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| A yellow and blue emblem with a crown  Description automatically generated | **Faith Formation Group Minutes** |  |

--------------------------------------------------------------------**Date**

**10th October 2024**

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## **In attendance**

P. Mallan (PM) D. Hambley (DH) Fr Syriac (FrS) M.Glancy (MG)

Teresa Little (TL) Tim Hall (TH)

--------------------------------------------------------------------**Agenda**

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer

2. Apologies/Absences

3. Previous Minutes

4. 2024 Operational Action Plan

Aim 1 – Choosing the Faith

Aim 2 – Learn the Faith

Aim 3 – Celebrating the Faith

Aim 4 – Pray the Faith

Aim 5 – Sharing the Faith

Aim 6 – Living the Faith

AOB

Next meeting date

Closing Prayer

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1. **Welcome and Opening Prayer**

Those present were welcomed and FrS opened the meeting with a prayer

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1. **Apologies**

M. Horsburgh, D. Mulholland, , T. Condie, K. Frizzell, H. Reid.

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1. **Previous Minutes**

Adoption of Previous Minutes was proposed by TH and seconded by DH.

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1. **2024 Operational Action Plan**

**AIM 1 - Choosing the Faith**

FrS has met with Fr Kingham twice - it was agreed to postpone the implementation of the Alpha and Youth Alpha courses at the moment.

With regards to RCIA going forward, George Toal has stepped down due to ill health. FrS is currently putting together a team to take this forward with the second meeting due to take place later this month. FrS has purchased textbooks and CD’s as RCIA resources and there are currently seven prospective candidates. FrS is still looking for volunteers to be part of the RCIA presenting team. The meeting agreed an event be organized to thank George for his service over 18 years (subject to him giving approval).

**ACTION: FrS to continue putting together a RCIA presenting team. FrS to meet with George Toal to see what he wishes to mark his retirement from the RCIA.**

**ACTION: Faith Formation Group members to advise Fr S if they, or any parishioners they know, wish to assist RCIA.**

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**AIM 2 - Learn the Faith**

DH advised that the ‘Big Picture’ course had commenced with 3 sessions completed. Attendance was disappointing but members may be working on the course themselves at home. The next meeting is on November 5th and DH will contact nonattenders to ascertain why some are not coming.

Learn at Mass during September was successful although it was felt the readings could be more focussed and hence shorter. Learn at Mass to continue in Advent with RM providing the inputs.

TL reported the next session of “The Chosen” will be on 31st October at 1115. This will also be combined with thank you event for the cleaning team for all that they do

**ACTION: PM to contact RM for the series ‘Learn at Mass’ inputs to be read out during Advent**

**ACTION: TL to organise “The Chosen” session on 31st October**

**ACTION: DH to continue to deliver the “Big Picture” course.**

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**Aim 3 - Celebrating the Faith**

*After discussion it was agreed that we would celebrate our faith through the saints associated with both churches as well as promoting the art on display. There are three statues on the altar in St. Margaret’s along with St. Margaret and they could have a Holy Day each throughout the year starting with the Pilgrimage in the Summer. The schools would be involved, the children researching the saints’ lives etc.*

PM advised he had discussions with Fire Station Creative to offer Art sessions to the Parish. This could be used to draw/illustrate the Saints within each Church.

**Action: TH to research Saints associated with HN and its art history working with Tom Canning**

**Action: PM to follow up discussions with Fire Station Creative Artists incorporating possible link to Dunfermline Heritage Group. Output of art club to dovetail with the liturgical calendar**

**Action: KF to report back at next meeting the outcomes of her meetings with school managements**

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**AIM 4 – Pray the Faith**

HR was not present but Contemplative Prayer sessions are taking place every Wednesday evening. A link to the upcoming rosary ceremony is to be explored.

The rosary is to be the liturgical focus during October through planned ceremonies, publicity via Spotlight feature and dissemination of Knights of Malta material.

**ACTION: HR to liaise with FrS in planning upcoming rosary ceremony**

**ACTION: TH, MG and FrS to plan rosary ceremony in Holy Name. TH to send Knights of Malta links to the rosary to Colleen for newsletter input**

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**AIM 5 - Sharing the Faith**

KF/TL/DH have established a template for parishioner testimonies of their faith. The template is structured under four headings: Setting the scene/ What happened?/ How has the Spirit changed you?/ What’s happening now?

**ACTION: Faith Formation group members to encourage parishioners to submit testimonials**

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**AIM 6 - Living the Faith**

We did not discuss this Aim in any detail, however the following previous minute is carried over here with associated actions.

*The meeting agreed there was a degree of overlap with the Sharing the Faith aim but focussed on what would help parishioners most to live their faith and to encourage them to think about what living the faith really means. To assess this a questionnaire was mentioned as a way of gaining Parishioners feedback on Living the Faith.*

**Action: PM to form an action plan on this aim.**

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**Any Other Competent Business**

Parish members have visited the new St Columba’s HS recently – thanks go to RM for the guided tour.

PM and FrS emphasized the importance of all synodal groups aligning their outcomes with the liturgical calendar. The 2025 calendar will be published soon.

Plans for the St Margaret’s Retreat are ongoing. In response to DH, FrS said he would ask the organisers in Glasgow if they would be open to other Dunfermline churches being invited to attend.

The group members thought HR’s notes on the synod meeting he attended were thoughtful and informative. PM advised the next Voice of the Laity session will consider some outcomes of the process and TH thought reissuing the initial papers drawn up by the parish might be a useful refresher.

FrS expressed a desire to address the issue of First Communicants not returning regularly to the church post ceremony. He suggested a meeting for parents about 6 weeks before the ceremony outlining the church’s expectations with the Faith Formation Group having a welcoming role. Links with the school will need to be utilised to encourage parent/child attendance at such a meeting - issuing invitations etc.

TH proffered the idea of a book of favourite prayers, suggested by parishioners, which was well received. It was suggested the newsletter may be a cheaper alternative with perhaps a “Prayer of the Week/Month”.

DH was keen to offer to run “The Gift” in Holy Name in the season of Lent – all agreed. In terms of venues Holy Name school and the local Church of Scotland church hall were put forward.

**ACTION: FrS to consider extending an invitation to the Parish Retreat to other Churches having consulted the organisers**

**ACTION: FrS to liaise with school managements and KF to organize a parent/child meeting for First Communicants after Easter 2025**

**ACTION: TH/MG to put idea of “The “Gift” being offered to HN on the agenda of the next HN Steering Group meeting**

**ACTION: PM/COLLEEN to consider how to implement the Prayer of the Week idea**

**ACTION: PM/Martin to plan the next Voice of the Laity meeting in both churches**

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**Next Meeting Date**

5th December in the Presbytery at 7pm

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**Closing Prayer**

PM led the Closing Prayer

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