

St. Aidan's Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of Meeting held 13th June 2023, 7pm at Our Lady's Church

- 1. In attendance:** David Curtis (DC), Sue Finch (SF), John Hannacher (JH), Fr. Roy Karakkattu (Fr. Roy), Peter Kirk (PK), Finbarr O'Donoghue (FOD), Debbie Rogers (DR), Vince Smith (VS)

Apologies: Vivianne Gattoc (VG), Deirdre Lay (DL), Anne Parsons (AP)

- 2. Prayer & Welcome:** John welcomed everyone, and the meeting commenced with a prayer from Fr. Roy.
- 3. The Minutes of the last meeting,** held 20th March 2023, were approved unanimously, having been proposed by PK and seconded by VS.
- 4. Ministry reports and discussion as necessary.**

4.1 Finance – Sue Finch

Finance report below.

4.2 Liturgy – Vince Smith

Michelle Vurnier, the new musician, is a great addition to the choir along with Sarah on keyboard.

The recent First Holy Communion service was aided by Our Lady's School who did a wonderful job, steered by Ingrid Gardner. Fr. Roy asked Vince to keep in touch with Ingrid going forward as the more notice they have the more children can be involved.

The choir will be rehearsing on 1st July and then every month. From July, there will be a new 'Gloria' which the choir will be playing before mass so the congregation can get used to hearing it.

DC expressed his thanks to Christina, VC's daughter, for her wonderful singing.

4.3 Formation

The FHC programme has been completed for this year.

Fr. Roy informed that the Confirmation programme is going ahead this year. The children will also be invited from Our Lady's, St. Columba's and Immaculate Heart of Mary parishes. St. Joseph's have large numbers so they will be running their own programme. The Catechists from the other parishes are to be involved too so that there is a team working with Brian Gallagher. The first meeting will be held on 23rd September 2023.

The Eucharistic Ministers Training Session is being held on Friday 16th June at Our Lady's and the Readers Training Session on Thursday 22nd June at St. Aidan's. JH mentioned that a few people are unable to attend the Reader session and asked whether it would be possible to hold another session and for the EMs as well?

There was also discussion regarding people who want to continue to dip the host into the Precious Blood, (previously allowed at St Aidan's) and Fr. Roy agreed that

as there is no Liturgical reason this should be allowed. Care must be taken to avoid spillages.

DC informed that Suzette Harris has stepped down from the Baptism preparations. Julie Stewart is to take over and Suzette is handing over to her. Thanks were expressed to Suzette for her assistance.

Fr. Roy mentioned that Simone Kunzig has asked for another Catechist for the FHC preparations and Fr. Roy has asked a choir member if she would be interested.

4.4 Social & Cultural – Deirdre Lay

Update below

JH asked for a thank you to be recorded to DC and Jane Curtis and everyone who helped with the organisation of the successful quiz night on 19th May. A total of £2521 was raised for parish funds.

A Volunteer Social is to be held on 16th July, 1pm. The AGM will precede it. DL will be sending invitations.

Feast of St Aidan BBQ and Walk - 27th August. DL has suggested £10 per person with school age children going free. This was agreed.

4.5 Maintenance – Finbarr O'Donoghue

Update below

FOD thanked DL for finding a carpenter and the work done in various parts of the church has been very good. The work required to the window cracks is being done. The window winders work is outstanding and proving difficult to find someone to do the work. FOD and JH are looking into this.

A revised quote is to be obtained for the painting of the white lines. They will be repainted as they are with spaces designated for 'Priest' and 'Deacon'. FOD gave a reminder about the extra lines to keep the cars away from the grills.

4.6 Ecumenical – Vivianne Gattoc

Fr. Roy attended the recent meeting.

The Walk of Witness will be held again on Good Friday 2024.

A lunch has been suggested at Restore Hope - a picnic on a Sunday afternoon probably in early September.

4.7 Youth

Shadia has resigned and thanks were expressed for her assistance in this important area.

DC said the youth had been encouraged to get together on the back of the Altar Servers' meeting held on 31st March. There have been two sessions since focusing on developing the group and their ideas on social responsibility and how they can

make a difference. The recent meeting held at Restore Hope was a very good session with the Leader (Nate Sence) who explained the ethos of Restore Hope and the activities available. Around 14 children attended. DC was approached by Julie Stewart to include a group of Ukrainians – mothers and children who also came along and DC expressed the desire to involve and help fund them going forward.

DC said he would like to continue with Restore Hope's support of Youth activities. This is likely to require some financial investment which was generally supported by the meeting.

Riding for the disabled – it was also suggested for the children to get involved with helping with this.

