a breakdown on costs for the lower windows and in turn, the higher windows. This project will require further thought.

Signage

St Matthew's sign currently on the front wall to the left of the doors needs an upgrade. The question fielded was; could this current sign be refurbished? The answer was yes. The sign is metal, and this would allow it to be refurbished.

The Cross in the same area would need replaced as it's damaged and is made from wood.

Fr Martin suggested that the lettering could be replaced by individual letters like that of Our Lady of Lourdes. This was a consideration and more examples will be presented at the next meeting.

Regardless, we must add the apostrophe!

Other Matters

The Church organ – It's getting very old. The pedals were removed and refurbished recently, however that's only extended its life for a short time. To cost to replace the organ will be in the region of £6,000.

Sound throughout the Church was discussed, and it was noted that it changes quite a lot on where you sit. In the Church the sound was quite loud as the organ could often drown out the signing, however if in the hall the sound was perfect as the larger speakers from the organ face into the Church. The radio mic works well throughout the Church and hall; however, the Pulpit mic can give varied results depending on the person reading. New smaller, better speakers will be considered.

Fr Boland – Fr Martin suggested that we invite Fr Boland for a mass as part of his 50th year in the Priesthood. This would be on a weekday and would be followed with a 'high tea' keeping it simple. It was suggested that this may be too late in his 50th year to have another celebration, however it would be great to do this for Fr Boland. Fr Martin will suggest this to Fr Boland.

Next Meeting

November 14th | 19:00, St Matthew's Church Hall

Closing prayers led by Fr Martin (The Our Father)

Motion to adjourn was made at 9:00 p.m. and was passed unanimously.