

St Mary's RC Church Nairn SCO05122

Minutes of Pastoral council meeting 15th January 2025

Members present: Father Domenico, Phil, John, Elaine, Chloe, Steve, Sharon, Mags, Mary, Gary, Marie.

Eric also attended the meeting.

Apologies: Walter

Minutes of last meeting: approved by Chloe and seconded by Eric

Matters arising:

Crack in the Sacristy. Eric has been talking to various builders and has obtained three quotes for the work needed. These range from £ 5,000.00, £ 10,546.00 to £ 14,994.00.

Eric has spent a lot of time discussing what work actually needs to be done. He took us into and around the Sacristy and also in the church itself, where he showed us the damaged areas and explained the processes that were needed.

He is now to go back to the builders and clarify various details so that we decide on which quote to accept.

Having brought us up to date Eric left the meeting. The Pastoral Council wishes to record that we are very grateful for Eric's input and appreciate the amount of work he has put into this. We also wish to say thankyou to his wife, who is obtaining the building warrant for us.

Handrail up to the Altar: We have discussed this before and as there is marble floor under the carpet it seems too difficult to do this. We agreed to dismiss the idea.

Parking behind the Church: John had asked about having a designated disabled parking space put in, for one particular church member. After discussion it was decided that with his disability card, it would be easier for him to park on the pavement in front of the church. The Council have apparently told him that he could park there without being fined, however it was thought that it would be safer for him to get the advice in writing, in view of recent rule changes for parking. John to contact him with this advice.

Toxic plants in the garden: Marie did contact the gardener and he did get some of them out. She will check again that he will remove any new roots that may come up in the spring.

Benches in the Church: Steve has removed the kneeler from the back bench on the left. This has been successful and it was agreed to do the same on the right side. Chloe will organise a label for it.

Financial report: By the end of December Church funds = £ 74,000.00. We have received rent £ 6,300.00 , Endowments £ 2,500.00 , Gift aid £ 4,000.00 with £ 2000.00 more to come for last year.

We have done well so far with fundraising for our repairs. Music evening raised £ 456.00 2nd Quiz , raised £ 470.00, Chloe's maps raised £ 400.00 and small donations. came to £ 450.00.

The Xmas Fayre raised £ 1,769.00.

We express our thanks to Sandy, Maria and Chloe for individual their efforts.

Overall the finances are doing well.

Fashion Show: This is to be held April 11th 7.30- 10pm at the Community Centre in Nairn.

Marie is highly organised, she has the models in line and arrangements with the Nairn Centre agreed. They will do the posters for us, advertise on line and book tickets. There is a booking fee to pay 5% for each ticket, so we will try and sell some of the tickets ourselves at the church, to reduce costs. There will be one glass of wine or a soft drink when people arrive (£ 3.00 per glass, which we will pay)

On the tables will be crackers and nibbles. To be decided and provided by us.

There will also be a raffle. Marie has already been gifted some raffle prizes. We thought it would be a good idea to ask **members of the Pastoral Council to donate a good raffle** prize. We will organise people to both sell and fold tickets. Nearer the time we will sell raffle tickets at the church. Father Domenico to call out the numbers.

We may put up a list at the back of the church if we find it necessary to ask for volunteers. Marie will keep members informed as we progress with plans.

Flower room: Mary explained that the room we use for organising the flowers is very small, untidy and lacking even a smooth work top to use. It would be better if we could empty it out, and have some kitchen cabinets and shelving put in, together with a new floor. Father Domenico was quite keen that we should do this and throw what we don't need away. We can then decide what we want built in.

AOCB:

Mags said that there may be new procedures coming for PVG Protection. She is to attend an update session soon . She will inform us at our next meeting

Sharon raised a query about first aiders. We have list at the back of the Church of names of people, mainly nurses, who would be prepared to help if a member of the congregation becomes ill. Although this doesn't describe us as first aiders, Sharon points out that first aiders need to have a certificate and this has to be renewed every 3 years. This would protect everyone from being sued if a mistake was made. This affects everyone on the list except me, (Mary), who is still covered for life by my Medical Defence Union.

To get everyone trained and keep up to date would be expensive.

Father Domenico to check with Beth (Safety Officer).

Benches for the Garden: Steve says these have been delivered, but they are very long, 5 metres in length. He has arranged for his brother to cut them down, treat them , add feet and will get them installed. They have been made by the Donated by the neighbouring United Reform Church and delivered by the Men's Shed. It was suggested that we might acknowledge this help with a gift to Steve's brother ??

Altar Servers: A number of the Altar servers have now moved on to college and are only available from time to time . It was decided to talk to the children at the Sunday class and hopefully interest them. Also, there may be adult men who might be **interested.**

Oil Tank: Phil will talk to Eric about getting the Oil tank moved , whilst the builders are here. It would open up more parking space.

Christmas Fayre: This was successful and has been rebooked at the same venue for November 22nd 2025.

Change of Office: John raised the question as to whether we should have a change of Officers. We decided to discuss this at the next meeting. Father Domenico to ask in the bulletin, for anyone interested in joining the council to contact him.

Tea/Coffee after Mass: Father Domenico has recently changed the message in the notices, to say that the teas/coffees and cakes, in the Hall after Mass, are FREE. He is concerned that some families don't stay because of the cost. He wants parishioners to socialise.

Heating in the Church: Some people are saying it is cold, despite the fact that it is switched on automatically 2 hours before the Mass. Discussion about possibly bleeding the radiators. Decided it might simply be that it has been unusually cold recently. To stop any draughts, Mags showed us winter window protectors online ,that are cheap and easy to use.

NEXT MEETING THURSDAY 20TH MARCH 2025