



PPC Aug 2026 Meeting Minutes

[OFFICIAL]

Present (24):

Fr. Willie Boyd, Douglas Hutchison, Gail Taylor, Caroline Macdonald, Morag Bogle, Eileen Brown, Chris Denny, Liz Denny, Kathleen Hutchison, Andrew Johnston, Lesley Mathieson, Janice Maxted, Rona McAvenna, John McColgan, Avril McColgan, John McConville, Ann McCusker, Marion Paterson, Hans Pieper, Claire Scott, Gerard Smith, Carol Smith, Philippa Whitford, Elizabeth Williams.

Apologies (6):

Sadie Chalmers, Fiona Hogg, Suzanne Maxton, Pat Lee, Celia Quinlivan, Lindsay Young.

Preliminary Date of Next Meeting: Monday 05th October 2026, 7pm

1. **Opening Prayer and Reflection: Gospel of the Day** - Gail Taylor
2. **Welcome and Apologies** - Douglas Hutchison
 - 2.1. Welcome Ann and Avril to their first PPC meeting.
3. **Minutes and Matters Arising** - Douglas Hutchison
 - 3.1. Previous minutes confirmed as accurate and no matters arising.
4. **Past, Present and Future Parish Discussion** - Douglas Hutchison
 - 4.1. Reflection & Considerations - what do we do with the output from the previous meeting. How would the output be received outside of the PPC and are there any practical steps we can take now to reach Horizon 3.
 - 4.2. Discussion around how we take the parish on this journey. Will need dialogue to help with any potential resistance. The question was asked about how much autonomy we have as a parish. 'The Church' is very different in places like Africa compared to central Europe on certain topics e.g. LGBTQI+
 - 4.3. Focus needs to be on the youth. We talk about the lack of priests but will there be a lack of congregation in 20+ years time. How do we take our Creed and live those values? Religion isn't about an hour spent at a church service but rather how we build a Faith Community. But we are not just a dispenser of Sacraments.
 - 4.4. What is a Faith Community? Seeing God and Jesus as everything and *in* everything.
 - 4.5. When we talk about youth, we're not necessarily talking about kids as they come with their parents. Where is the 20-40 age range? We need to think about that transition of 'you must go to church' from your parents to younger people wanting to be there. Modern life makes families fragmented and young families are too busy. Do we consider services at different days/times? Seagate church is very busy with young families. What are they offering that our parish is not? Fr. Willie challenged that it's ok to not have the answers or a timeline - we will be led by God.
 - 4.6. All agreed that the Horizon 3 material would be better received as a Parish Assembly rather than handouts without context.

- 4.7. Do we need to soften our language or do we need to nudge people out of their complacency? We (as a whole Church) have never openly addressed LGBTQI+ views, never addressed feminising the church nor faced, head on, clerical child abuse. We have a duty of responsibility and need to be alongside people outwith the pews.
- 4.8. Parish Assembly to be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

5. Updates from various groups - Douglas Hutchison

- 5.1. Well done to the various ministries. Parish Feast Day was a great success. The gardens are looking beautiful. The Mass for the Sick was well attended and so was the reception in the hall after it. Communion to the Sick & Housebound has picked up. We have another 2-5 members for RCIA. Servers Mass & Commissioning Mass this Sunday and the Tea & Toast group continues to be well received.

5.2. Fabric Update - John McConville

The Church

A substantial leak in the Church heating system was recently detected. This required the complete drain down of the heating system which then allowed a corroded water pipe under the floor of the Sacristy to be cut out and replaced. The system was re-filled and tested. The repair appears to have been effective.

We have been given an estimate for the installation of boom microphones in the Organ Gallery. Once a few minor technical details are confirmed we would expect installation to begin as soon as possible.

The Church House

The alarm company re-set the alarm system on 2 nd June and provided us with updated Alarm Fobs which will be issued to all key holders soon. In the meantime, we are looking into upgrading the CCTV cameras around the Church and Church House. Security around the front of the house, particularly in dark winter nights, is a concern and we aim to resolve this by upgrading the CCTV system serving all three properties.

The Church Hall

We had a very positive Parish Consultation weekend on 20 th and 21 st June. The feedback was very encouraging and was very much in favour of refurbishing and extending the Hall. There was a tremendous feeling of maximising the potential of the Hall so that it was a warm and welcoming facility central to Parish life. Two proposals were under consideration;

- A refurbishment and upgrade of the existing structure
- An extension together with a refurbishment and upgrade of the existing structure

A Cost Elemental Analysis was undertaken by our appointed Quantity Surveyor which confirmed that whilst both options were very expensive, the proposal that included extending the Hall and refurbishing the existing building was prohibitively expensive. Accordingly, the Fabric Committee and Hall Management Team met with our Architects and Planning Consultant to

revise our plans for the Hall. We have set six priorities for a refurbished Hall, and these are currently being worked on. Those priorities include;

1. The building will be wind and watertight.
2. Internal insulation of all walls and ceilings inc. sound insulation/baffling.
3. An enlarged kitchen.
4. A new entrance to the west.
5. Refurbished toilets.
6. Removal of the stage to create more storage and a meeting room.

Grant funding is still seen as a critical part of the process. A small dedicated team has been set up to look into this issue. The Fabric and Finance Committees are working on a submission to the Diocesan Finance Committee in late September outlining our proposals.

