

St Aidan's Parish Pastoral Council
Minutes of Meeting held 7th November 2016 in the Presbytery.

1. Present: John Hannacher (JH, Chair), Fr Ken (KP), Dcn John (JC), Shirley Abarca (SA), Sue Finch (SF), Berni Hassim (BH), Deirdre Lay (DL), Louise Moss (LM), Clare Reed (CR), Vince Smith (VS), Virginia Wedgwood (VW).

Apologies: Brian Gallagher (BG), Anne Parsons (AP).

2. Prayer and welcome: JH welcomed all and the meeting commenced with a prayer from Fr. Ken.

3. Minutes: Minutes of the last meeting 21st September 2016 were approved.

4. Ministry reports and discussion as necessary:

4.1 Finance. Report from SF:

a. State of our parish finances.

The current balance on our account with the diocese on 30th September 2016 is **£45,890** an increase of £9,346 from the 30th June figure of £36,544.

The half year standing order figures show that £12,879 (Gift Aided) and £180 (non-Gift Aided) has been paid directly to the diocese for St Aidan's parish. This averages to a weekly figure of £502 – a substantial addition to the weekly Offertory. Action: LM to amend the figure published in the newsletter.

b. Planned Parish Expenditure.

i The doors to the presbytery are being replaced to increase the security of the house.

ii We are in the process of ordering new chairs for the choir area of the church. This was part of the refurbishment plan.

iii Quotes to resurface the path from the parish hall to the drive are being sought. Again, this is a health and safety issue as the path has been uneven since the refurbishment took place.

c. Half Year Gift Aid Return

We have just received the forms from the diocese and these are in the process of being completed.

4.2 Liturgy. Report from JC.

The liturgy group met on the 29th September:

a. Advent, Christmas and New Year services have been agreed.

b. There are new altar servers in training.

c. Chairs for Choir Area. Models selected but fabric and colour yet to be decided. Cost likely to be about £1,900 (incl VAT). Delivery approx 4 weeks from order (Post meeting note: these have been ordered and should be delivered before Christmas).

d. Children's Liturgy: needs helpers out of which new leaders might emerge.

- e. First Holy Communion 2017: Discussions to find a common weekend for the three parishes of the pastoral area were unfruitful. St Aidan's has decided upon 12noon on 20th May.
- f. Confirmation 2017: 25th June at St Joseph's has been suggested but that is yet to be confirmed.
- g. Teresa Walker is not running the children's nativity at the 6pm Christmas Eve Mass this year. Other members of the Children's Liturgy team have been asked to help.

4.3 Formation. Reports from BG & JC

a. Sacramental Preparation

- i Baptismal Preparation is ongoing, with thanks to JC
- ii First Holy Communion and first Reconciliation is in hand with a First Holy communion date set for 20th May 2017. As with last year's preparation the course will be overseen by Mary Hughes and her team with a good deal of input from the parents themselves.
- iii Confirmation has started well. There are a phenomenal number of candidates – some 40. This includes candidates from St Columba's and Our Lady's but the clear majority are from St Aidan's. The course we are following is "Transformed in Christ" which runs on beyond the reception of the sacrament itself. The course is being run in parallel with St Joseph's so that all the parishes in our Pastoral area are following the one course as urged to do by Bishop Peter.
It was mentioned that if we were to continue having such large numbers of candidates we may need to move to annual preparation.

b. Fr Ken & Dcn John are looking at "The Big Picture" intro to Bible study with a view to Dcn John leading this in the new year, along with Fr Ken leading an intro to Prayer.

c. The Bishops of England & Wales have just published new "Guidelines for the Preparation of Couples for Marriage" in which there is a clear desire for parish involvement. The 'executive summary' and 'what to do with these guidelines' were made available at the meeting and will be circulated with the minutes.

d. "Do you Love Me?" – Details of this morning reflection at Luton on Sat 12th November have been circulated to all on the PPC.

e. Bishop Peter will be talking about Marriage and Family Life on Thursday 10th November. All welcome.

4.4 Social and Cultural. Report from DL

Monthly lunches continue to run. The next lunch is Sunday 20th November, and the December lunch will be on Sunday 11th December.

