

St Mary's Church Nairn Pastoral Council meeting

10th December 2025

MINUTES

Opening prayers.

Members present: Father Domenico, Phil, Chloe, Sharon, Mags, Steve, Mary and John.

Apologies: Gary, Gigi, Walter, Elaine

Minutes of last meeting:

approved by Chloe and seconded by Steve.

Matters arising; Father has had a complaint about the radiator by the Organ, which is not working. There seems to be nothing that is easily remedied. It has been decided to get a plumber in to look at this. John to contact a plumber.

Financial report:

Phil gave out a copy of the Church accounts, (attached) which show that we should have enough to cover all our costs for the next year.

During the year we were grateful to receive £ 2,500, in donations for the church repairs from Bythswood and a few individuals.

Xmas Fayre review:

The recent Xmas Fayre, after expenses brought in about £ 2,500. This was a great improvement on last year, which was about £ 1,800. We also had less visitors.

The bottle stall did quite well and people responded to Father Domenico's plea for extra bottles towards the end.

Thanks are extended to all the people who contributed to the Fayre's success.

Particular thanks go to Mary Scanlon and Linda Turgeon who both provided large amounts of hand knitting, which in turn made about £500 for the Craft stall.

Thanks also to Walter for donating the whiskey and Maria for making the individual raffle for it. This was a great success.

Suggestions for next year:

We should perhaps charge £ 4.00 instead of £3

It would be a good idea to have extra people helping Siobhan with baking for sale. It was suggested that perhaps the children could be involved and asked to make some Krispies etc to be put out with the teas, to relieve others to help baking for sale.

Already one person has asked if we could run a small group to teach some of the women to make Xmas wreaths, which we could sell at the Fayre. We sold 7 this year and at £ 25.00 a wreath, it is easier than making lots of little craft objects.

Most of the craft stall money came from knitting, the candles and the wreaths. We have decided to drop asking for brick a brac next time

We are planning to re- book the hall for **21st November 2026**.

Progress in repairs to the Church.

Repairs to the Sanctuary are finished and the colour resolving. It may not need painting. The crack in the Sacristy has been repaired. The painting and flooring still to be done. The wood for the flooring already bought.

The flower room has been fitted out, but painting and flooring still to be done.

First Aid training.

Mags was organising this, but the man she was dealing with has dropped out. She now has an alternative contact. Mary is to investigate the possibility getting some training done via the local fire station. She will speak to them first and if not possible Mags will then contact her

alternative. It was agreed that if we were to get this free via the fire station then we would offer a donation. We would like to have 4-5 people trained.

Notice Board.

The new board is very large and white. Chloe has suggested we should fill it with some colour. She has proposed putting a picture of a nativity scene on, to fill some of the space. Everyone agreed and if it works, we could choose suitable picture for other times of the year. Chloe to organise.

Xmas lunch.

Maries lunch takes place this Friday. She has 36 people coming. As we have roughly 85 parishioners this is quite a reasonable proportion. Our chair John, says that this should be regarded as an official Church Event. This has now been agreed,

There then was a generalised discussion about how we would run these events in future. Some people felt the children should be involved, an alternative was to have a separate children's party. The problem with this is the low number and different ages of the young people.

The overall feeling is that we need to involve more parishioners to join in with Church events.

AOCB

Steve announced that he will be away for 2 weeks over Xmas. He has already trained up Linda and Bridie, to take over his Sacristy work. Others need to make sure there are appropriate people to help Fr John with the Communion.

Sharon said that on the website she noticed some mistakes.

1. Mags needs to be recognised as the safeguarding officer.
2. Beth is the Health and Safety officer.
3. All members of the council are not named.

These corrections will be made, Mary to organise.

Chloe wanted to say thankyou to John for asking her and her husband to attend a lunch at the Baptist church community. They found it both interesting and enjoyable.

John received information from a source supplying us with possible donors to contact for help with the church repairs.

SSEN Transmission

Haventus

Cairngorm Windows

Phil as treasurer will look into these firms.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING WEDNESDAY 11th MARCH 2026