

St. Aidan's Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of Meeting held 20th March, 2023 7pm at Our Lady's Church

- 1. In attendance:** David Curtis, Sue Finch, John Hannacher, Vince Smith, Vivianne Gattoc, Peter Kirk, Fr. Roy Karakkattu, Deirdre Lay

Apologies: Shadia Anderson, Anne Parsons, Finbarr O'Donoghue, Debbie Rogers

- 1. Prayer & Welcome:** John welcomed everyone and the meeting commenced with a prayer from Fr. Roy.
- 2. The Minutes** of the last meeting, held 13th December 2023, were approved unanimously, having been proposed by Peter Kirk and seconded by Vince Smith, with the following amendment:

4.4 Social and Cultural – DL confirmed that £420, the amount raised so far, had been paid into the Parish account.

4. Ministry reports and discussion as necessary.

4.1 Finance – Sue Finch

Finance report below.

4.2 Liturgy – Vince Smith

Choir members are increasing in number. New musician Michelle Vurnier. Michelle can play flute, guitar and keyboard, she has 2 teenage children who are also musicians. The plan is for the Easter masses to be the same as for last year. Christina will sing the Exultet on Holy Saturday and we will be joined by the Polish Community.

Deirdre to order a coat stand for the choir.

4.3 Formation

Confirmation will take place in 2024.

4.4 Social & Cultural – Deirdre Lay

Profit from Christmas Draw £1045.00.

Next parish lunch will be 23rd April.

Fundraising – new suggested date for Quiz Night Friday 19th May. Deirdre will contact Polish Club for use of kitchen and hall from 4pm.

Volunteer Social - 16th July 1pm.

Feast of St Aidan BBQ and Walk - 27th August.

4.5 Maintenance – Finbarr O'Donoghue

Security cameras have now been installed and are working 24/7. Fr Roy, John Hannacher and Deirdre Lay are monitoring alerts on their mobiles. Debbie, when in, via the computer in the office at both St Aidan's and Our Lady's. Doorbell alerts will be answered. Fr Roy passed on thanks to Deirdre for ordering and set up of the cameras.

Jobs outstanding but in hand – Weatherboard on Sacristy Door, Hymn Board in choir area, emergency exit bar on door near choir, secure carpet on step from altar, paper towel dispenser and toilet paper holder to be fitted in toilet in the church. Deirdre knows of a suitable carpenter who currently does not have transport.

New quote for painting of white lines to be obtained by Deirdre and carried out in better weather.

4.6 Ecumenical – Vivianne Gattoc

Womens World Day of Prayer on 3rd March was well attended.

Walk of Witness on Good Friday – meet 10am at St George's, walk to green in Little Chalfont, short service and return to St. Gorges for refreshments.

Fr Roy advised that Restore Hope has facilities that we might like to use and that we should consider our options.

Fr Roy will attend the next meeting to be held in St. Georges Church at 2pm on Tuesday 18th April.

4.7 Youth – Shadia Anderson

Flame 2023 was a good event. Only a small number of us from St Aidan's were able to attend but it was lovely to team up with the parishes from IHM, St Joseph's and St Columbas. We should continue to have more joint events in the future.

Shadia has contacted Cafod and in the process of setting up a Live Simply group. This includes getting involved in Cafod's events and sharing ideas about how we can live sustainably and conscientiously in the world.

Shadia had suggested monthly Film Nights as a way of encouraging our Youth back. Discussion of youth activities followed – the challenge is to engage those young people who attend Mass and encourage them to attend events.

Deacon David said he was planning a training for the Altar Servers on Friday 31st March to begin with Pizza in the hall. All current Altar Servers will be invited along with this years FHC children in the hope that potential Altar servers will come forward and join the training. Deacon David will ask Debbie to send out the invites. Deacon David is looking for people to help him and John will ask Shadia if she can join.

4.8 Pastoral Area Council – Peter Kirk

Pastoral Area Report attached and will be put on our website. List of parishes and contact will be put on the wall at the back of the church.

Following on from the Synod request that each parish identify a One Step Challenge it was agreed that we would make Engagement of Youth as our challenge.

The diocese have asked for 4 representatives from each of the pastoral areas to participate at the Diocesan Assembly on 15th July 2023.

5. Any Other Business

Fr Roy advised that a quote for the refurbishment of the Presbytery had been received by the diocese. We are now looking for additional quotes from local contractors to be submitted prior to being presented to the Board of Trustees for consideration and approval. Fr Roy asked to pass on thanks to Jon Lay for his help in the clearing of the Presbytery.

Fr Roy has asked that from this coming week-end we go back to handshake for the sign of peace. This will be led from the Altar. Fr Roy and Deacon David will come down with the Altar Servers and shake the hand of the first person in each row. It is not compulsory for all to shake hands. Please Respect the individual if they decline to do so.

From Maundy Thursday the Chalice will be offered. Intinction is not to be encouraged, although it was acknowledged that EM's cannot stop people. Training should be provided to ensure Chalices are adequately cleaned between communicants.

We will going forward need two Eucharistic ministers on a regular basis.

6. Next Meeting Dates

Tuesday 13th June 2023

Tuesday 26th September 2023

AGM Sunday 16th July 2023

Monday 4th December 2023

7. Fr Roy closed the meeting with a prayer

FINANCE REPORT – Sue Finch 20.03.23

The Finance committee met on 21st February 2023

Parish Finances

- i **The cost centre analysis:** Figures from Q3 show that the money held in our deposit account at RCDN has increased from Q2 of £165,960 to **£168,315**. This is a smaller increase than from Q1-Q2 and can be accounted for by the increase of utility bills, the gardening costs for leaf clearing and the loss of rent after Fr Ken's death.
- ii **Contactless Payments:** The Finance committee decided that St Aidan's should wait to see the outcome of the installation at Our Lady's Parish before deciding.
- iii **Future of the Presbytery.** David Wilson, the Diocesan Surveyor and Michelle Tysoe, the Diocesan Property Manager have been to St Aidan's to assess the condition of the presbytery and David and Michelle were in no doubt that it needed complete refurbishment and they would be submitting this assessment to the trustees. Further to their visit, Colin Clark the contractor who refurbished the Church in 2013 came to St Aidan's on 9th March to as he had been asked to quote for the refurbishment.

It should be noted that the heating system to the presbytery which also provides heating for the Office and Sacristy has completely broken down and there is no heat in these places now.

- iv **Budget:** Sue worked with Peter Kirk, John Hannacher and Philip Patten to produce and submit a budget for 2023.24 to the diocese.
- v **Property Maintenance:** Deirdre Lay /Finbarr to report
 - Security Lights
 - Car Park Marking
 - Weather board on Sacristy door
 - Bar on the Fire Exit door by the Choir
 - Etc
- vi **Fundraising:** Deirdre Lay to report
- vii **Offertory Envelopes for 2023.24:** These have now been received and will be made available by Saturday 25th March