

Summary of the Cluster Meeting (2)

Held in St. Margaret's Church Hall, Davidsons Mains - Saturday 17th September 10.30–12.00

Father Peter opened the meeting and asked for everyone to have a representative for each parish to move seats so we had 6 groups with 2 reps from each parish.

Meeting Number 2

The general feeling of the booklet is that it is assuming that we are already working as clusters which we are not and this has been fed back to the Archbishop.

PEOPLE

Q - How many parishioners are there from the households of the cluster parishes?

A - It was thought that in our clusters about 750 people attended weekend masses.

The diocese has a record of these numbers.

Q - How many are engaged in an active apostolate in the cluster parishes?

St. Margaret's, Davidsons Mains, 40

St. Kentigern's, 50

St. John's Corstorphine, 80

St. Mary's Ratho, 10

St. Margaret's, South Queensberry, 40

Q - What is the overall joint community size?

A – The Diocese has these numbers

PLANT

Q - How many buildings are shared between the cluster parishes?

St. Margaret's, Davidsons Mains - Church and Hall

St. Kentigern's – Church and Hall

St. John's Corstorphine – Church and Hall

St. Mary's Ratho – Church and Parish Room

St. Margaret's, South Queensberry – Church

Q – What is the condition of these buildings and what is their up keep costs?

A – All churches and halls are in good condition.

FINANCE

All parishes are very healthy and financially viable.

SCHOOLS INVOLVEMENT IN PARISH - Father Peter is Chaplain for St. David's primary school however the most percentage of children are Polish which brings issues as they go to St. Margaret Mary's church as they have a Polish mass. Father George and Father Peter work together on sacramental preparation, some children are not at Catholic schools but they come to St. Margaret's for their sacraments, these are mostly British children. Father George does the sacramental preparation for the Polish children.

St. Kentigern's and St. John's share chaplaincy with Fox Covert and St. Augustine's. St. John's has Saturday morning catechism.

St. Margaret's South Queensberry has a local primary school and the priest goes there every week.

St. Mary's, Ratho have a local school and make their sacraments through the parish.

A question was asked how Archbishop Leo was going to form a Cluster Working Group as at the back of the booklet, the answer was that he would probably take all the results from the 3 cluster meetings and he would form a further committee.

Father Peter asked each group to comment on what their feelings were for our future.

Group 1 – There should be more transparency, more information shared and made available to people so that they are clear what is available to Parishes.

Group 2 – Each parish is working hard at children's liturgy, ecumenical work, bible and structure groups, working with people, feeding the homeless, and these numbers look good as compared in the Catholic directory. If some parishes don't have a certain group for example a bereavement group then they can access another parish that has that group. There is a general shortage of youth groups; there is nothing available to children after sacramental preparations. However there is a lot of shared talent between all parishes.

Group 3 – St. Margaret's, South Queensberry don't think that it is negative as they don't have their own church hall as they have plenty of access to other local halls.

Group 4 – St. John's have a seminarian. St. John's is helpful with the youth.

Group 5 – Given the statistics for weekend masses we don't seem to record week day masses and therefore the availability of week day masses. The size of the presbyteries and the cost of up keeping them should have been included in the survey.

Group 6 – Some churches could make better use of their premises for example Ratho rent out the house and this brings in an income. Hire out halls and make better use of church assets. There is a drop in the number of children attending family mass on a Sunday and we need to re-engage in school communities, there should be more emphasis on parish and school.

Halls – St. Margaret's, St. John's and St. Kentigern's all have several groups, keep fit, choirs, nursery, tea/biscuits after week day masses to bring in incomes.

Someone mentioned that we should be trying to bring people to the church; we need to promote healthy parishes, need to be looking at opportunities for evangelisation.

When the schools closed due to faulty buildings, Father Peter thought about inviting them for an art exhibition that the children had done, to invite their families this would be a good way of opening involvement of some children who never come to church.

Someone mentioned that there should be a space at the bottom of the weekly newsletter to include statistics, what happened the previous week, this would build up information.

A suggestion was made to maybe have a combined polish and English mass; this was up to the Archbishop to address what parishes needed.

Overall the feel was very positive for the future.

From the last cluster meeting sharing more information would be good between the cluster parishes, Father Peter asked for a volunteer to do a cluster newsletter every 2 or 3 months and Mrs Valente very kindly volunteered to co-ordinate this.

St. Margaret's, Davidson Mains have the following lined up before Christmas

8th October – Macmillan brunch to raise money, from 11 till 1pm, soup, rolls, home baking

4th November – Quiz night to raise funds to feed Bethany homeless, £5 per ticket

12th November – Parish Christmas Fare, from 12 till 3pm

1st, 2nd, 3rd December – Rough Cast Productions Pantomime – evening shows with a Saturday matinee. Rough Cast are looking for male volunteers to perform in their show. Rehearsals are just starting.

Brass Band – date to be decided

Passion play rehearsals – looking for cast members for Ecumenical Christian event in Princes Street Gardens.

Final Prayer

Next Meeting Saturday 12th November in St. John's Hall at 10.30