The Gardens

We estimate that up 60 large builders' bags have been taken to the local dump. It is a constant struggle to keep on top of grass cutting, pruning, cutting back of overgrown vegetation etc. However, all our volunteers work tirelessly to keep the gardens looking so well – our thanks and gratitude for their dedication should not go un-noticed. Volunteers are always needed, so if you are interested in helping, please speak to either Gerry Smith or myself. As a thank you we will have a communal gardening afternoon soon with refreshments afterwards. Perhaps with an emphasis on refreshments and less on gardening this time.

5.3. **Finance Update - Morag Bogle**

Results to 31 July: collection income up £10k compared to same period in prior year. Deficit of £15k to 31 st July. No withdrawal from PIF this financial year compared to £40k Jan to July 2025. Hoped that now the majority of large works completed in house and church, the parish will break even by the year's end.

Building Fund: balance at £16.9k on 31 July (cumulative). Individual donations received in July and August totalling £1.5k

Parish leaflet: this has been prepared and will be discussed at this week's Finance Committee meeting. Covers a summary of the 2025 income and expenditure, standing orders (parish and building fund), gift aid and legacies. Leaflet also thanks parishioners for ongoing support and generosity. I hope this will be published shortly.

New hall proposal: working with John and Fabric Committee on finance section of the diocesan Finance and Estates Committee submission. Draft is at an advanced stage with only minor amendments needed.

6. **Plan for the year ahead** - Douglas Hutchison

- 6.1. Review of the yearly planner and what did and did not take place. Thanks to all who took ownership of both the spiritual and social events. These activities do not happen without volunteers. Avril and John intimated they may be able to help organise the Film Night.

- 6.2. For any other activities without owners, we will advertise in the bulletin e.g. walking group and once we know whose interested, a leader can be agreed upon by those interested.

7. AOCB - Douglas Hutchison

- 7.1. Douglas and Gail, as co-chairs of the PPC, have received correspondence from two parishioners regarding the new screens and the wording of the Creed displayed on them. The correspondence raised questions about the number, size, placement and purpose of the screens, as well as the wording of the Creed, specifically the use of "For us and our salvation" rather than "For us men and our salvation". Douglas and Gail will respond to the correspondence in writing.
- 7.2. The PPC reflected on these concerns and noted that the introduction of the screens had been discussed on three separate occasions by the PPC, the parish's representative body. Minutes of these discussions were published and made available to the parish community, and information about the screens was also included in the parish bulletin prior to installation. The installation has not altered or caused damage to the church building.
- 7.3. Since their introduction, a range of views have been expressed. Many parishioners have welcomed the screens and found them helpful in following the hymns and participating more fully in the liturgy. They have also proved useful for visitors and those less familiar with the Mass. Fr. Willie noted that the parish is still in the early stages of exploring how the screens might best support worship and parish life, with potential uses including devotional services such as the Stations of the Cross. The intention is that the screens serve as a support to, rather than a distraction from, the celebration of Mass.
- 7.4. In relation to the wording of the Creed, the PPC noted that the text currently displayed is also used in other parishes. While the traditional wording includes the phrase "For us men and our salvation", some communities have adopted the shorter form "For us and our salvation", reflecting an emphasis on inclusive language while retaining the intended meaning of the text. Parishioners who wish to use the traditional wording remain free to do so when reciting the Creed..

8. Date of Next Meeting - Caroline Macdonald

- Preliminary Date of Next Meeting: Monday 05th October 2026, 7pm
- Proposed PPC Meeting Dates for 2026 and beyond
 - ☐ Monday 05th October 2026
 - ☐ Thursday 26th November 2026
 - ☐ Monday 18th January 2027
 - ☐ Thursday 18th March 2027
 - ☐ Monday 14th June 2027

9. Closing Prayer - Fr. Willie

Thanks to all who attended and for another lively discussion. We look forward to seeing you next time and welcome any new members.

PPC Action Log

Date Raised	Action	Owner(s)	Status
Nov 2025	Gather feedback from RCIA participants after Easter and consider ongoing Adult Faith Development and integration into parish life.	Kathleen Hutchison / PPC	Ongoing
Nov 2025	Compile Audio/Visual requirements and obtain quotations.	Fabric Committee	Ongoing / progressed through 2026
Mar 2026	Investigate opportunities and requirements for hosting election hustings with other Troon churches.	Fr. Willie & Douglas Hutchison	Ongoing
May 2026	Build on Three Horizons discussion and prepare material for a Parish Assembly.	PPC	Ongoing. Revisited in August meeting.
May 2026	Arrange follow-up meeting to discuss proposed church hall layouts and consultation feedback.	Fabric Committee / Design Team	Ongoing
May 2026	Seek volunteer to undertake regular hall cleaning before engaging paid service.	Hall Committee	Ongoing
May 2026	Advertise and recruit leaders/participants for activities without owners (e.g. walking group).	PPC	Ongoing
Aug 2026	Develop proposal and plan for a Parish Assembly to discuss Horizon 3 themes with parishioners.	PPC	Open. To be discussed at next meeting.
Aug 2026	Respond in writing to parishioners' correspondence regarding church screens and Creed wording.	Douglas Hutchison & Gail Taylor	Open