

## **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WEDNESDAY, 13TH NOVEMBER 2024 (Online)**

**Present** - Fr Ronald Campbell, Deacon Tony Livesey, Helen Gilpin, Gavin Scott-Moncrieff, Vanessa Gauld, Joe McCabe, Mairi MacDonald, John Taylor

**Apologies** – Jeannie Stewart-Liddon, Didi Fraser, Morag Robertson

- Fr. Ronald welcomed new Parish Council members Vanessa Gauld and Joe McCabe.
- Fr. Ronald advised that Pola Livesey had stepped down from the council. Given that perhaps the members of the council should only serve for a set time, if anyone else wanted to stand down they should speak to Fr. Ronald although we do not want to lose people if they cannot be replaced.
- The Led by the Spirit report is being collated by Canon William MacLean. The next steps will be considered early in the New Year.

### **Finance and Fabric update**

- We have £7868 in the parish general account at present with the main bill coming up being that for heating oil.
- There was just over £6000 in the 200 Club account in the latest bank statement. The 200 Club funds are used for fabric purposes.
- A cheque has just been issued from this fund for £1980.00 for remedial works which took place at St Maolrubha's on the 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> of November 2024. We hope this has solved the damp problem. The Builder has recommended that we wait for 2-3 months before commencing planned painting of the inside of the church. A painter is ready to start when we give the go ahead.
- The long-awaited sign for St Maolrubha's is coming soon and Deacon Tony is arranging for another sign from Jans to put on the wall of the Church. Mairi asked if additional outside lighting could be put on the wall where the ramp is. It was also suggested that we could look at relocating the current exterior light switch.

### **ACTION POINTS:**

- **Deacon Tony to proceed with additional sign.**
- **Mairi to source an electrician to carry out outside lighting works.**

## **Stained Glass Window for St Mary's, Portree**

- This has been shelved for the time being due to failure to secure the necessary grant funding from 2 different funding bodies.
- A grant of £1000 has been offered by the Basil Death Trust and it has been agreed that this funding will now be re-directed to fund additional bespoke hymn books and copyright license for the parish.

**ACTION POINT: Fr. Ronald to continue to work with parishioners on new hymn book template with a view to print in the new year.**

## **Parish 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (Silver Jubilee of the Parish)**

- Fr Ronald suggested that we should celebrate this midweek in August to enable other priests and Bishop Brian to attend.

Agreed dates:

**Tuesday, 26th August - Celebration Mass at St Maolrubha's, Broadford.**

**Wednesday, 27th August – Celebration Mass at St Mary's, Portree followed by a social event/ceilidh.**

- Formal invitations will be issued to those out with the parish including wider community and other denominations.
- Sunday, 31st August will be the date for the annual whole parish Mass at St Mary's, Portree.

## **ACTION POINTS:**

- **Fr. Ronald to contact Bishop Brian**
- **Helen to enquire about hall booking for ceilidh**
- **Invites to be issued**

## **Schools**

- Fr Ronald advised that he has held productive meetings with Portree Primary School and Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort Rìgh. Both schools have agreed to work with Fr. Ronald to facilitate our children who are working towards the Pope Francis Faith Award. There may also be an opportunity to take part in assemblies in both schools in the future.
- Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort Rìgh have also agreed to buy two sets of cribs for the Travelling Crib Advent Project.
- Fr. Ronald has contacted Broadford Primary and MacDiarmid Primary and is waiting to hear back from them. He reiterated that he is happy to work with any school that he is invited into.

### **Supply Priests**

- Fr. Ronald pointed out the cost of supply priests can be very high and securing them is increasingly difficult.
- Although The Bishop asks that parishes should try to obtain a Priest for weekend Masses if unable to do so Deacon Tony would preside over a Service of Word and Communion.
- Deacon Tony provides cover when Fr. Ronald is away during the week.

### **AOCB**

- It was suggested that we should try and develop ecumenical links on the Island by approaching other denominations with a view to having some sort of joint service on a regular basis.
- Deacon Tony suggested doing something during Advent to support SCIAF in one of their water initiatives. This was agreed and as part of the initiative it was suggested that we should make the second collection on one Sunday in Advent dedicated to this cause.
- Fr. Ronald said that following suggestions of more devotions in the parish, a communal Rosary is now prayed in both churches monthly.
- It was suggested that Morning Prayer could be prayed before Mass on the final Friday of the month and this was agreed.

### **Date of next meeting**

- Tuesday 11th Feb 2025 at 7pm. (online)
- Father Ronald closed the meeting with Prayer and blessing.