Also, to encourage the children to be involved in fundraising too.

Fr. Roy mentioned about bringing back the Youth Mass on Saturday evening, a monthly mass. VC to speak with Sarah.

4.8 Pastoral Area Council – Peter Kirk

Preparations are going ahead for the Diocesan Assembly on 15th July and we have 4 representatives from SA – Julie Stewart, Peter Kirk, Declan Brosnan and Joanna Hale with Bridget Harvey and Margaret van Duyvenbode from Our Lady's.

5. Any Other Business

Fr. Roy informed that a building contractor from London has now been approved for the work to the Presbytery. It was the lowest quote which has been accepted and they are going to meet with Fr. Roy to measure up.

The garage still needs to be cleared and some items from the house need to be cleared too.

JH confirmed that the AGM is on 16th July. He asked if everyone was happy to continue with their roles on the Parish Pastoral Council. All agreed that they were.

AGM Action: JH requested all to send him a report on their ministry by the end of this month for inclusion in the Chairman's report. He asked if DC would submit a report on Youth.

JH reported that since November, 220 kilos of food has been collected for the Food Bank from St. Aidan's! The Food Bank are very grateful and have sent a letter/certificate which is in the Narthex. JH to do a note for the Newsletter.

6. Next Meeting Dates

Sunday 16th July 2023 (**AGM**)
Tuesday 26th September 2023
Monday 4th December 2023

7. Fr. Roy closed the meeting with a prayer.

FINANCE REPORT – Sue Finch

Finance Report for the PPC Meeting 13.06.23

Finance

- i **Parish Returns Training Session at St Teresa's Beaconsfield on 10th May:** SF attended a training session led by Majella Meehan and Leigh Ann Gamble from the Diocese for those involved in completing the parish returns to the diocese. Majella spoke generally about the returns, and then introduced the new spreadsheet that we are expected to use this year, though we are still waiting to receive it!
- ii **The cost centre analysis** from Q4 shows that the money held in our deposit account at RCDN has increased from **£151,246 at the beginning of the financial year to £167,440 showing an increase of £16,194 for the year.**
- iii **Gift Aid** claimed for the year was £12,991.
Standing orders for the year amounted to £41,221 which were Gift Aided and a further £240 without gift aid.
- iv **Secretarial Cost:** It was decided that St Aidan's should be paying for 8 of the 12 hours per week that the secretary works. (the cost of the secretary had been shared equally between the two parishes) This has meant that £859 has been taken from our account by the dioceses to recompense Our Lady's.
- v **Rent contribution:** Fr Ken's rental contribution and contribution to the utility bills amounted to £7,000 per year. This will have an impact and reduce the 2023.24 income.
- vi **Contactless Payments:** Fr. Roy showed us the machine now in use at Our Lady's and how it recorded payments. We will look to **results** from Our Lady's to see how beneficial it is before making a decision to install one at St Aidan's. St Aidan's has a high percentage of parishioners who give by Standing Order which provides a solid regular stream of income.
- vii **Financial Statement:** This has been produced by SF for the AGM and is awaiting approval from Philip Patten (the accountant on the Finance Committee).

Sue Finch

Social & Cultural Update

Coffee mornings are ongoing and well attended. Next Parish Lunch is this coming Sunday 18th June 1pm.

This year the volunteers social will be held following the AGM on 16th July. As last year this will include all volunteers from both St Aidan's and Our Lady's. I will be sending out invitations during the next couple of weeks.

Feast of St Aidan will be celebrated on 27th August. Mass followed by walk departing St Aidan's at 2pm and a BBQ from 4pm. Cost last year was £10 per person, children school age and under free.

The Quiz night held recently on 19th May was a great success raising an amazing £2521.00. Our thanks to Deacon David and his wife Jane for providing all the food and running the quiz. Many thanks to the Social and Cultural team for all their work on the night, from setting up the hall and clearing away and the cooking and serving of the food.

Mass continues to be Live Streamed weekly at one of our week-end Masses.

Maintenance Update

Security cameras are in operation 24/7 and are being monitored regularly. We are installing one more camera date to be agreed with Maz. This will cover the hall and main gate.

We have fitted emergency push bars on the fire exit door by the choir.

Work has been undertaken in the church toilet to repair damage caused by a leak in the roof.

A new weatherboard has been fitted to the Sacristy door to prevent ingress of water.

Coat stand has been placed in the choir area.

Hymn board is now on the wall in the choir area.

New Yale lock is being fitted to the Sacristy door on 20th June. New keys will be issued to key holders shortly after. The door between the house and the sacristy is now locked.

Re-painting of the lines in the car park is planned for this year.