

PARISH OF ST ANTHONY AND ST MARK – PARISH FABRIC COMMITTEE
MEETING 25 APRIL 2024 (Feast of St Mark) – ST ANTHONY’S PARISH HOUSE
MINUTES

1. Opening Prayer

Fr Reilly opened the meeting with a prayer.

2. Apologies: no formal apologies received

3. Acceptance of minutes. The minutes of 26/3/24 meeting were accepted as an accurate record.

4. Matters arising from minutes

The current maintenance and compliance grid has been passed to IS who will include in his overall compliance and maintenance review.

5. Updates on progress

The following were noted as completed:

a) *insulation of St Mark’s church roof space.* It is the flat roof space at the apex of the roof which has been insulated, as lots of heat was being lost through this area, which was almost open to the sky.

b) *removal of benches and carpeting of St Anthony’s church side chapel.* The benches are currently being stored by SK. The group commented favourably on the renovation. It was noted how many current uses (Alpha, SVDP) and potential uses (visits by St Anthony’s primary classes, winter chapel, Peru joint prayer service, opening the chapel during the day for prayer) are made possible by this renovation. It was noted that hangings could be used at different times of the year to highlight e.g. liturgical seasons or sacraments.

The following pending works were discussed:

a) *Damp issues in St Mark’s church: church and choir loft.* Work is in progress to ventilate the choir loft (completed) and wash the walls. Vents will be cut soon in the affected area of the church to allow the space to dry out.

b) *Repair to storm damage at St Anthony’s tower roof.* Ongoing.

c) *Standing rainwater at the Woodend Rd side of the Church:* the culvert not working. Ongoing.

d) *Heating at St Mark’s church:* installation of *de-stratification fans.* Fr Stephen reported on his discussion with Paul Donnachie from Airius who visited the church on Thursday to calculate the area of the church. The fans circulate the air in order to avoid the heat congregating up high in the building, therefore equalising the temperature throughout the building. This technology is used

widely around the world in e.g. airports, factories, offices and supermarkets and the testimonies are impressive.

The group noted the issues of noise and of ongoing maintenance, and SK undertook to call Paul to raise these issues.

The following longer-term projects were discussed:

a) *Parking extension at St Mark's*. It was decided that this project isn't a current priority, and it should be replaced in the list of priorities by *secondary glazing* in St Mark's church, given the ongoing issues with heating and the large bills incurred over the winter. Some discussion was also undertaken regarding secondary glazing for St Anthony's church, although this isn't as much of a priority given the smaller glazed surface. SK will take this forward with Brian Haughey.

b) *Disabled access to St Marks' church*. This remains a priority. SK will take this forward with Brian Haughey.

It was noted that with the above projects completed, the large capital expenditures required to bring the churches and halls up to standard will have been completed, allowing the parish to set aside an annual budget from ordinary income to cover smaller works without having to borrow money.

c) *Carpeting of St Mark's church and kneeler underside repair* St Mark's church. These remain an aspiration, and it was noted that cosmetic works such as this will not need to be completed immediately but can be part of a rolling programme of smaller-scale improvements to the fabric.

6. Maintenance and compliance schedule

IS gave a comprehensive overview of the evolving strategy to itemise and record all compliance issues affecting our buildings (fire, health and safety, disability, utilities, water safety etc), and to plan a compliance schedule complete with regular checks, recording, assigning responsibility and training. He has begun to draw up a detailed spreadsheet which will detail all of the above with a scale of urgency.

IS' work was received very favourably and is likely to be a major focus of the committee's work going forward. The spreadsheet should be largely populated by the time of the next meeting, and IS will shortly undertake an audit of all buildings in order to achieve this aim.

There was some discussion around the level of compliance required in advance of and during the time when St Anthony's house is inhabited once again, and we await an update from the diocese regarding timescales etc.

7. AOCB. JW noted that there are two potholes at the entrance gate of St Anthony's. SK undertook to buy some bags of coal tar and to fill the holes.

8. Date and time of next meeting. Thursday 13th June, 6pm, St Anthony's parish house.