

# ST MATTHEW'S OPEN MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** 14.11.2019

**Time:** 19:00

**Facilitator:** Fr Martin

Opening prayer – The Our Father

Opening Hymn led by Fr Martin and sang by all.

Prayer (Romans 14:7-12).

## Agenda

1. Minutes of last meeting
2. Reflection on Adult Education Talks – Missionary Parish
3. Advent & Christmas
4. Financial Matters
5. Live streaming of Mass
6. Fabric Matters
  - a. Windows
  - b. Security
  - c. Signage
7. Other Matters
8. Date of next meeting

## Approval of Minutes

Previous minutes were read, commented upon and approved.

## Reflection on Adult Education Talks – Missionary Parish

Fr Martin discussed each of the evenings in turn, highlighting the speaker and the theme covered. It was noted by the group in attendance that the talks were very good and provoked thought.

Fr Martin then went on to talk about Alpha. He spoke about the 'committed' Catholics making everyone feel appreciated both in the church and the wider community.

Fr Martin asked all in attendance if we have a sense of Mission, what do we consider our Mission is?

It was commented that our Mission is about spreading the word of God. It's about introducing God to others.

Fr Martin suggested that both Adults and Children should be 'Fired-Up' via pizza nights followed by meaningful discussions. This would help bring, as Fr David Boyd mentioned, "a sense of belonging", making people feel part of the structure.

After mass on a Sunday is a great time to feel part of something bigger, the tea/coffee time brings community. It was suggested that Fr Martin could remind people that they are most welcome to have tea or coffee in the hall after mass. Fr Martin did comment that it was a vibrant time with a least 5 tables full of parishioners communicating with each other and the children playing in the background.

Fr Martin suggested that we take time to speak to those sitting around us (not during mass), to make them feel welcome and install a sense of belonging.

Finally, Fr Martin asked all in attendance if anyone would be willing to help him with Alpha in St Matthew's. It would be thought about and individuals would update Fr Martin if they felt they could contribute.

Mary Jepp, who was our speaker on October 24<sup>th</sup> - a Personal Journey of Faith, was highlighted as a good and inspirational speaker.

## **Advent & Christmas**

Fr Martin reiterated that he would never have a Christmas Eve mass in St Matthew's again due to the health and safety nightmare experienced during the last one held in this parish. Mass will be in Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

It was suggested that we could have an early evening Mass for adults on Christmas Eve, however Fr Martin felt that it would be impossible to restrict this to adults only. Fr Martin would prefer to see the children attend Christmas Day mass.

It was noted that last years Christmas Day mass was a lovely experience.

## **Financial**

Cost of replacing the windows.

At our previous meeting we had several quotes to replace every external window in the Church (High and Low). The costs were deemed too high, and Fr Martin requested a breakdown so the project could be tackled in stages. Fr Martin informed the group that the

preferred quote when broken down showed that the Low windows would cost £29,000 and the High windows would be £32,000.

It was noted that the corridor between the Church and the house had buckled and while it was now in a 'stable' state it really needed addressed.

Fr Martin asked all in attendance, "What should we do"?

It was suggested that now the windows were painted and in good repair (with the exception of the corridor), we should perhaps leave them for a number of years. The priority should be the repair of the buckled corridor window.

The car park was also raised as an area that should receive attention. The council was approached; however, they did not deem this as a good use of funds. Fr Martin mentioned that there was a scheme available where a company would block pave the area and the Church would be expected to pay a small percentage towards the cost.

It was mentioned that the car park is not only being used on a Sunday, in fact it's being used during the week by parents collecting their children from all schools in the area, local events were also using this as an overflow car park, thus it could be considered a public car park given this use. St Kentigern's had their car park upgraded due to similar usage, thus a precedent has been set. Fr Martin agreed to contact the council again and make this point.

## **Fabric**

### **Signage**

The St Matthew's sign to the front of the Church was highlighted for a refurbishment, however the current sign was deemed to be of a poor standard, outdated and poorly visible from the road. Quotes were requested, however, several companies who were approached failed to respond.

Fr Martin highlighted Our Lady of Lourdes who have individual lettering on their Church, and he felt that this was possibly the way forward for our Church. The sign would be lit making it visible at night.

Several fonts were suggested and shown.

Fr Martin asked for a notice to be displayed in the porch giving parishioners a choice of font. It would be good to see their thoughts.

Further thought and consultation is necessary before proceeding.

Fr Martin would like to have seasonal banners displayed above the main entrance to the Church that could highlight Christmas or Easter mass times as well as messaging.

## **Doors**

Fr Martin has been monitoring the impact of the improved lighting within the recessed area of the front and back doors. It was given that there has been a reduction in the number of children using this area since the upgrade.

Even though there has been a reduction in the children sitting in this area and making a mess, Fr Martin would still like to see the doors upgraded and moved forward to block anyone using this recessed area.

What type of door? Wood or PVC, this remained to be seen.

At the last meeting we had quotes for both solid and grill doors, the preferred door would be a solid door as the grill gives the wrong impression.

East Ayrshire Building Control would be consulted regarding the correct 'code' when making these changes, so we comply with all health and safety regulations.

## **Mosaic**

It was asked if further consideration regarding the restoration of the mosaic was given. At this time, it had not and would be addressed again in the future.

## **Sound System**

The sound system in the Church was upgraded 2 weeks ago where a new radio mic was installed. It was found during this upgrade the Loop system was not connected and has now been fixed.

## **Live Streaming of Mass**

Fr Martin raised the possibility of having Mass live streamed to the internet/social media and wondered what the groups thoughts were on this.

It was asked why we would need this.

Fr Martin suggested that it could allow those who were housebound to participate in the mass via their laptop or other device. It could also reach younger adults who don't actively attend mass, as it's a medium they use aggressively throughout the day. It would let them see what's happening and hopefully encourage them to attend in person.

Safeguarding was highlighted as some may not wish to be 'captured' in this way, it also led to GDPR considerations. The cameras would be positioned only to capture the Altar area thus alleviating these issues.

It was suggested that we have a trial and see if it was suitable for our Churches. It was also suggested that we approach Churches that currently use this technology to see what results they have.

## **Other Matters**

### **The Heating**

It is often like a sauna in the Church Hall and the only way to control the heating was to exit the Church and go to the boiler room and manually switch off the boiler. It was asked if there could be a control in the Church, perhaps something similar to Hive, to bypass the trip to the boiler room.

Fr Martin agreed to consult the heating engineer to see what options we would have. It would need to be out of sight of most as we want to control access to this system.

### **Fire and Notices**

During a Foodbank session we had a visit from the Community Volunteer Organization (CVO) who asked question regarding smoke alarms, fire extinguishers and first aid facilities. While all of our fire extinguishers meet code and are serviced, some items in the first aid box were out of date. We don't currently have fire alarms or smoke alarms.

Risk assessment was also noted, and we could have a number of additional signs, for example, 'no children in the kitchen area' due to hot liquids and surfaces. 'Keep of window ledges' to name but two. It was agreed we should have these, and it would be investigated.

## **Next Meeting**

February 6th | 19:00, St Matthew's Church Hall