



PPC March 2026 Meeting Minutes

[OFFICIAL]

Present (17):

Fr. Willie Boyd, Douglas Hutchison, Gail Taylor, Caroline Macdonald, Myra Carroll, John McConville, Tom Gilligan, Helen Convery, Peter Convery, Elizabeth Williams, Claire Scott, Gerard Smith, Carol Smith, Hans Pieper, Celia Quinlivan, Rona McAvenna, Marion Paterson

Apologies (6):

Suzanne Maxton, Philippa Whitford, Andrew Johnston, Chris Denny, Liz Denny, Lesley Mathieson

Preliminary Date of Next Meeting: Monday 8th June 2026, 7pm

1. **Opening Prayer and Reflection: Gospel of the Day** - Gail Taylor
2. **Welcome and Apologies** - Douglas Hutchison
 - 2.1. DH reminded attendees that the format of this meeting would be different as there was a 'Three Horizons' group activity on the future of the Church.
3. **Year of the Holy Spirit - Douglas Hutchison**
 - 3.1. Plan for discussion at next PPC
 - 3.2. Three Horizons Activity; planning for the future (see Appendix for photos of activity)
 - 3.2.1. DH described the purpose of the activity and the reason behind it. We have another 2 priests retiring this year which is 10% of our total (same last year). Many of our priests are aged and so it is unlikely that we will be a church entirely led by priests. We were advised to split into three small groups and discuss the following:
 - Horizon 1** - What works well in our church currently? What is no longer fit for purpose and needs to change? What is emerging now that we should keep?
 - Horizon 2** - Tensions, Paradoxes and Dimensions. People struggle with change. How do we get to where we want to be (transformational)? Where are the conflicts in the church between past & present? e.g. Some want to return to the Latin masses. What are the things that are happening that just prop us up, but don't lead to a new, renewed, fit for purpose church?
 - Horizon 3** - What ideas and proposals do we have for the future church? What new ways of doing things should we consider? Is there anything radical emerging now that could become common in the future?Question was raised as to whether this exercise was for OUR church or the whole church. DH confirmed it should be a diocesan view as some challenges are not the same further afield.
SEE APPENDIX 1
 - 3.2.2. Post-activity discussion highlights.
 - We need to rely less on a clerical model
 - We need to be less judgemental (divorced, LGBTQIA+ etc.)

- We need to encourage new groups
- We need to be more relevant to the youth
- We need to increase and use our social media presence
- We need to be softer in our attitudes
- We need to be less exclusive and more open to ideas
- We need to focus on patterns of progress - not lose children/young people after sacraments.
- We need to consider priests right to marry or allow female priests
- We need to live The Creed
- We need to continue with RCIA and the increase in numbers of people joining the church
- We need more lay ministries
- We can continue to live stream but arrange a gathering so people are live streaming together
- We agreed mass in Latin is a step backwards

3.2.3. All agreed that this led to interesting conversation and one we need to have more of. How do we create the circumstance to make these things happen - what are the barriers? How does this feed into the Bishop's message? We need to think short, medium and long term and not expect the answers to come from the top (Bishops). We can manage upwards and this needs to come from us. We have not taught young people to live their faith from the inside out - it's been too focused on the external. How do 50% of attendees (women) have no access to leadership positions in the Church?

4. **Hall Update** - Claire Scott and Carol Smith

- 4.1. We had a visit from Environmental Health who gave us a list of actions to complete in order to obtain a 'Pass' Certificate. These actions have been (and continue to be) worked through and hope that when they return in 2 weeks time, we will obtain the certificate and we can open the hall back up to small events.
- 4.2. As we are still uncertain of renovations and timings, a decision has been made that we won't take any external long-term lets. We can however make the hall available to parishioners and parishioners families.
- 4.3. We will use St.Quivox Hall Let form as a template for our own moving forward.
- 4.4. At the last meeting, whilst there was uncertainty around Health & Safety, we agreed that we would not host charity coffee mornings. Given we expect to achieve the go ahead from Environmental Health, we have adjusted this and can aim to allow four or five charity coffee mornings per year. Parishioners will be given prior notice of when these are.
- 4.5. The back meeting room of the hall is to be cleared. We will donate (where possible) or scrap the old game machines to make the room more usable.
- 4.6. All agreed it's important to understand internal hall lets before going external.

