

Parish Pastoral Council
St Fillan's and St Margaret's
Thursday 30th May 2019

Apologies Lance Pearson

Minutes of Meeting

1. Canon Tom opened the meeting with a prayer.
2. Canon Tom thanked everyone for their presence.
3. Canon Tom welcomed the new members.
4. He explained that the Pastoral Council was there to advise the parish priest on important pastoral matters.
5. Updates and reports:

The Children's mass was going well. Usually it took place on the first Sunday of the month at the 11 am mass in St Fillan's. It was bringing more people in and engaging more parents and children. The children who were taking part were growing in confidence. Canon Tom expressed his thanks to the group who organized it.

Sacraments: there was perhaps a need to foster closer ties between the parish and parents.

Safeguarding: Tom Marron and Felix Duncan were sharing the responsibility. Tom informed us that there was a new safeguarding coordinator in the Diocese, John Smith. The Diocese will keep us up to speed as to training etc. There were no reported serious issues.

Website: Ola told us something of her work designing the parish website, Facebook and Twitter pages, posters, invitations, banners and leaflets for parish programmes. She also works on the diocesan education website and will be launching an education app soon. Canon Tom explained that the parish employs Ola even for the work in the Diocese. Ola is developing further our social media outreach and we hope to be aiming for 300-400 people connected in some way with the parish. Members were pleased with her work.

Finance: Margaret informed us that January – March saw a shortfall of just over £1,000 in what we took in and what we laid out. The investments with Quilter Cheviot were valued at £210,000+. Cheques had still to be paid out for the SCIAF Bingo Tea.

Fabric: Chris brought us up to date. The main immediate issue was the installation of the accessible toilet in St Fillan's. Work had revealed wet rot in the porch, so there was an investigation underway. Work on the toilet had been suspended while we awaited the outcome. St Fillan's is a listed building and that has consequences for any building

work which affects the exterior appearance. The windows of the porch have to be approved. It could take a couple of months to get this organized.

Further, Doug Reid, an architect used by the Diocese, has been contacted and could conduct a survey of the buildings in the parish and perhaps draw up a calendar of works. The windows in St Fillan's would need work. A grant could be applied for.

6. **St Fillan's Draft Action Plan:** Lance helped us draw this up with a few of us working with him. He sends his apologies as he is not well at the moment. Canon Tom simply circulated the plan for initial comment and stated that it would be better to look at it in more detail once Lance is here.

In terms of the use of the ground beside the hall, there had been a suggestion to use the ground for allotments. Some initial contact had been made with the allotment society, but they had a few concerns re safety of equipment etc.

We should tell more people about our gardens and perhaps look to use the ground at the side of the hall for some community project bringing in members of the community. Perhaps a sensory garden or some such project would be feasible.

The hall was an ongoing concern, but Maureen Pearson was addressing some of the problems.

In general terms, the action plan gave some ideas and some way of measuring success of our outreach. It was hoped that perhaps we could increase our numbers to around 300-400 regular attendees from our current 220. This was not entirely fanciful, since about the number came at Easter and Christmas. It was pointed out that we had an incredible crowd on Easter Sunday morning in St Fillan's.

In terms of outreach, we could try celebrating mass in different parts of the parish, in Gilmerton or Muthill, for example.

Next year, coming on summer of 2020, we could look to do children's clubs, for example. It was pointed out that the wrap around at St Dominic's was vital for some parents and we didn't want to undermine that, but we could work with the school.

Outreach to high school students was mentioned and some discussion took place. Canon Tom intimated that programmes were available, but that specialist help was needed with a budget of around £25,000 per annum. There was some appetite to explore this.

7. There was no other competent business.
8. The date of the next meeting was set at Tuesday 27th August at 7 pm in the presbytery.

