

**St Aidan's Parish Pastoral Council**  
**Minutes of Meeting held 26<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at 7.30pm in the Presbytery.**

**1. Present:** John Hannacher (JH, Chair), Fr Ken (KP), Sue Finch (SF), Brian Gallagher (BG), Vivianne Gattoc (VG), Peter Kirk (PK), Deirdre Lay (DL), Louise Moss (LM), Finbarr O'Donoghue (FO), Anne Parsons (AP), Vince Smith (VS).

**Apologies:** Dcn Peter Collins (PC)

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

JH welcomed FO to the meeting, replacing Virginia Wedgwood (VW) representing Maintenance.

**3. Minutes:** Minutes of the last meeting 6<sup>th</sup> June 2018 were approved.

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

**4.1 Finance.** Report from SF:

The money in our account held by the Diocese increased by £6,116 to £80,575 for the first quarter of 2018.

The only major expenditure so far this year has been the refurbishment of the Hall, including a new flat screen TV and sound bar, which came to just less than £6,000.

We are committed to supporting the Chiltern Child Contact Centre for the rest of this financial year, but there is no money left from fundraising. We will either need to fundraise to support this commitment, or money will have to come from parish funds.

The finance committee would like to make their annual appeal for offertory increase and Gift Aid, and to thank those already giving. It was agreed this would be done on the weekend of the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> October. Action: SF to provide figures to those who would be making the appeal.

**4.2 Liturgy.** Report from VS.

VS shared the minutes of the most recent Liturgy group meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> March, and noted that it would be useful to have reps for readers, Eucharistic Ministers and altar servers on the committee.

There was a discussion about Remembrance Sunday, which this year marks 100 years of the end of WW1 and falls on 11<sup>th</sup> November. Our Sunday Mass will be a Requiem Mass, but this clashes with the procession organised by the Methodist Church. DL will be in attendance with the Brownies/Guides and is happy to represent St Aidan's.

DL said the guides will make poppies to spell out '1914-1918', to be placed in front of the Altar. Action: DL to let the flower arrangers know.

**4.3 Formation.** Report from BG

**Confirmation:**

There likely to be around 70 candidates in the pastoral area this year, with 18 from St Aidan's. Within the pastoral area there are ongoing discussions around whether all

candidates should be prepared at one location (St Joseph's), or whether parallel sessions as in 2017 would be preferred.

The date of confirmation is likely to be 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2019 (Corpus Christi) with a back-up of 30<sup>th</sup> June – dependent on availability of the Bishop.

There is a meeting planned for the parents of all candidates at St Joseph's on 15<sup>th</sup> October – Action: LM to email parents and let them know.

### **First Holy Communion:**

This year 30 candidates have registered at St Aidan's, which is too many for our catechists and the Hall to cope with. Fr Ken has written to the families who live in Chesham and encouraged them to consider moving their preparation to St Columba's. We are awaiting responses from the families.

### **4.4 Social and Cultural.**

There was a vote of thanks to the Social and Cultural committee for their support of the share the journey walk in August, where £270 was raised for CAFOD. It was discussed whether we could make this an annual event, combining fundraising with a social event, possibly to tie in with the Feast of St Aidan.

DL thanked VS for his help on the BBQ during the event.

Report from DL:

**Parish Lunches and Coffee:** These are going well, although there are only 3 teams for the parish lunches.

**Noise level in hall:** Since the hall was refurbished and the old curtains replaced with blinds, parishioners have reported that noise levels in the hall have increased. DL is currently looking into acoustic solutions. If these do not prove viable we will need to add 'dress' curtains to the sides of each window.

**Fundraising.** Draw tickets have been ordered with a draw date of Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> November, with a 1<sup>st</sup> Prize of £200 and 4 further prizes, all of which have been donated. These should be available for sale from the beginning of October. Action: DL to write newsletter insert. There will be a stall at coffee on the last 2 Sundays in November, selling items stored from the last May Fayre, and hopefully a cake sale on the Sunday of the draw.

**Audio Visual System.** There are two new volunteers on the rota who are undergoing training. Hopefully this may encourage others to come forward.

### **4.5 Maintenance.** Report from FO.

There was a handover meeting from VW in September, including the outstanding items highlighted in the Quinquennial report received in February.

The boundary wall by the gate is cracking. FO suggested this was probably due to the tree on public land in very close proximity to it. Action: LM to contact the Highways Agency to report.

The fascia boards above the main doors need to be re-decorated to maintain waterproofing. This will need scaffolding and so now needs to wait until the spring. While the scaffolding is up it would be prudent to refresh the whole area.

Flat roof and guttering above French doors in presbytery need repair. A contractor organised by the diocese came but we have not heard anything else. LM has written to the property admin team at the Diocese who are following this up.

#### **4.7 Ecumenical.** Report from VG:

VG has taken over from Clare Reed on the PPC, but is unable to attend the Churches Together meetings as they are during the day. CR is still helping out; Dcn Peter may go to future meetings.

Future dates:

24<sup>th</sup> October: Harvest Service at the Epilepsy Centre. 2pm

11<sup>th</sup> November: Remembrance service and procession at the Methodist Church. Clashes with our own Sunday 11am Mass but DL to represent St Aidan's.

12<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas service at the Epilepsy Centre. Time tbc.

Action: LM to advertise in newsletter when appropriate.

#### **4.8 Youth.**

Nothing to report.

#### **4.9 Pastoral Area Council.** Report from PK.

PK shared the minutes of the most recent PAC meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> September.

There will be a Pastoral Area Carol Service at 3.30pm at Our Lady's, Chesham Bois, on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December.

### **5. AOB**

#### **i. Justice and Peace Conference.**

BG shared details of a Justice & Peace Conference focused on Modern Slavery, which will be held on 13<sup>th</sup> October in Luton.

#### **ii. Choir Rehearsals**

The choir have decided to hold rehearsals every Sunday at 10.15am in order to improve singing and eventually widen their repertoire.

#### **iii. Acoustics**

It was noted that sometimes on Sunday the sound of the organ can overpower the voices of the choir and congregation.

#### **iv. Project OASIS**

JH reported that he had been speaking to Mark Haines from IHM about their work with Project Oasis. This is an initiative to settle refugee families (who have been selected by the foreign office) within individual parishes. Churches in High Wycombe and Princess Risborough have already welcomed refugee families to their parishes.

Can St Aidan's play a part in this? Action: BG to advise us of the date of the forthcoming meeting about this project at St Joseph's.

### **6. Future Meetings**

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm in the presbytery.

### **7. Prayer and Close**

Fr Ken closed the meeting with a prayer.

Louise Moss  
3<sup>rd</sup> October 2018