



## ST. MARGARET'S PARISH

Argyll Street, Lochgilphead, PA31 8NE

Tel. 01546 602380

Email: [lochgilphead@rcdai.org.uk](mailto:lochgilphead@rcdai.org.uk)

Website: [www.lochgilpheadcatholic.com](http://www.lochgilpheadcatholic.com)

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### Parish Council Meeting-Minutes (Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024)

#### Present:

Fr Philip Bua, Kenny Stark, Cathleen McFadden, Marian Pallister, Tony Fenlon, Ian Salmon, Eunice Salmon, Ann McCartan, Agata Koloziak, Tony Jones, Marie-Therese Brannigan, Phil Connor, Denise McDermott

#### Apologies: None noted

The meeting commenced with prayer led by Fr. Philip.

#### Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:

- Rab MacAskill and Tony Jones have begun to make a summary of the parish newsletter at Sunday mass.
- There was a Christmas collection for flowers as proposed at the last meeting.

#### Group Reports:

##### Inveraray

- Sunday Mass continues to be attended by low numbers, ~6 per week.
- Fr Philip has negotiated the rental agreement with Fr Simon from the Episcopal Church, the new amount of £40.00/week will be backdated to November 23.
- A monthly donation is being received of £40 from an Inveraray parishioner.
- It was suggested that the Inveraray rent be itemised as a separate entry in the Parish accounts.

#### Parish Finance Report

- Bank balance at the end of the month January 2024 of £6542
- Total income in December £3883, total expenses £3193
- Total income in January £2829, total expenses £3717
- A debt of £4800 is due to the Diocese, £1000 for a loan from the Diocese to cover bills in December 2022, the balance of £3800 is owed for payments to St Paul's Missionaries for Fr Henry's service at St Margaret's, the Diocese will allow us to pay off this debt in installments, it is proposed that an amount of £200/month is paid.

#### Justice & Peace

- A meeting was held on January 9th in the tent at St. Margaret's.
- The focus for 2024 would be on refugees and a ceasefire in Gaza, letters were written by members to the Home Secretary and Foreign Secretary.

- Moma and ZamScotEd expressed thanks for recent donations.
- The recent 'Pants to Period Poverty' campaign has raised over £1k and will help buy period protection for more than 250 girls at St. Columba's Secondary School in Zambia.
- Marian Pallister has founded an organization in Govan, Glasgow that welcomes warm clothes, the group helps those most in need, many of whom are refugees.
- A member of the Justice and Peace Commission has been invited to attend one of the group's meetings.

### **Prayer Group**

- A suggestion was made to rename this group to correctly reflect that it is a period of quiet time for parishioners to visit the Church it is not a formal 'Prayer Group' discussion, it is scheduled every Wednesday from 5 pm -6 pm and all are welcome to attend.

### **Choir/ Singers**

- The format for Christmas Eve Mass was changed and was very well received, in the hour before the formal Mass there was a mix of instrumental performances, readings, and hymns that the congregation took part in, and it was proposed that the event could be further extended to one hour instead of half an hour and invite others in the local community to attend.
- The choir is looking to recruit a few more members to join them at the back of the Church at Sunday mass, it was discussed that occasionally a recording of a hymn may be played.

### **Hospitality Group**

- A new rota has been made and listed on the Church porch.
- The tea/coffee after Mass continues to be a success, it was agreed that there may be an opportunity to hold some small fundraising events in the tent, this would be into springtime when the weather improves.

### **Safeguarding**

- The annual safeguarding audit has been delayed due to updates from SCSSA (The Scottish Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency', this is usually completed by the end of January, the Diocese has asked that St. Margaret's take part in a trial audit as part of the review, further details will be shared over the coming few weeks from the Diocese to the parish.
- The PVG 5-year renewals are due by the end of 2024 for several volunteers, the Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator will distribute further details and look to complete by the end of Feb.
- It was agreed that Eucharistic Ministers won't visit the sick/housebound, this will only be carried out by Fr Philip.

### **Readers**

- A new rota was distributed.
- The new system that was requested by Fr Philip at the last meeting for readers appears to be working well, occasionally readers may need a reminder of the changes.

