

Meeting: St. Joseph's Parish Pastoral Council
Date: Monday, 8th August 2022
Location: St. Joseph's Church Hall

Present:

Eileen Cunningham (EC)	Sr Mary Mabel Chukwu (MC)
Amélie Davidson (AD) <i>Vice Chair</i>	Sally Hamill (SH)
Laura Hand (LH)	Ruairidh Heron (RH)
Janice Lennon (JL)	Hugh Matthews (HM)
Sr Mary Rose Maduka (MRM)	Margaret McGrath (MM)
Fr Stephen McGrattan (SM) <i>Parish Priest</i>	George McIntyre (GM) <i>Secretary</i>
Peter Murphy (PM)	Paul Nicholson (PN) <i>Chair</i>
Clare Power (CP)	Judith Wilson (JW)

Apologies: Sr Juliet Obiorah (JO), Helena Rameckers (HR)

Item	Notes	Action
1.	<p>Welcome, Opening Prayer and Sederunt: PN welcomed everyone to the meeting and as PPC Chair formally opened the meeting. GM read out the opening prayer as adapted from Proverbs.</p> <p>SM expressed condolences to HM and his family on the passing of their Mother.</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising: The minutes were proposed by SH and seconded by MM.</p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p>	
3.	<p>Life Teen: Life Teen was unable to form due to the outbreak of the pandemic and involves resources for teaching and faith sharing for children. The package was purchased just before the pandemic and now just needs to be rolled out. An appeal for volunteers to form a core group of leaders will be made after the summer holiday, with a view to a September 2022 start, possibly including Caritas students. SM plans to speak more about this at Mass at the end of August/early September 2022.</p>	SM: to address parish
4.	<p>175th Anniversary:</p> <p>Events to Date:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There has been great feedback on the various events and activities to date most notably: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The presentation of the history of the parish "The Last 175 Years" by Dr. Raymond McCluskey on 6th June 2022; b. The celebratory Mass held on 13th June 2022 with the specially prepared musical arrangement and the great turnout by both the parish and local dignitaries; c. Reception after both events above with the welcomed chance to interact and enjoy both occasions; 2. Photograph exhibition- The photographs are in the progress of being returned to their owners. 	PN, MM, SH to arrange return

<p>3. Slideshow presentation- Due to the limited chance to view this during the evening receptions, the slideshow will be repeated during the Fun Day on Sunday 14th August 2022;</p>	<p>PN to set-up</p>
<p>Future plans:</p>	
<p>4. Family Fun Day on Sunday 14th August 2022;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The plans for the activities have been modified slightly due to some limited availability but it is intended that the attractions will include Hoopla, Jenga, mini-sack race, egg and spoon race, bottle stall, home baking stall, face painting, scavenger hunt and a bouncy castle. b. The possibility of having a “petting zoo” for children is being followed up LH. c. Provision is also being made for any inclement weather. d. Volunteers have been identified for the various activities within the parish council members plus some others. e. Two dates for preparing and setting up for the Fun Day are planned for Thursday 11th August (after evening Mass) and Sunday 14th August (at 10am). f. Donations have been requested for both the bottle and baking stalls via the most recent newsletter and can be handed in right up to the day; 	<p>MM, EC, GM, RH, JW to arrange fun day</p> <p>LH to check on “Petting Zoo”availability</p> <p>MM to lead activity</p>
<p>5. Friday 28th April 2023 evening dinner dance to close the anniversary year in the Park Hotel has now been booked. The Caprington Suite can accommodate a minimum of 120 people up to a maximum of 300. The latest update is:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Entertainment has been confirmed with Sean Kelly now booked; b. The plan is to advertise the event early February 2023 with a cut off for final numbers by mid-March 2023; c. EC previously provided the menu options to the PPC members for further review and agreement. A decision on the menu is awaited and a taster session for two people will be held following that; 	<p>PPC members to feed back to EC</p>
<p>6. The dates for the parish pilgrimage to the Harrison and Harrison organ workshop in Durham while the organ is being restored is awaited from Andrew Reid. The itinerary has changed slightly as it now includes a visit to the workshop, Durham Cathedral and a recital at Andrew’s local church. The visit to Lindisfarne will not be able to be accommodated. It will still involve an overnight trip between September and November 2022 while the organ is undergoing restoration, and the school October week would be a possibility. SM will contact Alba Tours with details when dates confirmed;</p>	<p>SM: to progress</p>
<p>7. A pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi for May or possibly early June 2023 is currently under review due to the ongoing travel issues. This is now awaiting on the travel company to provide the revised package details.</p>	<p>SM: to liaise with Alba Tours</p>
<p>8. A timelapse camera filming the dismantling and, if possible, restoration, of the organ was previously proposed. However, contact with the person with the necessary technology expertise has not been possible and the alternative proposal to take a video/photographic recording at the key stages was agreed. SM will contact Raymond and Fiona McCluskey to progress this;</p>	<p>SM: request assistance from R. & F. McCluskey</p>
<p>9. Video clip interviews involving a cross section of parishioners is being arranged to record their experiences of community life in St. Joseph’s;</p>	<p>PPC Core Group to review next steps</p>

