

St. Aidan's Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of Meeting held 5th December 2022, 7pm at Our Lady's Church

- 1. In attendance:** David Curtis (DC), Sue Finch (SF), Vivianne Gattoc (VG), John Hannacher (JH) Chair, Fr. Roy Karakkattu (Fr. Roy), Peter Kirk (PK), Deirdre Lay (DL), Finbarr O'Donoghue (FO), Debbie Rogers (DR), Vince Smith (VS)

Apologies: Shadia Anderson (SA) and Anne Parsons (AP)

JH said that he had talked to Anne Parsons at mass on Sunday and she wanted to thank everyone in the parish for their kindness during her illness.

- 2. Prayer & Welcome:** JH welcomed everyone and the meeting commenced with a prayer from Fr. Roy.
- 3. The Minutes** of the last meeting, 27th September 2022, were approved.
- 4. Ministry reports and discussion as necessary.**

4.1 Finance – Sue Finch

SF presented her Finance report (attached). PK asked about the date of the amount and SF confirmed the £165,960 held in the deposit account is as at end of September 2022.

It was requested for any recommendations for gardeners. Ideally, a professional team and Fr. Roy informed that a service is required for both parishes. VS to let JH know about a contact he has. JH to investigate options.

DONA

A Zoom meeting is being held on 6th December demonstrating the Digital Collection Plate system. PK volunteered to attend, he will report back and advise if the demo will be available for others to watch after, on demand. DL asked if the money collected from this system would go directly into the Diocese account and SF advised it would go into the Parish account. Our Lady's are planning to go ahead with the system and JH suggested it would be a good opportunity to see how they get on first.

4.2 Liturgy – Vince Smith

VS informed we have, unfortunately, lost the service of James to play the organ. Sarah Gallagher has agreed to play at all three Christmas Masses as well as Tina Smith who will lead the singing. The carols used from last year could be used again. VS to play at the Nativity and Children's Mass

DL has a list of hymns used previously and will send to VS.

DR to send Heather Clancy's Nativity hymns and script draft to VS.

DR to put out sign-up sheet for Readers and Eucharistic Ministers for the Christmas Masses.

4.3 Formation

First Holy Communion update under A.O.B – Fr. Roy

4.4 Social & Cultural – Deirdre Lay

DL confirmed £420 has been raised by the Christmas Draw and paid into the Parish account.

DL advised that before the **Christmas Lunch on 18th December**, mulled wine and mince pies would be served in the hall while the raffle takes place. This will also give some extra time to sell some more raffle tickets!

Fr. Ken's funeral - JH passed on thanks to Deirdre and the whole team including Fr Roy, those who prepared the church, car parking, pre Mass refreshments for the visiting clergy, readers, choir and organist. It had been a fitting farewell to Fr. Ken.

Friday 16th December was suggested as the day for Mass and burial of Fr. Ken's ashes, it was acknowledged that this would be important before Christmas.

DL to find out from the undertakers if this would be possible.

New year Quiz – DC suggested **Saturday 18th February** and this was agreed. He offered to run the quiz and help with the food. The Polish Club was suggested as the best venue. Time – 7 for 7.30pm and Our Lady's parishioners also to be invited.

DL to investigate and advise.

4.5 Maintenance – Finbarr O'Donoghue

(Please see Property/Maintenance section included in SF's Finance Report, attached).

It was recognised how important it is to carry on with increasing security especially without a resident Priest. FO just waiting for a date from Maz (Electrician). FO thanked DL for organising the main gates, now awaiting fixing points and painting.

It was agreed that the painting of the car park lines would be left until the Spring.

There have been no complaints received from neighbours about the sensory light, so it will be left as it is, things may change once the security cameras are installed.

DC advised that some of the windows are out of action and one on the AV side has a broken pane. FO and JH to look into fixing, Amersham Glass might be an option.

DL advised the electric hand heater in the church is not working; this needs to be replaced with a paper hand towel dispenser. FO and JH to investigate the condensation problem. DL said a bar is needed for the fire door which would cost approx. £70 which would then need fitting. A carpenter maybe required and FO to look into this.

DL has reset the heating times in the hall.

4.6 Ecumenical – Vivianne Gattoc

VG mentioned **10th December at 10.30am** Carols on the Green in Little Chalfont.

Fr. Roy to prepare a Community Prayer for Vivianne to read at the service.

4.7 Youth – Shadia Anderson

FLAME 2023 it was requested for the details to be included again in the Newsletter on a recurring basis. Emails have been sent to the last two Confirmation Groups.

DC advised that St. Columba's and IHM are getting a group together and Deacon Peter Collins has mentioned joining up as a larger group. There may be a coach going from the area.

4.8 Pastoral Area Council – Peter Kirk

PK gave out a paper with an update from the South Bucks Pastoral Area meeting held on 28th November. Paper attached.

5. Any Other Business

First Holy Communion

Fr. Roy advised that the FHC dates at both parishes have changed due to the King's Coronation. St. Aidan's is now Saturday 13th May at 12pm and Sunday 11th June. The children will be invited to attend Corpus Christi Mass in their outfits. Our Lady's will be held on Saturday 20th May and they will be as one group. At mass on 18th June, they will be presented to the community.

Fr. Ken's Funeral

Fr. Roy said he had received many thankyou's and expressions of appreciation from the Bishop and other clergy about Fr. Ken's funeral arrangements to which he wanted to add his own thanks to all concerned. He confirmed that the Parish should cover the cost of the funeral which has already been paid by DL. SF to action.

Future of the Presbytery

Fr. Roy shared a note from the Diocese with some suggestions for the future of the presbytery.

