

## **Minutes of St Columba's Parish Pastoral Council Meeting 22nd August 2022**

Present

Ann, Ian, Brian, Sylvia, Bill, Kathy, Sue, Sandra, Jackie, Sharon, Susan, Father Jim, Arthur, Andrew and Fr Alex.

Chairperson Ann led our meeting with many discussions. She introduced Father Jim to each member of the Parish Council. Father Jim was enlightened on the roles of individuals and groups within the council. Father Jim commended the council on the numbers that have come to the meeting and commended the solvent financial position he has found St Columba's to be in.

This led to a discussion about the church fabric and discussion of a recent incident in the church after changing the chandelier light bulbs.

It was noted by Father Jim that many repairs were required and that the diocesan plan of future diocesan church requirement may result in rationalisation of church buildings.

Discussion continued with suggestions that the hall could be used as interim solution while work is done to resolve H&S issues with the Chandeliers. Points were raised about fear of this arrangement being permanent.

Angela pointed out that St Columba's is the only visible functioning religious establishment of any faith in Kirkton. Sue pointed out that there may be green grants available to help and will look into this. Views were taken on other building issues. A temporary building committee was created to report back to the group and liaise with Diocesan inspectors.

Ann talked us through the process of how a tri. parish group would be structured with the Chair and vice chair of each Parish pastoral council meeting on issues that concern all three parishes. Fr. Jim is still to meet the other councils and will liaise with Ann and Sharon.

The Treasurer overview group have not met as of this date and will report at the next meeting on how the group will overview the accounts.

Regarding the cost of living crises , it was suggested that we can keep mindful of how the Parish could help in times of crises for people in the Kirkton area.

Kathy and Bill gave the council a detailed description of what the SVDP does as a society and pointed out that the society operate with a strict confidentiality policy. It was pointed out that how people can access help from the SVDP and also how to refer a person to them. Ann suggested that they need new people to help the conference.

It was put to the council to think of a Parish pilgrimage for 2023, where, when and how. Fr Jim pointed out that the pilgrimage to Carfin has not had a big uptake. Brian asked Fr Jim to announce it from the lectern at the next Mass.

Ian raised the issue of church music at Mass and how we are missing it, he pointed out that some churches use piped music instead of live music and he is going to do some research on this. In the meantime Ann and Angela will lead the start of the hymns at Mass with Fr Alex.

Fr. Alex asked for a sacrosanct for Mass days and two people volunteered and one is to be approached.

Arthur raised the issue of lack of numbers volunteering for the offertory and not having a full annual list.

Cleaning the church is to be on the 1st Saturday of the month every month.

The next meeting is to be on Tuesday 25th of October.

The meeting was closed and Fr. Jim gave a concluding prayer.