	<p>10. A dramatic presentation of “how it all began” was proposed at the last PPC meeting. However, the earlier presentation by Dr. Raymond McCluskey covered this therefore this action will no longer be progressed;</p> <p>11. It was agreed that a Papal Blessing would be suitable way to commemorate the anniversary;</p> <p>12. In the previous PPC meeting SM suggested a way is found to help people in need, and all members should consider how best to do this. Suggestions included helping refugees from Ukraine recently arriving in Kilmarnock but further information would be needed to progress this. Further discussion is required at next meeting;</p> <p>13. A staged Whithorn Way Sponsored Walk followed by Mass at St. Ninian’s Cave, Whithorn was proposed previously as another event to mark the anniversary. Due to unforeseen circumstances this will not be progressed at this time;</p> <p>14. Inclusion of sick and housebound parishioners- CP proposed that parishioners unable to participate in the anniversary events could be included by sending out something to commemorate this major milestone in the life of the parish, for example, a special prayer card marking the anniversary. Also, it is intended to re-start the Mass for the Sick in February 2023.</p> <p>15. The action tracker will continue to be used to assist in the organisation and planning for the remaining events for the 175th anniversary. The spreadsheet will also be made available to the PPC.</p>	<p><i>Dramatic presentation: action closed</i></p> <p><i>SM: to progress</i></p> <p><i>All: consider options for helping people in need as part of anniversary commemoration.</i></p> <p><i>Action closed</i></p> <p><i>SM: to progress</i></p> <p><i>PN, MM, SH to track actions; PN: provide PPC with spreadsheet action tracker as required</i></p>
5.	<p>Ministries: The role of Passkeepers, Readers, Eucharistic Ministers (both within the church and for house bound), Welcomers and parishioners participating in the offertory procession was discussed with a view to involve more people and provide opportunities for others to participate. It was agreed that it would be good to expand the group as we rebuild our community after the pandemic. SM proposed that the Offertory procession should alternate each week between the children from the Liturgy group and then adults the following week. CP agreed to provide a description of each of the above roles to allow further recruitment.</p>	<p><i>CP: to progress</i></p>
6.	<p>Fabric:</p> <p>1. Organ restoration plan- Before 19th September 2022, most of the organ will be removed and will be in the workshop for 5 to 6 weeks with a further 5 to 6 weeks re-build on-site period followed by a “voicing” stage where the pipes are optimised. Pipe storage will be in the church hall green room. The restoration work is expected to be completed from mid-December to 23rd December 2022. Once the organ is fully restored a solemn blessing will be provided by SM;</p> <p>2. Lighting and Painting- Work on both the lighting and painting will commence from the 19th September 2022 while the organ is away being restored. A lighting design has been prepared for the installation. The colour scheme in the church will also be changed to further enhance the light within the church;</p>	