4.5 Maintenance. Report from VW.

a. Maintenance manual

This is being put together by Steve Gill, following further advice received from Hugh Davies regarding H&S.

b. Legionella works

These have been completed. Action LM to check whether invoice has been received and paid.

c. Presbytery entrance doors

Quote for dark mahogany UPVC screen has been accepted (about £2400).

d. Gardening/leaf clearing.

After consultation with KP, DL has arranged the following: a skip to be delivered and placed at the side of the church, which will remain until full. Gardeners to be on site Saturday 5th November to clear leaves into the skip, and every Saturday until all leaves are down. The gardeners will also prune/cut back the trees overhanging the grounds. Off-cuts will be chipped and chippings will be used in various places in the grounds. They will also do a general autumn tidy up.

e. Acoustics.

VW has been working with Gerard Anderson to try and find a solution to the issue of poorer acoustics in the church following the refurbishment. We have a quote from Hann Tucker for further modelling work. It needs to be clearer what the extra work from Hann Tucker will add, and check whether their report will include a suggested solution to our issues. Action VW

f. Presbytery bathroom

KP needs the bathroom to be made more accessible and converted to wet-room with seated shower. VW to take measurements and draw up proposals. The Diocese has confirmed that they will fund the alterations.

4.7 Ecumenical. Report from CR

a. Harvest service at the Epilepsy Centre on 12th October went well and was led by JC. Not a good turn out from the churches.

b. Ecumenical Prayer Meeting held on 12th October at St. George's church. Not a good turn out from the churches, only JC and CR from St. Aidan's.

c. Remembrance Day on 13th November: service at Methodist church followed by silence on the green in Little Chalfont (clashes with our Sunday Mass)

d. Carols on the Green: Saturday 10th December at 11 am

e. Week of Christian Unity: There will be a meeting on 14th November at 7.30pm at St. Aidan's to discuss an ecumenical 24 hours of prayer.

f. CCCC will be mentioned to the PAC at their meeting on 8th November, to raise awareness of the charity, and what it does for parishioners in all the local parishes, not just St Aidan's.

g. Pavilion in the Park. We have secured funds - £250 from Chiltern District Council and £500 from Skipton Grass roots fund, which will fund the pavilion for next year

4.8 Youth. Report from BH

COMPASS has had a successful first half term, in total 60 young people have registered, with an average attendance of 35 to 40 children a week.

BG and BH attended further NYMO training on 11th October 2016. There are 5 or 6 adults now in leadership roles, and this will need to be expanded to ensure that Compass continues. There will be a rota of parents to act as helpers to support the leaders.

KP thanked BH for all her contributions to COMPASS

4.9 Pastoral Area Council. Report from JC.

- a. The next PAC meeting will be on 14th November.
- b. On Saturday, 12 November, Bishop Peter will be celebrating Mass at 5.30pm and officially closing the Holy Door as this Year of Mercy draws to a close. All are welcome to this Mass and are invited for refreshments afterwards.

5. AOB

a. Hall rental enquiry.

LM had an enquiry from a breakfast and after school club who wished to use the Hall from 7.15am-8.45am, and 2.30pm-7pm during the school terms, and for some holiday clubs. It was decided that while this would generate significant income, the primary purpose of the parish Hall should be a facility for the Parish to use when they required it, and that the hours and frequency of use suggested would prevent it from fulfilling that purpose. Action LM to communicate decision to the breakfast/after school club.

b. Parish Website

JH, DL and LM have met to discuss a new website for the parish. Action: In January, LM and DL to design and trial a new website using free templates provided by ChurchEdit.

c. Bible study group

SA reported that a bible study group has started meeting at her house weekly. Leaflets will be distributed to parishioners inviting them to attend.

d. Projector screen for Hall.

It was noted that it would be good to have a projector and screen in the Hall. Action: VS to consider options.

e. CAFOD

Following the CAFOD Harvest Fast Appeal, Brian Johnston has arranged a meeting on Thurs 17th Nov at 8pm in the presbytery of those who expressed an interest in helping to raise awareness. Everyone welcome.

f. Parish Leaflet

BH reported that this is still a work in progress.

6. Future Meetings

The date of the next meeting will be Monday 16th January at 7.30pm

7. Close

Fr Ken closed the meeting with a prayer.

Louise Moss
14th November 2016