

**St Aidan's Parish Pastoral Council**  
**Minutes of Meeting held 25<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at 7.00pm in the Presbytery.**

**1. Present:** John Hannacher (JH, Chair), Fr Ken (KP), Dcn Peter Collins (PC), Peter Kirk (PK), Deirdre Lay (DL), Louise Moss (LM), Finbarr O'Donohue (FO) & Anne Parsons (AP).

**Apologies:** Shadia Anderson (SA), Sue Finch (SF), Brian Gallagher (BG), Vivianne Gattoc (VG) & Vince Smith (VS).

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

**3. Minutes:** Minutes of the last meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2019 were approved.

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

**4.1 Finance.**

SF was away and there was nothing to report. Parish funds are healthy and continue to increase.

Planned expenditure: The stair carpet in the presbytery needs to be replaced. Action: LM to contact Crystal Carpets for a quote.

Increased income: As last year, The Entertainer require extra parking spaces for the next 3 months. Contract has been arranged and signed by the property department at Bishops House.

**4.2 Liturgy.**

VS was away and there was nothing to report.

**4.3 Formation.**

BG was away but had circulated a short report in advance of the meeting.

There had been a Pastoral Area Reflection Day on 14<sup>th</sup> September, to discuss the issue of declining numbers of priests, and an increase in lay ministry. The meeting was very positive, and minutes will be circulated in due course.

**4.4 Social and Cultural.** Report from DL

DL had circulated a report in advance, the highlight of which was the successful walk and BBQ to celebrate the Feast of St Aidan on 1<sup>st</sup> September. On behalf of the parish, JH expressed his thanks to DL for organising the event, and to the other helpers, including Jon Lay and Imre.

Church lunch: The Filipino Community led by Salvie Schlenzig have volunteered to provide the lunch a couple of times during the year. Their first lunch was Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September and it was very good. Many thanks Salvie.

Gardeners: Seasonal tidy up of the grounds is underway, and the hedges will be cut in the next couple of weeks. Gardeners will let LM know dates in advance so we can ask the Entertainer cars to park away from the hedges.

**4.5 Maintenance.** Report from FO

Boundary wall cracking: The tree stump which was causing the issue has been dealt with by the Highways Agency. We can now stabilise the wall. Action: FO to send details of recommended contractor to LM.

Facia boards on entrance: This work is still outstanding. Action: LM to approach decorators who did the hall for a quote.

Lights in garden: These are continually being knocked over by reversing cars – a new solution needs to be found. Perhaps ground level lighting that is designed to be driven over. Action: LM to contact Maz to discuss options and get a quote for the work.

The light in the candle room is flickering and needs replacing. Action: FO.

Overflow parking: There was a suggestion that we could lay matting under the grass in the Hall garden to allow cars to park there during busy services. However, it was felt that car park users would begin to use the overflow during regular weekend services, which would impact the use of the garden during Sunday coffee. Decision made not to pursue this idea.

#### **4.6 Ecumenical.**

VG was away and there was nothing to report.

Action: LM to advertise ecumenical events in the newsletter.

#### **4.7 Youth.**

SA was away and there was nothing to report.

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

There has not been a PAC meeting since our last PPC meeting so there was nothing new to report. The Reflection Day report will be circulated once it is available.

### **5. AOB**

#### **i. Visibility of PPC.**

Fr Ken said that the PPC should be more visible within the parish – not all parishioners know who we are. Photographs used to be displayed in the narthex but were not replaced after the refurbishment. Action: All members of the PPC to send a photograph of themselves to LM. LM to upload photos to the website and put back up in the narthex.

#### **ii. Fire Marshals.**

LM reported that at a recent Diocesan fire Health & Safety meeting it was highlighted that we should have an evacuation plan in case of a fire alarm, and trained marshals who can direct the evacuation. Action: LM to ask in the newsletter for volunteers.

#### **iii. The God Who Speaks – A Year of the Word**

This will be launched on 30<sup>th</sup> September, with the year beginning in Advent. Fr Ken is planning a set of 3 sessions which will take place on Thursday evenings before the end of November, and will be open to all, with particular interest for readers. Fr Ken is hoping one of the Deacons will lead these.

#### **iv. Chiltern Child Contact Centre**

The CCCC, who St Aidan's supported financially for many years, has recently been awarded the Queens Award for Voluntary service 2019. JH will attend the presentation to represent St Aidan's.

#### **v. Pictures in the Hall**

At the AGM, Mike Allen requested that the photographs of the Pope and the Queen (which had been removed during the redecoration of the hall) were re-hung. The PPC discussed this and voted not to put them back. Action: JH to let Mike know.

#### **vi. Project OASIS**

There was a meeting in August with Mark Haines to discuss this, and BG has written an excellent summary of the meeting and the issues the parish would face. We now need to decide if we want to proceed, and if so how. Some of the churches in Amersham have already started a project. Action: PC to find contact details of leaders so we can speak to them about a possible collaboration. Working together would spread the commitment and the efforts wider.

### **6. Future Meetings**

The next meeting will be at 7.00pm on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

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

Dcn Peter closed the meeting with a prayer.