	<p>3. Pews- Restoration of the pews was previously completed in April 2022. The opportunity to add a further application of Danish oil while the church is closed for the lighting and painting work will be planned in;</p> <p>4. Access to Altar- A blacksmith will be visiting the church on Tuesday 9th August 2022 to progress with the installation of a hand-rail on the lectern side of the altar.</p>	<p><i>Established team to progress</i></p>
7.	<p>Cost of living crisis:</p> <p>Foodbank utilisation- Although we struggle to meet current demands for food bags and these are potentially expected to increase with rising costs, SM proposed that we should continue to help overall. However, there was concern regarding if we were reaching out enough for those who are shy or reluctant to ask for assistance. It was considered that we need to widen out the activity and potentially put out an appeal to reach out further plus also contact schools to identify families that may benefit.</p> <p>This topic will be discussed further at the next SSVP meeting.</p>	
8.	<p>Defibrillator installation and CPR training:</p> <p>MM displayed the reconditioned unit and provided an update on the current status. The unit requires a case to allow it to be located externally and made available to both the parish and also to the wider community. SM confirmed that it should be located outside the church but it needs to be secure and that we need to provide a case with a secure key code that allows access. Once this is available the unit can be formally registered with the emergency services who can provide the access code in response to a 999 call.</p> <p>MM to contact Fr. Martin Chambers or his contact to assist with acquiring the necessary outer case.</p> <p>MM can also provide training in the use of the defibrillator and CPR training to those who wish it.</p>	<p><i>MM: to contact Fr. Martin</i></p> <p><i>MM: to arrange training sessions when appropriate</i></p>
9.	<p>Charitable Activities:</p> <p>Donation to Ecuador- A recent donation of netball and football strips has been provided by the local college. This donation includes 8 big bags of strips. Fr. Martin Chambers has a project running in Ecuador and the plan is have them despatched out there to coincide with his next visit in October 2022. SM requested some volunteers from the council to sort through the bags and package up as required by the courier (DPD or UPS) to ensure the package goes as planned. This would need to be started by next week (w/c 15th August) to liaise with the courier and also start on the necessary packing work to meet the timelines for the packages being there for Fr.Martin arriving.</p>	<p><i>JL, SH, LH, MM, EC: to progress</i></p>
10.	<p>Bible- availability and access within the parish:</p> <p>GM posed the question regarding what the approach by the parish was to enable the widest availability and access to a Bible. The tradition of having a family Bible may not be something that is rigidly followed nowadays with other resources available.</p> <p>Bibles are available in the shop to purchase and also some people will access materials on-line especially where there are learning difficulties. SM commented that it was always better to see the actual book with the break-down of the 72 books comprising the Bible.</p> <p>SM proposed that a copy should be provided to children going through their First Holy Communion and also to couples who are getting married.</p>	

11.	<p>Commencement date for Father Kevin Rennie (1st September 2022): Fr. Kevin starts on Thursday 1st September 2022 and the plan will be to provide an introduction and welcome to his first parish at the first weekend Masses on 3rd/4th September. The following weekend he will begin to preach at Masses and will then work with SM to gradually get more involved in the parish activities.</p>	
12.	<p>AOCB:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Draft letter to parents whose children have recently received sacraments: SM provided a draft letter for the council to review with the aim of welcoming back families who have not yet returned to the parish following the pandemic. The upcoming Family Fun Day and an invitation to join was considered as an ideal opportunity to help families to return in a less formal setting. The draft letter was approved by the council members. 2. Ecumenical activities: The parish has been asked to join in a joint activity with the New Laigh Kirk and Trinity Church in defining our combined mission. The invitation was welcomed and being able to hold an open communication with other Christian groups in potentially a similar way to our recent Synod can only be for the better. 3. Halloween Quiz: It is intended That this will go ahead this year and will be advertised at the end of September. 4. Children's Party: This is normally for children and grand-children of the parish and is also intended to go ahead this year. 	
	<p>Date and time of next meeting: Monday, 24th October 2022 at 6:30 pm in St. Joseph's Hall.</p>	