It was agreed that the first action should be to ask an estate agent to look at the property. VS advised that he has a contact at Savills and they deal with both residential and commercial properties.

DC asked could the property perhaps be used for helping refugees. This was discussed but no decision was made, and further discussions would take place when we have received Savill's comments on possible rental values and any rental suggestions.

Fr. Roy advised that Imre has been given notice from the Diocese to vacate by 22nd February 2023.

FO mentioned that the utilities e.g. shared boiler/electrics with the church would need to be sorted and separated before the presbytery could be used as a rental.

Fr. Roy suggested that it might be worth mentioning to The Entertainer to see if they would be interested in extra office space.

DL & VS to liaise with Imre and get things moving with Savills.

Fr. Roy highlighted the difficulties with the Sunday Mass and the Latin Mass times at Our Lady's. He asked the group how they felt about the possibility of moving the Sunday Mass to 11.15am to allow him more time to see parishioners at Our Lady's and travel to St. Aidan's. All were in agreement if it became a requirement for next year.

The Synod

DC informed that we are now in the next phase of the process and the 15th July 2023 is the Diocesan Assembly. The Diocese has asked for working parties to get together regarding some specific areas of interest:

- Vocation and life of Priests
- Finance and resourcing the Diocese
- Lay involvement in decision making processes
- Women's Ministry
- Marginalised Communities

He asked for any suggestions for leaders of these groups who would then attend the Assembly in July. Joanna Hale and Julie Stewart have volunteered for the Women's Ministry group.

The suggestion is to combine the groups with St. Columba and IHM. Fr. Roy said he was comfortable with a joint approach.

Members of the Council expressed some scepticism as to how open the Diocese would be to any recommendations which might come from the working parties.

Fr. Francis Higgins is leading the project and DC will liaise with him and give him this feedback.

Chiltern Foodbank

JH reported that he had received a letter from the Chiltern Foodbank thanking us for our support. We are giving approx. 9-10kg of items a week, mainly tins.

There has been an increase in donations since Brian's talk on the weekend of 15/16th October and it was suggested to have another presentation together with a refreshed list of items in the New Year.

Fr. Roy expressed how important it is for the church and our parishes to be recognised for our contributions as a community.

6. Next Meeting Dates

7th March 2023

13th June 2023

26th September 2023

4th December 2023

7. JH thanked everyone for their participation, and Fr. Roy closed the meeting with a prayer.

Debbie Rogers

6.12.22

ST AIDAN'S PARISH CHURCH, LITTLE CHALFONT, BUCKS

PPC Meeting

at

Our Lady's presbytery Chesham Bois

5th December 2022 at 7pm

1 The Finance committee met on 8th November

2 Parish Finances

- i **The cost centre analysis** from Q1 shows that the money held in our deposit account at RCDN has increased from £154,429 to £165,960 which is very encouraging.
- ii Actual figures for Q2 were compared with budget figures and again these were encouraging with income exceeding the budget figures
- iii **Standing Order figures.** These have increased from Quarter 1.
- iii **The Jubilee Pension fund.** RCDN informed us that when 2 parishes share 1 priest one of the parishes must pick up the Jubilee Levy and St Aidan's was picking up this charge.
- iv **Income from Presbytery rental.** With the death of Fr Ken there will be a substantial decrease in the income from the rent of the presbytery amounting to £12,000 pa. Discussions with RCDN regarding the future use of the presbytery will be initiated in the coming months.
- v **Gardening costs.** Northampton questioned the gardening costs from the Q2 Financial Returns submitted. Recently we have received bills amounting to over £4,000 for October and the first half of November. Fr Roy asked Bucks and Herts Landscapes and Gardening to stop the leaf clearing, which they were doing weekly, for the moment and because of this BHLG have decided to terminate the contract with us. We have until March before the growing season begins and JH said he would look out for recommendations and check out some local companies.

3 Property/Maintenance (discussed at the Finance meeting)

- i The car park gutter drain outside the sacristy has been repaired.
- ii Security cameras have been purchased and we are now waiting for the electrician to install them.
- iii Outstanding –
Repainting of the car park spaces.
A weather board for the bottom of the sacristy door to prevent water ingress when it rains.
- iv We will need to look to added security with no priest living on the site ie an intruder alarm.

4 DONA are holding an event for us tomorrow Tuesday 6th December to demonstrate their DONA Digital collection plates, the Web portal for reporting, the online Web Donation page and answer any queries we may have. If anyone wishes to join this event via zoom I will send the link. At present we have decided not to consider this option for giving, but it maybe something we will in the future.

Sue Finch

South Bucks Pastoral Area

Update

- Catch-up meetings, hosted by Avril Baigent, were held via zoom in October outlining the Bishop's support for what he hopes will be re-invigorated Pastoral Areas.
- An actual meeting was held at St Teresa's on Monday, 28th November. All parishes in the Pastoral Area were represented at this meeting, with Fr Roy, Joanna Hale and Peter Kirk being there from Our Lady's and St Aidan's. Each parish was asked to provide a brief overview so that attendees could learn more about one another.

Again, the important role of Pastoral Areas was emphasised and reference was made to a Diocesan document detailing how a Constitution should be drawn up for Pastoral Area Councils. Also, there is to be a **Diocesan Assembly of Pastoral Areas on 15th July 2023**.

- Whilst there was a clear wish on the part of all parishes to co-operate and share best practice, it was also considered that there needed to be more clarity about the goals and direction of the Pastoral Area. It was agreed, therefore, that the Executive group of four or five representatives would give some thought to these matters before the next meeting, scheduled for **Monday, 30th January 2023**, again at St Teresa's.

P D Kirk

5th December 2022