5. **Fabric Report** - John McConville

5.1. **The Church**

Stonemasons carried out repairs to the pointing at the rear of the Altar and to the left of the main entrance to the Church. They also cleaned up and stabilised some eroding stone around the window in the Altar Loft. Whilst on-site they went round the remainder of the building and undertook any other repairs. It was very encouraging to receive an informal report from the Stonemasons that confirmed that the stonework and pointing is in very good condition. The Stonemasons will be invited back to have

a look at the foundation stone which forms part of the forward most column on the left-hand side of the Church.

A number of pews were found to be loose, this is probably as a result of the work undertaken to install the emergency lighting. These have now been secured to the floor and others routinely checked. Whilst checking each pew it was noted that some kneelers require repair. Further investigation will be required.

The external floodlights continue to be a problem. The fabric group continue to investigate the matter.

The Church electricity meters are being replaced with Smart Meters on Friday 24 th April. There will be a period when the power will be down but I will ensure that this does not interrupt the use of the Church.

Audio Visual engineers have visited the Church on two occasions, however, it is very disappointing to note that they have failed to submit an estimate for the works. Alternative firms are being sought.

5.2. The Church House

The Parish records will be moved very soon to the newly formed Parish Archive.

A list of key holders will be invited to a training session on the alarm system once a date is agreed with the alarm company.

Replacement CCTV cameras at the front of the house require to be fitted. Improved security lighting along the driveway to the house is also being investigated.

5.3. The Church Hall

The Hall electricity meter is being replaced with a Smart Meter on Friday 24th April. There will be a period when the power will be down, it would be preferable if use of the Hall could be restricted on that day.

The Hall will be used by South Ayrshire Council as a Polling Station on Thursday 7th May and will therefore not be available for use by the Parish on that day. There may also be some disruption for a few days leading up to Polling Day and the following day when signage, Polling Booths, Ballot Boxes etc are delivered and removed. We will provide more information nearer the time.

In preparation for the election South Ayrshire Council replaced the old accessible ramp with a new galvanised metal equivalent. They will also replace the broken slab on the entrance path tomorrow.

The Fabric Committee have now met with three local firms of Architects and a Planning Consultant. Each were very good and brought different strengths and qualities to the table. They each submitted a Fee Proposal based roughly on the Royal Institute of British Architects Plan of Work, however, they were not exactly on a like for like basis. This required the Fabric Committee to analyse each proposal in an

effort to identify what was included and, most importantly, what was not included and therefore to be charged in addition to their basic fee proposal.

After much scrutiny, many meetings and discussions, it is the Fabric Committees recommendation that we appoint a local firm of architects based in Ayr to act on our behalf. In addition, it is also our recommendation that we appoint a local Planning Consultant as our specialist Planning advisor. Whilst this may be a slightly more expensive approach to take, we feel that it is the right one and a very important one given the proximity of the Hall to the Grade A Listed Church and Grade B Listed Church House. The appointed firm also impressed us with their willingness to engage with the Fabric Committee and, importantly, all parishioners. As part of their service they have agreed to undertake various meetings and parish wide engagement events. They also displayed a knowledge of different sources of grant funding which is likely to become critical to the project. It is still our aim to consider three possible scenarios, namely;

- o A cheap and cheerful refurbishment of the existing building
- o A more extensive refurbishment that removes the stage, creates more meeting rooms, storage and an enlarged kitchen
- o An extensive refurbishment of the existing building with a new extension out towards the Church

Whatever option is finally settled upon, it will be very much dependent on costs.

5.4. The Gardens

The cutting back and clearing out of trees and shrubs continues. Only a certain amount of the waste generated can remain on site for composting. We are grateful to Ann Porter for allowing us to use her trailer to take the substantial amount of waste generated to the re-cycling centre on Dukes Road. We estimate that more than 50 large 1 ton builders bags have been taken to the Waste Recycling Centre.

The Berberis plants that lined the main entrance to the Church have been removed and replaced with more than 100 Lavender plants. Thanks to Carol and Gerry Smith for looking after the Lavender plants over the winter. More than half of the Berberis plants have been re-planted around the gardens. However, some will be made available to parishioners either for free or for a small donation. Many thanks to the 9 or 10 volunteers who helped plant the Lavender.

