

St Aidan's Parish Pastoral Council
Minutes of Meeting held 13th March 2019 at 7.30pm in the Presbytery.

1. Present: John Hannacher (JH, Chair), Fr Ken (KP), Shadia Anderson (SA), Dcn Peter Collins (PC), Brian Gallagher (BG), Vivianne Gattoc (VG), Peter Kirk (PK), Deirdre Lay (DL), Louise Moss (LM), Finbarr O'Donohue (FO), Anne Parsons (AP) & Vince Smith (VS).

Apologies: Sue Finch (SF)

2. Prayer and welcome: JH welcomed all, especially Shadia Anderson who will be representing the Youth ministry, and Deacon Peter Collins who will be reporting on project OASIS. The meeting commenced with a prayer from Fr. Ken.

3. Minutes: Minutes of the last meeting 10th December 2018 were approved.

4. Ministry reports and discussion as necessary:

4.1 Finance.

SF had circulated a brief report in advance of the meeting.

There have not been any major items of expenditure since the last meeting, and the parish finances are healthy.

There was one question for Sue: Following the annual appeal for offertory increases, do we know if any existing donors increased their donations? Action: SF

4.2 Liturgy. Report from VS

The last Liturgy meeting was in January.

Following a call from the Pope our Pastoral Area has organised 2 days of prayer, from 28th - 30th March including services in all parishes. St Aidan's will host silent prayer with adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at 6pm on Friday 29th March, followed by a Taizé prayer service at 7.30pm, led by Brother Jean-Patrick.

4.3 Formation. Report from BG

Confirmation:

Confirmation classes are progressing well. PC commented that BG was doing an excellent job and was going above and beyond in his commitment to the programme.

Pastoral Area Day of Reflection:

BG also reported on the Pastoral Area Day of reflection, which had been addressed by Bishop Peter. The number of priests in our Diocese is declining, and Deacon support is patchy. The Bishop is considering more formal lay leadership/administrators.

Attached to these minutes are a copy of the 'Next steps for PAC's'.

It was proposed to hold a Parish Day of Reflection on 20th July at St Aidan's. Action: BG.

4.4 Social and Cultural. Report from DL

Monthly lunches are continuing but there is an urgent need for more helpers – currently only 3 teams to prepare the meals.

St Patrick's Social was a success and the money raised was donated to MoPSA.

Since the re-decoration last year, the Hall has suffered from acoustic problems. Acoustic tiles which absorb sound are going to be fitted. It is hoped these will be installed by the end of March.

4.5 Maintenance. Report from FO

Boundary wall cracking:

The tree which was causing the damage has been removed by the Highways Agency. The stump could not be removed at the time as it was too close to the BT box but should be removed at a

later date by a specialist contractor. Action: LM to chase this up with the Highways Agency. Once this has been removed the wall can be stabilised.

Flat roof above bay window and outside kitchen:

The diocese sent a contractor to quote for this work. Quote acceptable and work due to start 14th March.

Facia boards on entrance:

This work is still outstanding. Action LM to speak to Joan at St Joseph's to ask for contact details of the person they use for external maintenance work.

Grounds:

The lawn has been scarified and reseeded, and hedge cutting is in hand. Fortnightly lawn mowing will resume once required.

4.6 Ecumenical. Report from VG

All Ecumenical events need better publicity. Action: VG to send newsletter entries to LM in advance of events.

Future dates:

Good Friday Walk of Witness. From 10am. Starting and finishing at St Georges. It was suggested that by asking St Aidan's Parishioners to meet in our car park at 9.45am and walk down together it may improve attendance. Action: LM to advertise in newsletter.

Next meeting is on 8th April at 2pm at St George's. VG is unable to attend. DL volunteered to go in her place.

4.7 Youth. Report from SA

FLAME is a national catholic event for young people at Wembley, held this year on 2nd March. SA attended, and said it was a fantastic, well organised event, which showed the catholic church at its best. The tickets were only £10 and so very accessible. There were only 10 attendees from our pastoral area. Should we make it a mandatory part of the confirmation programme?

4.8 Pastoral Area Council. Report from PK

The area is to be renamed the Chiltern area.

Easter booklets: Booklets have been prepared detailing the Easter services in all parishes.

Ecuador Mission: Programme of events to be finalised soon.

Chrism Mass on Maundy Thursday: A coach will be organised to take parishioners to Northampton for the Chrism Mass. It was decided not to charge for this.

All parishes have been asked to provide music support to the Confirmation Masses at St Joseph's – 2pm and 5pm on Sunday 23rd June.

5. AOB

i. Summer event

DL raised the possibility of a parish social event this summer. This could be a celebration of the feast of St Aidan. Possibly a walk, finishing with a BBQ (similar to the event last year for CAFOD). JH happy to help organise. Date tbc.

ii. Project OASIS

There are enormous numbers of refugees in the Middle East displaced from the war in Syria. Most want to go home eventually, but for a small number (translators etc) the Middle East will never be a safe place for them to live. Project OASIS aims for local communities to support individual families to settle in the UK. Not just church groups involved. e.g. a Rugby club in Wales has welcomed a family.

JH asked a question of the parish council – is project OASIS something we wish to support? If so we need to ask Mark Haynes, the Diocesan rep, to come and talk to us.

PC gave us an overview of the experiences of IHM parish, who through project OASIS have recently settled a refugee family in Chesham:

It took a team of 10-15 people. First need to raise money – IHM raised £14,000 in pledges over the course of 2 weekends. Then once the money has been raised need to produce a proposal for the authorities. The money is to ensure support of the family for the full 2 year commitment. Most of the money is spent on topping up housing benefit to enable a private rental for 2 years. Lots of local support required once the family arrives i.e. help to get to appointments at language classes and the job centre. Aim of the project is that by the end of the 2 years the family will be integrated into the local community, in work, and able to support themselves.

KJP suggested that it might be something we could do ecumenically, and will speak to the local non-Catholic clergy.

JH thanked PC for attending the meeting and sharing the experiences of IHM with us.

6. Future Meetings

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 5th June 2019.

The date of the AGM will be Sunday 7th July 2019.

7. Prayer and Close

Fr Ken closed the meeting with a prayer.

Louise Moss
24th April 2019