



ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH

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PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

3rd September 2023

PRESENT

Fr Philip Bua, Kenny Stark, Cathleen McFadden, Marian Pallister, Pat Singal, Tony Fenlon.

APOLOGIES

John Gleeson, Ian Salmon, Ann McCartan, Denise McDermott, Agata Koloziak, Tony Jones

Opening Prayer: Fr Philip led the opening prayer.

Minutes of the meeting from 23rd July 2023

These were read and proposed by Pat and seconded by Marian.

MATTERS ARISING

Hospitality Group:- This is running well but more volunteers are needed. Marie Therese will be asked to draw up a rota so that volunteers can indicate when they are available and be assigned to a specific date.

Barbecue: - The event 'Know your Priest day and Parish Social' was held on 20 August and was well attended and was proved to be a very successful Parish social gathering.

Prayer Group:- The group resumed on 2nd August after a summer break with Exposition and prayer for an hour on a Wednesday evening from 5pm.

Gardening Group: - This group met on 2nd September to 'tidy up' the Parish grounds and plant flowers. This was a well-attended and successful gathering.

REPORT FROM THE GROUPS

Inveraray Mass Station:- The numbers attending Sunday Mass is now tailing off as the holiday season finishes.

Parish Finance Report:- Kenny advised that the Parish finances continue to show a steady improvement. This was helped by a HMRC Gift Aid refund and a donation. Kenny will prepare an Income and Expenditure hand-out to be issued to parishioners at next Sunday's Mass showing the latest position. A big thank you goes to the Parish Finance Committee for their work especially in collecting the Gift Aid refund.

Justice and Peace:- Marin reported that the group are due to meet on 12th September and hope to have a speaker. Confirmation of this will follow shortly. There will also be another meeting

on 4th October at the Church of Scotland hall, which will be a follow up to the film 'The Letter'.
[This will take place in the Dochas Centre at 7pm]

Singing Group:- The next practice be after Mass on 17 September .

OTHER MATTERS:-

The Parish Council will be inaugurated in October. Further details of this will follow.

Eucharistic Ministers:- Training for this ministry and renewal of vows will take place on Sunday 10th and 24th September at 3pm. Holy Communion under both kinds will resume in the Parish after that time.

Parish 'day of recollection' or mini retreat will take place on 7th October from 11 to 3pm in the Parish.

Children's' Mass:- 'Faith & Food' . Father Philip will organise this event for the children of the Parish and full details will follow shortly.

Parish 'Walking Day':- This event will be led by Marian if Tony has not organised something and will take place before the end of the 'Month of Creation'. Details will follow.

Parish Marquee or Gazebo. Fr Philip suggested that we get this for the Parish to be used in outdoor social events. Kenny and Tony will investigate the options and cost.

NB: After the meeting enquiries were made and quotations received from separate companies for a professional structure. It has been decided to purchase a 6X3 Marquee/Party Tent, with a steel frame and suitable for long term use at a cost of £580.

Christmas Fair:- The committee felt that an event should take place this year if possible. Ian will check the availability of the Church of Scotland hall before any definite decision and precise nature of the event can be considered further. [Marian has checked parish church calendar and asked that the only free Saturday, November 25 be booked for us. Also checked what is charged for craft stalls - £10-£15]

Next Parish Council Meeting:- This will be held on Wednesday 13 December at 6pm.

The closing prayer was led by Cathleen.

Tony Fenlon
Parish Pastoral Council
3rd September 2023

PARISH FINANCE REPORT 31 AUGUST 2023

This report covers the financial situation to 31 August 2023. The bank balance at that time was £6802 which was an increase from £5614 when last reported on 19 July. The credits to the account during this period includes a £1000 one off donation and a £590 refund of a gift aid claim from HMRC.

The refund of gift aid relates to period 2021-2022. A claim for the period of 2022-2023 should be received within the next few weeks and will amount to in excess of £7000. In addition the Diocesan Finance Manager is looking at checking the 2020-2021 claim to see if anything further can be claimed.

Overall the financial situation is substantially better than it was at the start of the year and hopefully will continue to improve. Parishioners are encourage to complete a gift aid declaration form if eligible as it can be seen what a difference this source of cash can make. They are also encouraged to complete a bank standing order and support the church by either a weekly or monthly donation.

See below for a breakdown of monthly figures.

Kenny Stark
St Margaret's Financial Sub Committee
31 August 2023

	July 2023		August 2023
Income from Offertory Cash	£632.51		£508.40
Income from Gift Aid Envelopes	£402		£608.90
Income from Standing Orders	£1905		£1513
Special Collection	£362.50		£303.51
Donation			£1000
Gift Aid Refund			£590
Teas etc			£260.30
Total Income	£3302.01		£4833.09
Expenses			
House Expenses	£680.72		£1854.08
Church Expenses inc flowers	£155.03		£261.89
Other Expenses inc Church Levy Car & Salary	£412.79		£1687.88
Special Collection transferred	£352.60		£288.51
Bank Charge			
Total Expenses	£1601.14		£4092.36
Balance at month end	£6062.04		£6802