A Tree Surgeon has very kindly given us several loads of bark chippings. These have been used as mulch in the two flower beds lining the driveway and to the front of the house. We plan to spread more of these chippings at various points throughout the gardens.

The expanded garden group recently met after mass for tea/coffee – thanks to Carol Smith for the home baking and Fr Willie for the very generous words of encouragement. We then had a walk around the gardens which resulted in certain duties and responsibilities being allocated. Additional garden tools and PPE were recently purchased. Thanks again to all of our existing and new gardeners. I am investigating if grants are available to replace the existing bike stands. I am advised that they are not suitable for modern bikes. Possible grant funding sources are being investigated.

6. **Any other relevant updates**

Finance Report - submitted in writing by Suzanne Maxton

- 6.1. 2025 annual final return has been approved by the Diocese. This will be published shortly on the parish website.
- 6.2. The Finance Committee is meeting on 23rd April to discuss a presentation on the results, similar to last year.

Golf Day - Gerard Smith

- 6.3. Planning has started for a golf day in September 2026

Questions

- 6.4. Would we be open to Hustings?
Format would be 2mins each and then a Q&A. Fr. Willie stressed it would need a good chairperson in order to go ahead. The question was then asked whether other churches would want to get involved and could we do it under the umbrella of Troon churches. Fr. Willie and DH to find out more.

7. **Minutes of previous meeting and matter arising** - Douglas Hutchison

- 7.1. Caroline Macdonald raised a concern from a PPC attendee on an inaccurate minute item. The section of the minute in question was read out, as was the concern. All agreed the minute was accurate at the time of the last meeting. The concern however, should now also be rested based on item 4.4 of this minute.

