

St Mary's Pastoral Council Minutes 18th September 2024

Members present: John, Steve, Gary, Chloe , Phil, Marie and Mary

Apologies: Father Domenico, Elaine, Walter, Sharon and Mags

Crack in Sanctuary: As Father Domenico is ill, he wanted **Eric Hanna** to come and update the Council about the progress of the investigations. Eric showed us 2 notes from the Architects, describing the plans to, knit the wall together and underpin the side of the outside wall.

They suggest that there may be further movement in the building and suggest possibly that there should be trial pits dug on the other side of the Church in the future. It is important that a close watch is important.

They also suggested we should get a joiner to check if the timbers in the sanctuary need replacing.

We decided that **Eric** would go ahead and obtain 2 or 3 estimates for the structural repairs. **Phil** is also to contact a joiner to look at the timbers.

One suggestion from Eric, was that we could possibly approach Historic Scotland, who have a fund for preservation of churches.

Minutes of last meeting: proposed by Gary, seconded by Chloe.

Matters arising: St Ninians celebrations proposals dropped.

Fashion Show: **Marie** this is all prepared.

Possible handrail for steps onto Altar. This topic has been raised again. It was discussed and finally agreed that when a joiner comes to look at the Sanctuary, **Phil** will ask if it is possible to fit a handrail to the lectern.

Fundraising idea: **Gary** will organise this.

Quiz Night: The Quiz night was successful and raised £ 450.00.

Our thanks to **Maria** for organising the fundraiser.

Finacial Report:

Money in the bank at the end of August = £ 58,923

That is an increase of £ 10,340.00 since April, 5 months ago.

Part of the income was £ 3,500.00 for the rental of the house

And a gas refund of £ 4,000.00

Costs: for the 5 month period

Diocesan contribution = £ 6,190

Gas heating for church = £ 2200.00

Council Tax for house = £ 1,166.00

Insurance = £ 757.00

Average cost per week = £ 850.00

Average income per week = £ 900.00

Thanks to **Chloe** for selling her prints, she has raised £ 340.00

Parking behind the Church: when removing the grass and replacing it with gravel was suggested before, everyone was generally in agreement. John has been approached about having a disabled parking slot marked out. **John** will discuss this with the person concerned.

Plants in the garden: It has been noticed recently that there was quite a lot of Deadly Nightshade, growing from under the hedge at the front and climbing over the wall. This was hanging down so low towards the pavement, that it could easily be picked by a child.

This has already been cut back by Chloe, but it needs its roots to be eradicated from the hedge. It was decided that Clive the gardener will be asked if he could do this. **Marie** will speak to him about this.

Xmas Fayre : there was a successful meeting about this in August and plans made. **John** has made a list for the back of the Church, asking for volunteers. We are to start asking for donations in the second week of October, so collections will hopefully start the following weekend. There will be a meeting on 13th November, for those involved to finalise arrangements.

Mary and **Chloe** to organise the posters and to divide up the task of taking them round to shops . **John** to provide labelled boxes for the back of the Church for donations

The Craft group is to restart early October.

Benches in Church: there are a few parishioners who have physical problems getting in and out of the benches. We had a discussion about this. We decided that we would remove the kneelers in the back 2 benches on the right of the Church . This would give more leg room and make it easier to get in and out.

Steve is to look at these and see if the kneelers can be temporarily removed and put into store.

Father Domenico's absence:

Father Domenico is on sick leave, which may be several months.

In his absence, Father Cameron and Father John, will say the Masses. Neither of them will have any further input into the running of the Church.

Therefore the parishioners, with the pastoral council members, will have to do all the organisation.

1. **John or Maria** will speak to Father Cameron about the children's classes on Sunday.
2. **Steve** has already collected the printed mass sheets, enough up until Advent.
3. **Julie** will then write items of news over the page and print these out at home. We need to give her details of the various events and dates for asking for Xmas Fayre donations. We have asked for about 10 extra copies to be printed as there are times when we run out of sheets. Julie to bill Phil for any expenses like ink or toners.
4. **John** will ask Father Cameron if he will read these out at the end of the Mass or whether he would prefer to let one of the readers to do it.
5. **Steve** looks after the sanctuary and will order any necessities, such as hosts, wine, candles etc. He will also be responsible for locking up the church after each mass, as well as making sure the heating has been on.

6. **Phil**, the accountant, has access to cash, but has no authority to sign cheques. He will need to pay routine bills. **Steve** will email Father and ask if Phil could have access to the debit card.

NEXT MEETING 15th JANUARY 2025