



PPC May 2026 Meeting Minutes

[OFFICIAL]

Present (25):

Fr. Willie Boyd, Douglas Hutchison, Gail Taylor, Caroline Macdonald, Morag Bogle, Eileen Brown, Lewis Callaghan, Myra Carroll, Sadie Chalmers, Chris Denny, Tom Gilligan, Kathleen Hutchison, Andrew Johnston, Lesley Mathieson, Janice Maxted, Suzanne Maxton, John McConville, Hans Pieper, Anne Porter, Claire Scott, Maria Sirera Vera, Gerard Smith, Carol Smith, Philippa Whitford, Elizabeth Williams.

Apologies (6):

Liz Denny, Fiona Hogg, Pat Lee, Celia Quinlivan, Rona McAvenna, Marion Paterson.

Preliminary Date of Next Meeting: Monday 24th August 2026, 7pm

1. **Opening Prayer and Reflection: Gospel of the Day** - Gail Taylor
2. **Welcome and Apologies** - Douglas Hutchison
 - 2.1. Special welcome to Lewis and Maria to their first PPC meeting. Lewis joined the church at Easter.
3. **Minutes and Matters Arising** - Douglas Hutchison
 - 3.1. Previous minutes confirmed as accurate and no matters arising.
4. **Consultation of Diocesan Structures** - Douglas Hutchison
 - 4.1. We have been asked to reflect on the diocesan structures. It is felt by Rome that there are too many dioceses in Scotland, England and Wales and it is expected that bishops are now being asked to cover more than one diocese. Should we be concerned about this? The task was to have a conversation with the Spirit to consider 5 key questions. There were no strong feelings other than, we are powerless in these decisions and so all agreed we should focus on what we can control - our own parish activities - and let other decisions be made by Rome.
5. **Past, Present and Future Parish Discussion** - Douglas Hutchison
 - 5.1. At the PPC Meeting in March, we were asked to think ahead to 2033, the next Holy Year, and ask ourselves how we can prepare for it so that parishes are thriving and sustainable. The issue of **where we have been** as a parish, **where we are now** and **what we might be** in the future was evaluated and discussed.
 - 5.2. We evaluated this using three different horizons.
Horizon 1 is the present parish and we considered questions such as what is working well? What is no longer fit for purpose and what needs to change? What happens at present that we need to sustain going into the future?
Horizon 2 is more difficult but essentially considering where the church and parish is adapting to changes but adapting in ways that may not be sustainable. Some ways of

adapting may keep the old system but do not help with the deeper change we need to be a church and parish fit for the challenges of the present time.

Horizon 3 is about the future parish/church- what will that look like in 2033 and beyond? There are elements of the future already emerging in the present time, but how do we sustain these and build them into a parish that will survive and thrive?

The key points from the last meetings discussion were:

Horizon 1	Horizon 2	Horizon 3
• Spirituality (eg Praying with Scripture; book group; Divine Mercy) • Involving more people (eg PPC) • Openness to a vision • RCIA • Lay ministries • Clear ethical positions & beliefs (live The Creed) • Look forward, look outwards	• Spirituality focusing on our personal relationship with God • Greater use of social media; involve more people online • Livestreaming liturgies • Softer attitudes • RCIA • Analysis of why and when young people give up on the church • Consideration of married priests • Consideration of women priests • Reduce the number of Masses • Less clerical in focus • Change views on divorced and remarried catholics	• More personally spiritual church • People who are centered on God • More inclusive church eg LGBTQI+ • Greater leadership by laity • Enabling by parish priest • Greater relevance to young people • Involve young people • A church that is less focused on 'sin management' and more on wholeness and healing • RCIA • More active in the community • Less of a 'club' and more open to 'solidarity with sinners'

The attendees were then split into groups and asked to review the above list, add anything new and start thinking about how we put this into action.

Horizon 1	Horizon 2	Horizon 3
• Sacraments	• Sacraments • Ecumenism • Education • Churches relationship with schools • Leverage on learnings from young adults joining the church in record numbers • Are we willing to change how we worship? • Laity are the church and we are called by God to further its mission • Don't assume we know what young people think - ask. • We are not a museum but a living body • Make church more open (eg open during Lent) • Community - think about peoples experience of loss and bereavement, Mass for sick, Communion to the sick, Mass for those who have died - creating a psychologically and emotionally healthy church • Communicating and celebrating feast days with the community • Think about cross-parish activity and involvement • Look at other religions that are thriving - what are they doing that we are not.	• Sacraments • Empowered lay ministries • Feminising the church • Ecumenism • Positive - rooted in early church