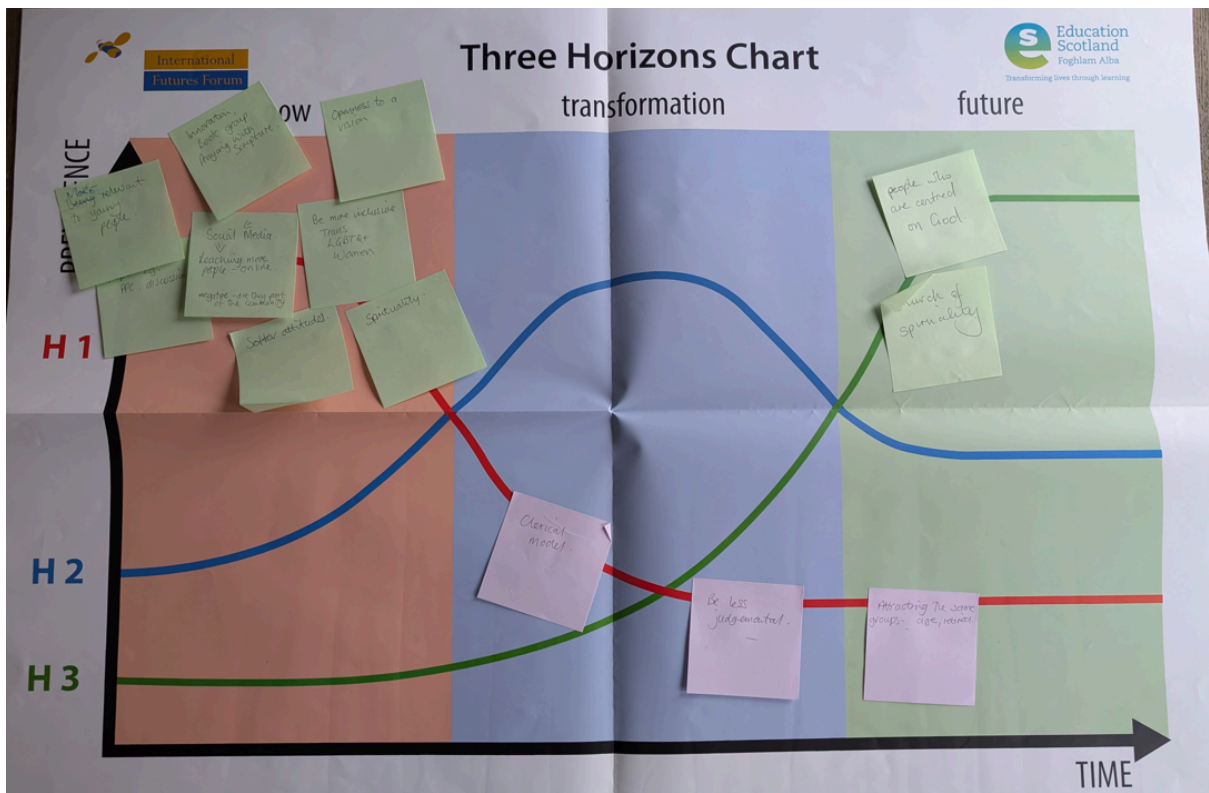
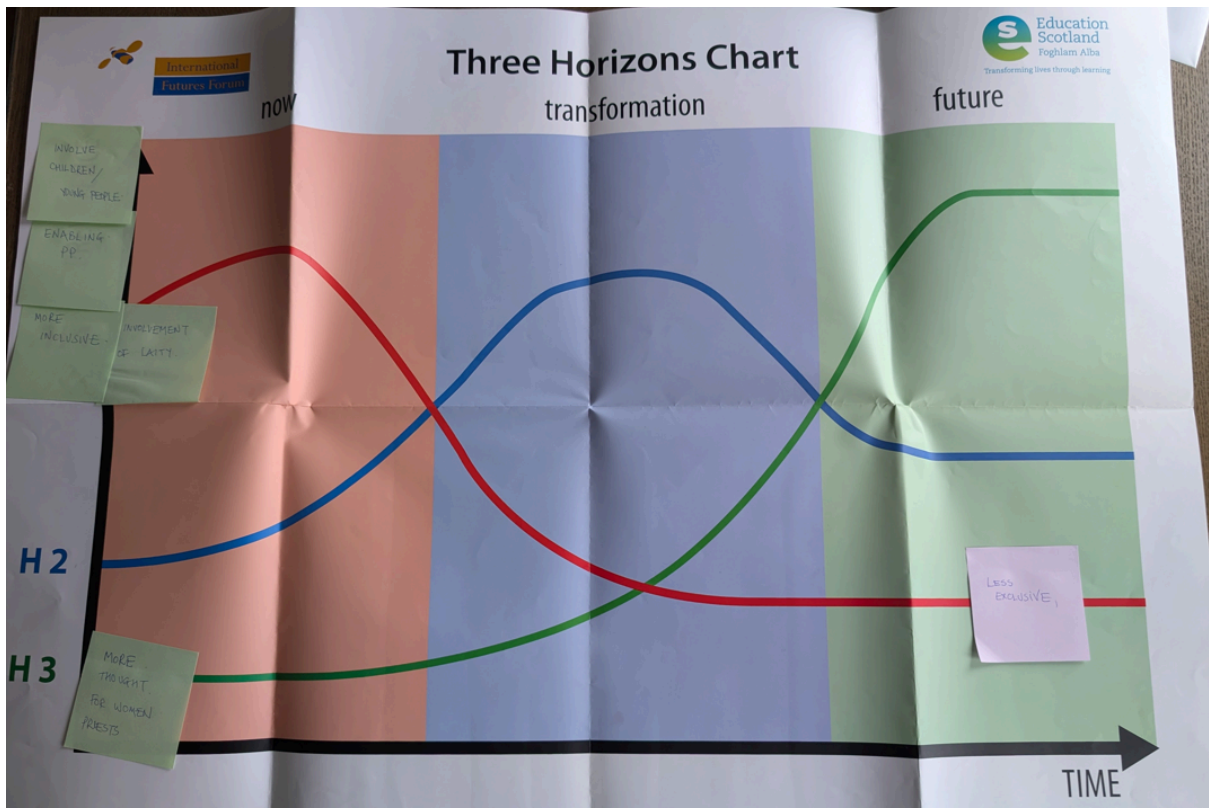
8. **AOB and Date of Next Meeting**

- Preliminary Date of Next Meeting: Monday 8th June 2026, 7pm
- Proposed PPC Meeting Dates for 2026
 - ~~Monday 26th January 2026~~
 - ~~Thursday 26th March 2026~~
 - Monday 08th June 2026
 - Thursday 27th August 2026
 - Monday 05th October 2026
 - Thursday 26th November 2026

