

## **St. Aidan's Parish Pastoral Council**

### **Minutes of Meeting held 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2023 7pm at Our Lady's Church**

**In attendance:** Sue Finch, John Hannacher, Vivianne Gattoc, Fr. Roy Karakkattu, Deirdre Lay

**Apologies:** Vince Smith, David Curtis, Finbarr O'Donoghue, Peter Kirk, 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 13<sup>th</sup> June 2023, were approved unanimously, having been proposed by Susan Finch and seconded by Vivianne Gattoc.
3. **4. Ministry reports and discussion as necessary.**

#### **4.1 Finance – Sue Finch**

We do not have any update from the Diocese at the present time.

Presbytery refurbishment is work in progress. Completion should be before year end.

The new photocopier is now in place at St. Aidan's this was funded from restricted.

Car park line painting has been completed and paid for.

#### **4.2 Liturgy – Vince Smith**

John gave an update from Vince in his absence.

The new Gloria is going well. We will be using the Shutte version once a month. We have a few new choir members and musicians.

#### **4.3 Formation**

Confirmation will take place on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2024. Classes are taking place in the Parish Hall.

First Holy Communion will be on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at Our Lady's. St Aidan's has 8 candidates.

#### **4.4 Social & Cultural – Deirdre Lay**

Successful volunteer social on 16<sup>th</sup> July. 105 replied and 130 attended.

Feast of St Aidan Celebration on 27<sup>th</sup> August. 95 attended, of which 13 were children and 38 took part in the walk. Income was £405. Expenses £415.04. Fundraising for the Youth Group totalled £436.00. Plan is to hold this next year on 8<sup>th</sup> September. It was also agreed to reverse the walk as the steepest climb is Chenies so that would be better as a descent.

We provided a hot lunch for the Bishop and Fr Andrew on 24<sup>th</sup> September. This was served in the office as the Bishop had to be in Luton by 2pm.

#### **4.5 Maintenance – Finbarr O’Donoghue**

Car park lines have been re-painted and there are now three designated parking places. Priest, Clergy and Deacon. There is also double yellow lines along the side of the church.

The baby change table in the disabled toilet in the hall needs to be checked and either repaired or replaced.

It was agreed that a paper towel and toilet paper dispenser would be fitted in the toilet in the church.

#### **4.6 Ecumenical – Vivianne Gattoc**

Remembrance Sunday service on the green in Little Chalfont will be on 12<sup>th</sup> November at 10.45am.

Carols on the Green in Little Chalfont will be Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December.

It was suggested that there was an ecumenical fundraiser for a chosen charity and that each church would hold one event a year. This will start with the Methodist Church and the chosen charity is Restore Hope.

#### **4.7 Youth – David Curtis**

Our next meeting is Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September in the Parish Hall.

#### **4.8 Pastoral Area Council – Peter Kirk**

The Pastoral Area has met once since the Diocesan Assembly and the focus at that meeting was very much concerned with reflections on the Assembly. We await actions following the get-together, the first of which is likely to be the formation of the **Diocesan Pastoral Council**, the first meeting of which is scheduled for some time next month.

Bishop David met with the Pastoral Area clergy and afterwards, in an informal session, with both clerical and lay members of the Pastoral Area. These meetings were purposely set to lead into the series of visitations by the Bishop to parishes in the Pastoral Area. In readiness for these visits it was mentioned that the Bishop would like to hear from parishes and parishioners on **whatever** they wanted to raise but, to provide some focus, parishes are encouraged to tell him of, say, three things to celebrate in the parish and three challenges that the parish faces.

## **5. Any Other Business**

**Memorial Garden** – it was agreed that we would provide a display cabinet which would contain the names of those whose ashes have already been either scattered or buried in the memorial garden. Specific locations would not be displayed. This would be kept updated. The display cabinet would be located by the memorial garden. Deirdre will look into viable options.

It was agreed that the ashes only would be buried or scattered. Urns or caskets were no longer to be used.

**Concrete used in church construction** – there was a question asked as to the possibility that RAAC was used. Fr Roy advised that this would be the responsibility of the diocese and should therefore be something that they would need to identify.

**Bishop David's Visit on 24<sup>th</sup> September** – Fr Roy said that the Bishop David's visit went well. There was disappointment that too little time had been allocated for the Bishop David to interact with the parishioners. It was felt that trying to combine both parishes in one visit was not very practical.

## **6. Next Meeting Dates**

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023

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