**PPC January 2025 **

**Meeting Minutes**

[OFFICIAL]

Present (32):

Fr. Willie Boyd, Douglas Hutchison, Gail Taylor, Caroline Macdonald, Les Cameron, John M. Conville, Claire Scott, Gerard Smith, Carol Smith, John Byars, Sadie Chalmers, Lindsay Young, Rona McAvenna, Eileen Brown, Kathleen Hutchison, Ann Baker, Jaye McKeown, Michelle Kelly, Lynsey May, Tom Gilligan, Marion Paterson, Myra Carroll, Suzanne Maxton, Elizabeth Williams, Andrew Johnston, Liz Denny, Philippa Whitford, Hans Pieper, Maria Brown, Peter Convery, Helen Convery

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 27th February, 7pm

1. **Opening Prayer and Reflection: Gospel of the Day**
2. **Purpose of the PPC**

A reminder of previous assignments of PPC co-chairs (Douglas and Gail) and also new appointment of the PPC Secretary (Caroline). Fr. Willie, Douglas, Gail and Caroline will form the Executive of the PPC.

This is the first time that our parish priest has had three parishes under his care and we can all play a part in supporting our parish priest by creating structure around current and future ministries. We are reminded to look both forward and outward, and agreed at the last meeting that some of our main priorities would be supporting the sick and housebound and also prioritise adult faith development in this jubilee Year of Hope. These ministries will be a hub-and-spoke model and while it may take time to organise ourselves, we will find our way. It's key that we take the parish conversation forward and assign responsibilities.

The sign-up sheets that were placed at the back of the church were just the first wave. There are many more activities that could be listed. We now need leaders to take these sign-up sheets forward and network. Tom Gilligan will continue to lead the Reader and Eucharistic Minister rota preparation. We agreed that the fabric and facilities are important and Andrew Johnston, John Conville and Gerard Smith will convene this group. Suzanne Maxton has been asked to take lead on the treasury aspect and will lead a Finance Committee, one of whom should also sit on the Fabric Committee. The Finance Committee will meet quarterly. Rona McAvenna has been called forth to lead the Welcoming Group - saying hello at Mass and giving out bulletins etc.There was discussion on how we could get young people involved. It’s important we’re not reliant on individual people but a rota of people to ease the load. Philippa Whitford has been asked to hep facilitate outreach within Troon and beyond for Justice & Peace. There was a group previously but this lost focus and fell away.

Fr.Willie added that whilst it’s important to get structures in place, we must be led by God - and this should be at the heart of it all. Our personal commitment leads us to our encounter with Christ.

The conversation continued to the reintroduction of the Youth Ministry, youth club and youth liturgy. There used to be a servers mass on the Feast of Christ the King. Jaye McKeown and Fiona Hogg have offered to lead on this. Lynsey May (Head Teacher of St. Patrick’s Primary School) stated the school is feeling the pain of falling numbers. It was also noted there are children attending Mass who do not attend St. Patricks and so we must not forget them in the youth ministry. Lynsey will work with Carol Smith on using the church Facebook page to reach a wider audience.

1. **Sick and housebound outreach**

It was agreed that we need to find a more systematic way of identifying the sick and housebound. There is a desire from a number of people to help the sick and housebound - some preferring this to being a Eucharistic Minister in the church. Fr Willie will contact local nursing homes and all volunteers will need to go through parish safeguarding protocols. Agreed there should be a bulletin entry so that people know how to request help. We also discussed whether we should return to placing the pyxes on the altar and have those who are attending sick and housebound go up to collect them, therefore making them recognisable as people to speak to for more information. Gail Taylor will lead on this initiative which may evolve over time e.g. creation of a Bereavement Group at a later date. Some heartwarming stories were shared and we left the conversation on a pensive note after Helen Convery spoke of a housebound parishioner who said:

“Isn’t it wonderful that I have been going to the Lord for years, and now he has found a way to come to me.”

1. **Year of Hope - Jubilee year**

This is an opportunity for people to grow in faith. There is the possibility of an hour of prayer with the Blessed Sacrament, one morning and evening per week. As lay-people can lead Devotions, we could support the clergy in this e.g. Youth Group did a Youth Stations of the Cross. Douglas Hutchison spoke of a program he led during Lent on ‘Praying with Scripture’. This has strong backing from Fr.Willie who said if we’re aiming to achieve anything - it should be this. We discussed it’s similarities and differences to RENEW and how it could be a good stepping stone to future retreats and how it could lend itself to young people.

Sadie Chalmers spoke about how we can help retired parishioners. Suggested tea & toast in the hall after Mass or soup & sandwich to see if we can gradually lead more to church involvement. We could have more social activities too like dominoes, cards, baking competitions etc. We should be looking for ideas from those interested. Whilst we do want more young people to attend church, we must not forget our current demographic representation. This led on to discussions again about fabric and facilities and we heard from Maria Brown who was the hall convenor at St. Quivox for a number of years. Maria is happy to advise on this experience when needed.

Questions were raised on parish safeguarding and all groups MUST link in with Louise Slider - Parish Safeguarding Officer.

We discussed a need for a Directory for the groups and whether we can use a central email address with same domain distribution groups (not personal email addresses).

1. **AOB and Date of Next Meeting**

Agreed next meeting for 27th February.

Thanks to all who attended and for the lively discussion. We look forward to seeing you in February and welcome any new members.

**Action Log**

| **Topic** | **Decision** | **Action / By Whom** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Sick and Housebound Outreach | Reach out to local Care Homes regarding visits | Fr. Willie / Gail Taylor |
| Structure and Groups | Update on progress (if any) to be given at next meeting | All Group Leaders |
| Structure and Groups | Directory and parish group email addresses.  | Fr. Willie / Caroline Macdonald |
| St. Patricks Primary School | Parish Facebook Page to be extended to school | Carol Smith / Lynsey May |
|  |  |  |