## AOB

- A Parish outing to Inveraray was proposed, which would include Mass at All Saints and a lunch, venue to be agreed upon, it was proposed that this would be on Saturday 13th April.
- An event for parishioners to watch the concluding day of the 6 Nations Rugby was proposed, possibly to be held in the parish church hall, the date of this event will be Saturday 16th March.
- Fr Philip will look to arrange a visiting priest to offer confession before Easter.
- The paintwork on the pillars is flaking, it was suggested to look into options to expose the stone, it was discussed that Fr Ronald investigated several options for a solution to the dampness issue, further investigation will be carried out.
- We are working on getting a grant if it is possible to restore the church: The Altar pillars, the dampness, and the lighting since some of the lights are no longer working and are a bit old. Meanwhile, My Lenten Donation Envelope will be out to support the restoration of the church.
- Several slates were damaged during the recent storms, it may be possible to claim on the insurance policy for repairs.
- It was discussed that the parish should have a Health & Safety representative, Ann McCartan volunteered for the role, Fr Philip will liaise on training etc.
- Fr Philip discussed the 'Easy Fundraising' account and using the funds raised towards the 'St Margaret's Garden Project', Easy Fundraising is a way for parishioners to raise funds for the parish whilst shopping online, it was discussed that it may be helpful to explain this further to parishioners who would then sign up to use the account.
- A closing prayer was said by Fr Philip.

## Matters Arising

- Fr Philip to confirm the details of the rental agreement with the Episcopal Church, for example, if used mid-week.
- Confirm and arrange a payment of £200/month to be paid to the Diocese to pay off the debt of £4800.
- The 'Prayer Group' is to be renamed and promoted in the newsletter.
- A request to be made to leave the parking area beside the Church for those who need it most, a suggestion to park in the council or co-op car park for those who can.
- The PSC and Fr Philip will liaise as required for the Parish Safeguarding Audit.
- Additional volunteers are to be recruited and trained as Eucharistic Ministers.
- Check the availability of the hall for the Rugby afternoon event on the 16th of March.
- Fr Philip to check the investigation carried out by Fr Ronald regarding the dampness in the stone pillars.
- Investigate whether the insurance policy will cover the roof damage from recent storms.
- My Lenten Donation Envelope for the restoration of the church. The Altar pillars, the dampness, and the lighting, since some of the lights are no longer working.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday 8th May**

**Ann McCartan**  
Parish Pastoral Council  
7<sup>th</sup> February 2024

## ST MARGARET'S PARISH

### Finance Report, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024

This report covers the financial situation for 2 months of December 2023 and January 2024. The bank balance at that time was £6542.

It should be remembered that at the last meeting, I informed the parish council that Fr Philip had been made aware of a debt owed to the Diocese for £4.8K and that I was making inquiries into this. I have subsequently learned that the majority of this debt (£3.8K) was incurred as a result of Missionaries' St Paul having been underpaid by the Diocese for Fr Henry's service. When the Diocese had become aware of it we had insufficient funds in our account to pay it and as a result, the Diocese paid it using a loan to St Margaret's. Due to human error, we were not notified of this at the time. The other £1000 was the loan notified to us in December 2022 when we had insufficient funds to pay bills. The Diocese is happy for us to repay the total amount in monthly installments.

About the rent for All Saints Church, the Episcopal Church (Fr Simon) replied to Fr Philip with an unacceptable weekly rent. Fr Philip responded with an offer of £40 per week and we are still awaiting the response. A monthly donation is being received of £40 from an Inveraray parishioner.

See below for a breakdown of monthly figures which have been rounded off to the nearest pound.

Kenny Stark

St Margaret's Financial Sub Committee

3 February 2024

|   | December 2023 | January 2024 |
|---|---------------|--------------|
| <b>Income</b>                               |               |              |
| Income from Offertory Cash                  | 691           | 384          |
| Income from Gift Aid Envelopes              | 413           | 513          |
| Income from Standing Orders                 | 1443          | 1473         |
| Special Collection                          | 535           | 310          |
| Flowers Collection                          | 203           | 10           |
| Gift Aid Refund                             |               |              |
| Christmas Fayre                             | 300           |              |
| Transfer from RCDAI                         | 148           | 139          |
| Sale of Trailer                             | 150           |              |
|   |               |              |
| <b>Total Income</b>                         | <b>3883</b>   | <b>2829</b>  |
|   |               |              |
| <b>Expenses</b>                             |               |              |
| House Expenses                              | 1735          | 672          |
| Church Expenses inc flowers                 | 812           | 696          |
| Other Expenses inc Church Levy Car & Salary | 520           | 1015         |
| Special Collection transferred              | 125           | 1334         |
| Bank Charge                                 |               | 1            |
|   |               |              |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>                       | <b>3193</b>   | <b>3717</b>  |
|   |               |              |
| <b>Balance at month end</b>                 | <b>7430</b>   | <b>6542</b>  |

**Creditors Due: RCDAI £4,800 All Saints £360**