5.3. The next steps are to build on the above in preparation for the Parish Assembly.

6. Finance Update - Suzanne Maxton

- 6.1. Place on record my thanks to Morag and Myra in particular who kept everything running smoothly in my absence. Thanks too to John who attended the PPC on my behalf.
- 6.2. Results to 30 April
- 6.2.1. Just about breaking even financially in the year to 30 April. Grateful thanks to the generosity of parishioners: collection income up £6.7k (31%) on the same time last financial year. No PIF withdrawal required. Total expenditure down by £10k (23%) from prior year. This is in line with expectations as most major works on the church and the hall are now complete. Increase in diocesan levy reflects increased income. Building fund donations at £10.5k. PIF £568k at end of Q1 (inc. £4k interest from 1 Jan).
- 6.3. Other matters
- Leaflet for the parish to be produced summarising last year's figures and thanking them for generosity. Thanks to Colin Hogg who has put a QR code link on the live stream to the 'Give a Little' site for online giving. Morag and I attended a meeting for diocesan finance representatives on Tuesday 26th . A useful refresher on the management of parish finances. Pleased to say we comply with the vast majority of processes and procedures. But we will continue to be vigilant and make improvements where required. Contactless Machines: glitchy. Please let me know if you notice they are not working and I will endeavour to fix them as quickly as possible.

7. Fabric Report - John McConville

- 7.1. The Church
- Electricity meters in the Church, House and Hall were replaced with smart meters on 24 th April.
- It is expected that audio visual screens will be erected within the Church during the week beginning 22 nd June
- We have also asked the AV engineers to provide a quote to upgrade the PA system so that boom microphones can be installed in the organ loft.
- 7.2. The Church House
- The Parish records were moved to the house on Friday 24th April.
- The alarm company will be on site on Tuesday 2nd June to look at improving security around the front of the house. They will also re-set the alarm system. Alarm fobs will hopefully be issued to all key holders once the works are complete.
- 7.3. The Church Hall
- We had a very positive meeting with our Architect and Planning consultant on Wednesday 20 th May. Existing and proposed drawings can be seen on the wall.
- Two proposals are being considered;
- A refurbishment and upgrade of the existing structure
 - An extension together with a refurbishment and upgrade of the existing structure

Both proposals will include;

- A new entrance to the north-west incorporating an accessible ramp
- An enlarged kitchen
- More storage
- More meeting rooms
- Refurbished toilets
- Accessible toilet/wet room
- Improved insulation
- New heating system

A further meeting will be arranged to discuss the new proposed layouts.

A Parish Consultation Event will be held in the Hall on Saturday 20th and Sunday 21 st June. Further information on this will be included in the bulletin.

All relevant ideas and suggestions will be incorporated into a final set of drawings which will form part of an application for Planning Permission.

Grant funding is seen as a critical part of the process and thankfully Lesley Mathieson and Vivien Aitken (along with myself) have agreed to look into this matter.

7.4. The Gardens

A couple of our gardeners have had to take a step back; we therefore need more volunteers. If you are interested in helping, please speak to either Gerry Smith or myself. We will have a communal gardening afternoon soon with refreshments afterwards.

8. **Hall Update** - Elizabeth Williams

- 8.1. A message has been put in the bulletin notifying parishioners that the hall can be let and we will hold up to six fundraising coffee mornings throughout the year.
- 8.2. Hall had a deep clean from a local company before First Communion and is looking great. The cleaning company recommended a one-hour weekly clean at a cost of £40 per hour. We will ask for a volunteer to see if they can cover the clean in the first instance.
- 8.3. The hall recently held events after the First Communion celebration and Mrs. Willard's memorial service. Thank you to those who supported and provided home baking.
- 8.4. The snooker table was removed from the back room of the hall and replaced with two sofas.
- 8.5. Hall Committee asks that each church group gets in touch regarding hall needs so that a calendar can be created before considering additional bookings.
- 8.6. Discussion held on appropriate and competitive pricing for hall lets.
- 8.7. Hall let form provided for review by PPC.

9. **Upcoming Dates of Note** - Douglas Huctchison

- a. Mass for the sick - proposed 5th July 2026
- b. Event for Feast of the Assumption - proposed 16th August
- c. Servers Mass and those transitioning P1, P7, S6 - proposed 30th August 2026
- d. Parish Assembly - proposed 17th September 2026
- e. Golf Day - proposed 6th September 2026

10. **AOB** - Douglas Hutchison

- 10.1. Janice has requested help to clear the two areas designated for planting flowers to be used for the altar. Too much to dig up, weed, re-plant. The garden group will see if they can give it focus.

11. **Date of Next Meeting** - Caroline Macdonald

12.

- Preliminary Date of Next Meeting: Monday 24th August 20026, 7pm
- Proposed PPC Meeting Dates for 2026
 - ☒ ~~Monday 26th January 2026~~
 - ☒ ~~Thursday 26th March 2026~~
 - ☒ ~~Monday 08th June 2026~~ **changed to Thursday 28th May**
 - ☐ Thursday 27th August 2026 - **changed to Monday 24th August**
 - ☐ Monday 05th October 2026
 - ☐ Thursday 26th November 2026

13. **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.