

St. Margaret Parish Dunfermline Men's Group

Minutes of Annual General Meeting – Tuesday 2nd May 2017.

Present: Martin Wilkinson (MW – Secretary), John McIlduff (JM – Treasurer), Tom Reid (TR), Brian Robertson, David McIntosh (DM), Bob Creaney, Mike Pendlowski (MP)

Apologies for Absence: Tom Scott (TS), John Mackintosh

Objectives of Men's Group

These were reaffirmed as:

- Bring men of the parish together through social events / activities.
- Organise Spiritual events for Men of the Parish.
- Provide assistance to other Parish groups when requested, when able.
- Donate any surplus funds from our activities to selected charities.

We do not have a formal membership. Activities are open to all men of the parish. Currently we have about 30 men on our distribution list. About half of these come to our meetings and activities. We have opened up some of our activities to the wider Parish community and they can attract up to 60 and the largest attendance in the last year was about 70. We communicate through our e-mail list of 30 men but also issue a Newsletter from time to time and some activities are generally advertised in the parish Bulletin.

Financial Statement from Treasurer

In 2016 our activities raised just under £1400 and we gave out this surplus plus some existing surplus funds in our account as donations totalling £1761. These donations were made up of £1245 to support Fr. John's parish and activities with street children in India, £250 to Mary's Meals, and £250 to SCIAF. So far in 2017 we have collected £610 surplus from the Burns Night , £235 surplus from the Parish Winter Olympics and a donation of £200 from the parish One World Group (OWG) for us to pass on to Fr. John. We gave the surplus from the Burns Night to the family in Nigeria of Offorbike Eze. We had originally been collecting for his medical care but he sadly died. The OWG donation to Fr. John has been passed to him, leaving us with a credit balance of £423 at the time of this AGM.

Review of the Last Year's Activities

(i) Assistance to other Parish Groups

- Assistance with erecting the Christmas tree in the church
- Help on 12th June with set up of outside facilities in car park for St. Margaret's Pilgrimage requested by Mike Pendlowski

(ii) Spiritual Activities.

- Advent Scripture Discussion Meetings weekly. Usual attendance about 12.
- Scripture discussion meetings continued on a monthly basis between Lent and Advent as part of the Year of Mercy.
- Lent Scripture Discussion Meetings weekly. Usual attendance about 12.
- Men's Group led the Stations of the Cross in the church on one Sunday in Lent. Six members led the Stations

(iii) Social Events & Activities

- Men's Group Meal out, every few months, Incontri was adopted as a new venue during the year. Regularly attended by about 6 to 12 men. 17 May, 13 July, 27 September, and Christmas meal in December.
- Walking Group – John Muir Way – 7 May, 5 June and August.
- Meal out with partners – 3rd June at Incontri - 13 attended
- Summer Solstice Soiree – organized by Frannie for the parish – Tuesday 21st June – about 30 attended – donations rather than entrance tickets gave a £50 surplus after cost which was given to Men's Group funds.
- Austrian Operetta Tour organised by Mike Pendlowski in summer 2016.

- Mass at Chapel Royal in Falkland Palace – Sunday 17th July – hospitality from the parishioners followed by a walk around Falkland – 7 attended
- Annual Golf Outing – 25th September - Thornton Golf Club
- Visit to distillery in Autumn 2016 cancelled owing to lack of numbers
- Pitlochry Festival Theatre – by coach – 23 people – Sunday 6 November – Para Handy
- David Seath Pub Quiz – 18 November at Garvock House – Men’s Group team entered
- Fun Wine Tasting evening - Saturday 26 November – expertly organized by Peter Carney – over 50 people – raised £1076 for Fr John’s work with street children.
- Christmas Dinner – Wednesday 7th December – 12 attended
- Multi-cultural Burns Night – Saturday 21st January – about 70 people. A new venture with an international flavour. £609 raised for a family in Nigeria.
- Parish Winter Olympics – Saturday 25th February

Election of Office Bearers

We have no formal Constitution but we currently have 3 Office Bearers. Generally we have two office bearers at a meeting and at least 6 members in total to make a quorum. The meeting unanimously supported the current office bearers remaining in office. The meeting conveyed sympathy to our chairman, Tom Scott, in his recent loss and noted that he would like to recommence his role later in the year. Meanwhile MW and JM can chair meetings. It should be recognised that activities depend on the enthusiastic efforts of several people other than the office bearers, especially Peter Carney for organising social events and Mike Pendlowski for cultural activities.

Events and Activities Program for 2017/18

- Aircraft carrier visit. The only definite activity at present is the long-awaited visit to the aircraft carriers at the dockyard. TS has passed on a letter from Babcock’s confirming that a space on the morning of 21 July, 1000-1130, has been allocated for us. They will confirm arrangements more precisely w/c 26 June. We should be ready prepared for this. We expect the party to be limited to 20 and TS wishes to be included. We will need to furnish names in advance and possibly also vehicle details. Following the visit it was suggested the party could take lunch at the Ferrybridge Hotel in North Queensferry. TR will circulate our address list and make arrangements.
- The next meal out was proposed for Tuesday 27th June.

Other events will be finalised at the next meeting, or at a later one, but the following were discussed in outline

- A theatre trip to Pitlochry, possibly just before Christmas - MP
- Beer Festival at the Caledonian Brewery in Edinburgh – DM will investigate
- Big screen television in crypt to provide viewing of sports events which could be combined with meetings with food and drink
- Cruise on *Maid of the Forth* from South Queensferry, perhaps to Inchcolm, or possibly for a folk night.
- Meal out with partners to be later this year, perhaps in Autumn,
- Hogmanay celebration in the crypt.
- A longer term possibility is another operetta tour in 2018 – MP.

It was noted that the report on the parish cluster had been finished. One aspect was the possibility of joint social activity between parishes to improve our friendship, cooperation and understanding of each other. Any attempt to achieve this should be jointly attempted with the Ladies’ Group. No further clear conclusion was reached and this was held over until a later meeting.

There are people on our circulation list who had attended previous meetings and events, some of them on a regular basis, but no longer attended. We would like them to tell us what they would like out of the

Men's Group. It was arranged that various such members would be personally invited to our next meeting by designated people present at tonight's meeting. The next meeting could involve food and maybe drink. Earlier meetings that had included these had been better attended.

Next Meeting - Tuesday 6th June at the earlier time of 7pm

Martin Wilkinson – 2nd May 2017