

St. Aidan's Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of Meeting held 27th September 2022, 7pm at Our Lady's Church

- 1. In attendance:** Shadia Anderson, David Curtis, Sue Finch, John Hannacher, Fr. Roy Karakkattu, Deirdre Lay, Peter Kirk

Apologies: Vivianne Gattoc, Anne Parsons, Vince Smith, Finbarr O'Donoghue

- 2. Prayer & Welcome:** John welcomed everyone and the meeting commenced with a prayer from Fr. Roy.
- 3. The Minutes** of the last meeting, held 13th June 2022, were approved with the following amendments:

4.7 Youth Shadia Anderson – Shadia informed that she had been very involved in the team teaching and the programme for confirmation.

Remove the reference to the cheese and wine evening for the parents.

- 4. Ministry reports and discussion as necessary.**

4.1 Finance – Sue Finch

Finance report attached.

4.2 Liturgy – Vince Smith

John Hannacher updated the meeting that James has agreed to play organ 2 Sundays a month.

4.3 Formation – Brian Gallagher

Brian has stood down from the Parish Council, however he will continue to play an active role in the Confirmation programme.

John thanked Brian on behalf of the parish for his many years on the Parish Council and we are all happy that he will continue to have an active part in Formation going forward.

First Holy Communion 2023 is to be on Saturday 6th May at 12noon. There will be two confessions for all participants. The first as a practice and then the second prior to the children making their FHC. Simone will lead the classes and Deacon David will take the sessions with the parents.

Due to the numbers, there will be two FHC at Our Lady's the first will be held on 21st May the second is yet to be confirmed.

Children's Liturgy will be once a month on the first Sunday of each month starting 4th September. Carolyn O'Brien will be the Catechist.

4.4 Social & Cultural – Deirdre Lay

We have held two successful social functions since our last meeting the Volunteers Social held on 7th August, all volunteers from both St Aidan's and Our Lady's were invited and we had a total of 83 in attendance.

The walk followed by BBQ as a celebration of the Feast of St Aidan had 58 people attending and raising a total of £480 after expenses which was paid into the parish account.

We will be holding a grand draw. Tickets will be available from the beginning of November and the draw will take place on the 4th Sunday of Advent 18th December.

Deirdre will enquire with the Polish Club for the possibility of using their premises for a Christmas Fayre on Saturday 2nd November. **NB: post meeting update the Polish Club is not available for our use on that week-end so we have made the decision to go with the Grand Draw only, for this year.**

John Hannacher passed on a thank you to Deirdre and her team for the work they have done.

4.5 Maintenance – Finbarr O'Donoghue

John Hannacher updated the meeting on behalf of Finbarr.

Progress on security cameras around St Aidans has been made, locations agreed and Deirdre will be purchasing the cameras.

Kerb repair: has now been completed.

The fascia repair has been completed.

4.6 Ecumenical – Vivianne Gattoc

John Hannacher updated the meeting on behalf of Vivianne.

Dates for the diary.

13th November – Remembrance Sunday on the green in Little Chalfont starting at 10.45 am

10th December – Carols on the Green in Little Chalfont at 10.30am

4.7 Youth – Shadia Anderson

There are two events that we will be encouraging our youth to attend.

Flame 2023 – 4th March at the OVO Arena Wembley. Hosted by the Catholic Youth

Ministry foundation. It is the largest Catholic gathering of young people in England and Wales. Information will go on our website and Sadia will contact all last year confirmation group parents encouraging their children to attend.

World Youth Day 2023 – 1st-6th August in Lisbon. Information will go on our website and Shadia will be encouraging our youth to participate.

4.8 Pastoral Area Council – Peter Kirk

The pastoral area has not held a meeting since January. Fr. Roy confirmed he has regular Clergy Meetings.

5. Any Other Business

Parish Registration/Census – everyone in both churches will be asked to fill in a new registration form. This will enable us to identify how many active parishioners we have post COVID and update our records.

Heating – in both hall and church is to be checked for timings. Deirdre will do this and Shadia will ask Winston if he would be able to help particularly with the hall if needed.

Chiltern Foodbank – there will be an appeal in both churches over the week-end 15/16 October. John Hannacher will take food collected at St Aidan's to the food bank each week.

Healing Service - there will be a service at our Lady's on Sunday 16th October 2.30-5pm. If successful Fr Roy will arrange a future service to be held at St Aidan's

6. Next Meeting Dates

Monday 5th December 2022

Tuesday 7th March 2023

Tuesday 13th June 2023

Tuesday 26th September 2023

Monday 4th December 2023

7. Fr Roy closed the meeting with a prayer.

ST AIDAN'S PARISH CHURCH, LITTLE CHALFONT, BUCKS

PPC Meeting at Our Lady's presbytery Chesham Bois

27th September 2022 at 7pm

Finance Report

Parish Finances for Q1

The cost centre analysis from Q1 shows that the money held in our deposit account at Northampton has increased from £151,246 to £154,429 which was encouraging. RCDN are now charging the local parish accounts for the diocesan levies, payroll costs and insurance.

The GAD Appeal undertaken in March shows a rise in income from SOs.

£9,344 was received in Q1 April-June 2022 from SOs, the Q4 January-March 2022 was £8,074

Offertory income has increased to £4,414 from the Q4 January-March 2022 figure of £3,670.

Both these figures are encouraging but may reflect a return to church rather than a true increase in Offertory.

The Jubilee Pension fund. As we do not have a resident priest we need to check with RCDN to see if we should still be paying into the fund. OL does not have to pay. SF has sought clarification with RCDN but has not had a response.

We appear to be picking up Dcn John Crowhaw and Dcn Gerrard Felix's retreat costs. Neither are ministering at St Aidan's. SF has emailed the Finance Office but has not had a response.

Budget: A budget for 2022.23 was submitted to the Finance Department at RCDN. However the Diocese failed to pick it up as they were using their old email rather than the one Neil Roseman told us to use from January 2022.

Actual figures for Q1 were compared with budget figures by the Finance committee.

Diocesan Meeting of Chairs of Finance Committees at Northampton 3rd August 2022

The presentation was given by Tony McNiff (TM) the Chief Operating Officer in the Diocesan Finance Office. St Aidan's was represented by SF and PK. TM was supported by two other representatives from that office.

TM reminded us of Bishop David's Vision, focusing on Mission and Communion, the latter stressing the need for us all to work together.

Opening the finance side of the meeting, the TM mentioned that the position he inherited was worse than anything he had previously encountered

There was then a Recap on the previous Diocesan Finance meeting, namely that, as a Diocese, we are spending more than we receive with the result that there is a need to:-

- increase Income and/or reduce Costs, - overcome the "suspicions" of Parish Priests and Parishes, - recognize that Central Costs are on the rise due to increasing levels of compliance and

regulations'

- appeal to parishioners to give more – relatively few parishes have made the appeal upon the lines followed by St Aidan's in March of this year.

N.B. 85% of Parishes have Credit Balances, amounting to a total of £12m and 15% have Debit Balances amounting to a total of (£3m).

In conclusion

All expenditure in excess of £2k must be approved;

Subject to the agreement of all parties, profits on sale of buildings will be used to repay Diocesan debt and fund central costs.

Restricted Funds can be utilized for appropriate projects, providing the parish concerned has bought into the overall Diocesan approach.

It is critical that parishes, via the Chair of Finance Committees, accept the parlous state of Diocesan finances and that we all work together to put matters right.

Sue Finch