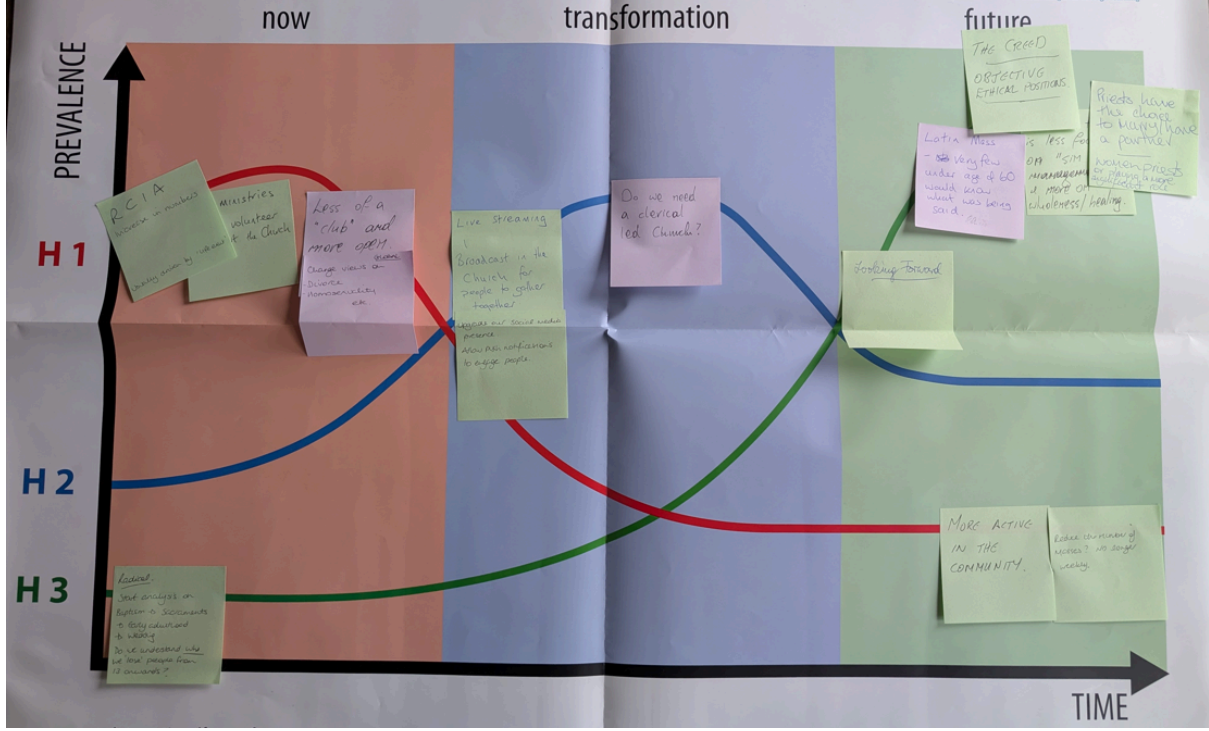
9. **Closing Prayer** - Fr. Willie

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

Appendix 1



Three Horizons Chart



Do more of	Do less of
More thought for women priests	Be less exclusive
More inclusive	Clerical model
More involvement of laity	Be less judgemental
Enabling PP	Attracting the same groups (aged/retired)
Involve children/young people	Less of a club and more open
More relevant to young people	Change views on divorce and homosexuality
Innovation - Book Group, Praying with Scripture	Do we need a clerical led church?
Openness to a vision	Latin Mass - very few under aged of 60 would know what was being said
Involving more people e.g. PPC Discussions	
Social Media - reaching more people online	
Being more inclusive (LGBTQIA+, women)	
Softer attitudes	
Spirituality	
People who are centered on God	
Church of Spirituality	
RCIA - increase in numbers, usually driven by life event	
Lay ministries - people volunteer to support the church	
Start analysis on patterns of progress for children - why do they fall away after sacraments	
Livestreaming - broadcast in the church for people to gather together	
Upgrade our social media presence - allow push notifications to engage people	
The Creed. Objective: Ethical Positions	
Priests have the choice to marry/have a partner. Women priests or women having a more significant role.	
A church that is less focused on 'sin management' and more wholeness and healing	
Look forward	
More active in the community	
Reduce the number of masses? No longer weekly	

