

St Aidan's Parish Pastoral Council
Minutes of Meeting held 10 December 2018 at 7.30pm in the Presbytery.

1. Present: John Hannacher (JH, Chair), Fr Ken (KP), Brian Gallagher (BG), Vivianne Gattoc (VG), & Vince Smith (VS).

Apologies: Dcn Peter Collins (PC), Deirdre Ley, Louise Moss, Peter Kirk & Finbarr O'Donohue

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

3. Minutes: Minutes of the last meeting 26th September 2018 were approved.

4. Ministry reports and discussion as necessary:

4.1 Finance.

There have not been any major items of expenditure since the last meeting.

There were two questions for Sue.

- I. What is the current situation regarding our payments to the Chiltern Child Contact Centre in this financial year? Action: SF
- II. What response did we receive from the annual appeal for offertory increases and Gift Aid made in October? Did many people increase their offering etc? Action: SF

4.2 Liturgy. Report from VS.

There has not been a recent Liturgy Group meeting on which to report. The choir rehearsal before Sunday morning mass is proving popular and seems to be assisting the choir's performance and attendance.

Theresa Walker has confirmed that she is still available for the children's liturgy

4.3 Formation. Report from BG

Confirmation:

There are 60 candidates in the pastoral area this year, with 21/22 from St Aidan's. Sessions have started on Saturday afternoons before mass discussing Advent, Christmas and Decision Making. Candidates will be looking at the YOUCAT text in January. The Powerpoint slides currently being used have been circulated to council members

Marriage preparation:

More couples are needed to provide marriage preparation. Brian stressed that the current course should not be seen as prescriptive but more a set of guidelines for couples to follow who take this on.

First Holy Communion:

This year we have 25 candidates as Fr Ken has persuaded the parents of 5 children living in Chesham to move their preparation to St Columba's. This makes the number more manageable

4.4 Social and Cultural.

There was a vote of thanks to Deirdre for organising the recent Grand Draw which, with the cake and fancy goods stalls raised £1544 for Parish funds.

4.5 Maintenance. Report from FO.

The boundary wall by the gate is cracking which we believe is probably due to the tree on public land in very close proximity to it. Action: LM to advise if any feedback has been received from the Highways Agency following our contact.

The flat roof and guttering above the French doors in the presbytery need repair. A contractor organised by the diocese came but we have not heard anything else. FO is keen to progress this locally if necessary before the bad weather sets in.

Action: JH to contact David Wilson in the Diocese for an update.

We have been advised that as part of the refurbishment of Beel House a significant number of the trees on our boundary will be removed. This should resolve the problems we have been having with tree roots in our drains and damage to the surface of the car park.

4.6 Ecumenical. Report from VG:

VG will attend the Carols on the Green service in Little Chalfont on Saturday 15th December.

Future dates:

12th December: Christmas service at the Epilepsy Centre at 2pm. Sarah Gallagher and Clare Reed will be attending

4.7 Youth.

The need to identify a Youth minister in the parish was discussed. We have been unable to find anyone for this important ministry. Fr Ken suggested he approach Ben Bergonzi to see if he is interested. Action: KP

4.8 Pastoral Area Council. Peter's report

General feeling that the PA Christmas Service booklet was very professionally produced by Joan in St Joseph's

Dcn. Peter's Strategy paper had been circulated and was briefly discussed.

- General agreement with the thoughts and principles expressed.
- Each parish should have a Youth minister to provide a Youth focus.
- Is the age range 13-18 a sensible grouping? It is a big age gap.
- Implementing the strategy will be dependent upon a number of suitable adults to ensure the various activities can take place with the appropriate safeguarding. This has proved difficult to achieve in the past.

5. AOB

i. Noise level in the hall

Fr. Ken asked about the problem with the acoustics in the hall and would like to progress a solution as quickly as possible. Action: DL

ii. Fr. James Mallon

Fr. Mallon is a Jesuit priest in Canada who has been very successful in moving his parish from Maintenance to Mission and has written and spoken about it. He is due to be in Birmingham in February and Fr Ken would like someone from St Aidan's to go and hear him speak. He feels the parish should pay the expenses of anyone who goes. Details to be placed in the Newsletter.

Action: KP/ LM

iii. Project OASIS

JH advised that Deacon Peter would be invited to our next meeting to provide an update on the refugee family recently settled in Chesham. Action PC

6. Future Meetings

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 13th March 2019.

7. Prayer and Close

Fr Ken closed the meeting with a prayer.

John Hannacher
10th December 2018