

St Aidan's Parish Pastoral Council
Minutes of Meeting held 4th December 2019 at 7.00pm in the Presbytery.

1. Present: John Hannacher (JH, Chair), Fr Ken (KP), Shadia Anderson (SA), Dcn Peter Collins (PC), Sue Finch (SF), Brian Gallagher (BG), Vivianne Gattoc (VG), Peter Kirk (PK), Deirdre Lay (DL) & Louise Moss (LM).

Apologies: Finbarr O'Donoghue (FO), Anne Parsons (AP) & 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 25th September 2019 were approved.

4. Ministry reports and discussion as necessary:

4.1 Finance. Report from SF.

Parish funds are healthy and continue to increase, and there is no large planned expenditure at present.

There has been an increase in the number of standing orders, and this is the best way for parishioners to make their offerings, although as the plate goes round at Mass these offerings are 'invisible'. Action: In the new year, SF/LM to write something for the newsletter explaining standing orders and asking parishioners to consider switching from envelopes.

The Finance office have sent SF a list of parishioners on the Gift Aid list who have not contributed for the last two years. Action: KP to look through list to advise which parishioners have either died or moved away.

Philip Patten had highlighted that MoPSA are missing out on Gift Aid at the Christmas collection. Historically, Steve Gill had added MoPSA stickers to the weekly envelope, but it was noted that this still misses out all the parishioners who usually give by standing order. Decision was made to produce envelopes as we did for HCPT when Dcn John retired, and hand these out at Mass on the fourth Sunday of advent. Action: LM to produce envelopes and advertise in Newsletter.

4.2 Liturgy. Report from VS.

There will be a Day of Reconciliation on Saturday 14th December, with confessions from 10.30am – 12 noon, and again from 3.30pm – 5.45pm.

As per previous years, a booklet has been produced giving Mass times for the whole Pastoral Area, and these will be distributed at Mass on the weekend of 7th/8th December. Action: LM to put our Mass times on the website.

4.3 Formation. Report from BG.

First Holy Communion preparation has started, with 23 candidates. The First Holy Communion Mass will be on Saturday 16th May 2020 at 12 noon.

Confirmation preparation has also started. There are 7 candidates from St Aidan's, from a total of 47 from the pastoral area. All sessions are being held at St Joseph's this year.

4.4 Social and Cultural. Report from DL.

All going well, although as ever there is a need for more volunteers. Action: LM to check any recent registration forms and send details of anyone who said they would be interested in helping to DL.

The next parish lunch will be on 15th December.

4.5 Maintenance. FO was not at the meeting but LM was able to provide an update.

Fascia boards above church entrance: A quote for the work from the company that redecorated the hall last year has been accepted. Scaffolding will be erected on Monday 9th December, and the work should take less than a week to complete.

Lights in Garden: This is still outstanding. At the last meeting ground level lighting was suggested. However, Maz has advised that these are very expensive to retro-fit, and as the light is projecting upwards they would provide less light than the current bollards which project downwards onto the ground. Need to talk to Maz again for further suggestions.

Carpet in Presbytery living room and stairs/landing: This has been ordered and will be fitted in the New Year.

4.6 Ecumenical. Report from VG.

The two Christmas ecumenical events are Carols on the Green on 14th December, and the Epilepsy Centre Christmas Celebration on 17th December. Action: LM to double check timings and advertise in the newsletter.

Lots of the local churches have new ministers. KP is going to invite the local clergy here for coffee in January to try and re-establish connections.

4.7 Youth. Discussion led by SA and PC.

Youth was a topic at the pastoral area reflection day. Should youth events be at a pastoral area level or kept more local? Local events place more burden on volunteers at parish level, but are more likely to be well attended as the children know one another. We do not have enough teenagers at St Aidan's to make local events viable for that age group. It was acknowledged that trying to engage teenagers was almost impossible. It is much easier to get them involved at Holy Communion age, and then keep them engaged as they get older. We need to ask the children what they want. Mark Holdsworth (head teacher at Our Lady's) has suggested a Youth Pastoral Council, made up of children of late primary age.

The pastoral area is to consider further the possible recruitment of a youth worker who will act in a support role to help volunteers within individual parishes.

4.8 Pastoral Area Council. Report from PK

The last PAC meeting had taken place on 12th November.

The reflection day held on 14th September was a success, and it was intended now that the themes should be developed further through small PA working parties with the aim of eventually producing a PA Mission Plan.

5. AOB

i. Fire Marshal Training.

An appeal in the newsletter resulted in 7 parishioners volunteering to be fire marshals. LM has contacted the property department at Bishops House to ask for someone to provide training.

ii. Lunch to celebrate 60th Anniversary of Fr Ken's Ordination.

This will be held on Sunday 28th June 2020. Further details will be decided nearer the time.

iii. Project OASIS

There will be a meeting on 23rd January 2020 to decide if we want to become involved. Action: LM to advertise in the newsletter for the two weeks before the meeting. Action: VG to speak to the other local churches at the next Churches Together meeting to gauge interest.

6. Future Meetings

The next meeting will be at 7.00pm on Wednesday 11th March 2020.

7. Prayer and Close

Fr Ken closed the meeting with a prayer.

Louise Moss
9th December 2019