

St Aidan's Parish Pastoral Council
Minutes of Meeting held 3rd June at 7.00pm remotely via Zoom.

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), Finbarr O'Donoghue (FO), Anne Parsons (AP) & Vince Smith (VS).

Apologies: None

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 4th December 2019 were approved.

4. Ministry reports and discussion as necessary:

4.1 Finance. Report from SF.

The end of year figures have been received from the Diocese and our finances are in good health - there is currently approx. £125,000 in our account. Including gift aid, we receive around £40,000 per year via standing orders from parishioners who give in this way rather than via the collection plate, so we will continue to receive an income from this even while the church is closed. The rental income for parking spaces from The Entertainer is currently on hold as their office is temporarily closed.

The parish can continue to function in the coming months and there is no need to try and fundraise at the moment, while so many are struggling.

4.2 Liturgy. Report from VS.

No update since the last meeting.

VS noted that the live stream of the Mass in Northampton Cathedral just uses one fixed camera, and he thought the same set up would work very well at St Aidan's. DL added that there would need to be a second camera in the chapel for the weekday Masses but agreed only one camera per service would be required.

There was a short discussion around whether we could get this set up now, so we could live stream our own Masses, but it was agreed that Fr Ken shouldn't be the one operating the AV system and so while Masses remained closed to parishioners this wouldn't be possible.

4.3 Formation. Report from BG.

First Holy Communion and Confirmation have been postponed. The new proposed date for Confirmation is 9th October, but this is subject to changes in the rules regarding public gatherings. The programme has continued remotely via Zoom, and has now finished, although there will be a few refresher sessions before the 9th October.

PC asked whether, given the success of the programme via Zoom, we should consider regular youth Zoom events, possibly at a Pastoral Area level. Remote meetings don't need commitment from the parents to drop-off/collect, which can be a barrier to getting the young people together. SA agreed it could be very successful, and added that teenagers are often more comfortable communicating via devices rather than face to face.

4.4 Social and Cultural. Report from DL.

Pre-lockdown we had 28th June in the diary to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Fr Ken's ordination. As soon as we are able to plan something that a fair number of the congregation can attend rather than just a few then we will choose a new date, as it is an important milestone to celebrate.

4.5 Maintenance. Report from FO.

Since the last meeting, the redecoration of the fascia's above the main entrance has been completed, and new carpet has been laid in the presbytery living room and stairs.

Fr Ken reported that a recently bereaved parishioner would like to install a few benches around the memorial garden. This will require removal of a couple of bushes. Action: DL to speak to the gardeners.

SF suggested that while the church was closed would be a good opportunity to replace the high level lighting in the church which has started to fail. LM had spoken to the electrician in early March who confirmed he had access to a mobile scaffold and could do the job. Action: LM to speak to Maz regarding a quote and dates.

4.6 Ecumenical. Report from VG.

Restore Hope are doing a fantastic job helping lots of families in need through this crisis. VG requested that their work continues to be publicised in the newsletter. Action LM.

4.7 Youth. Report from SA.

No update since the last meeting.

4.8 Pastoral Area Council. Report from PK.

No update since the last meeting.

5. AOB

i. Project OASIS

St Aidan's had just made a decision to move forward with Project OASIS when the churches were closed but the project has now stalled. It was agreed that we need to be out the other side of the pandemic before we can engage the parish, and we will need to wait until we can come back together to move it forward.

ii. Re-opening the church for private prayer.

The government timelines suggest we may be able to reopen for private prayer in July. The Diocese has asked all parishes to prepare for this now, and has sent out guidance around how we can do this safely. There was a discussion around what would be required, and if we could comply, and the unanimous view of the PPC was that we need to protect Fr Ken and our parishioners, and we should not re-open at this stage. PC reported that IHM and St Columba's had made the same decision.

iii. AGM

The Parish AGM had been scheduled for 5th July. There was a discussion around whether we could do this via Zoom, asking any parishioners who wanted to attend to email their interest so they could be sent the meeting ID. However, it was decided that there would be an interim report instead, sent out via the newsletter. Action: All PPC members to email a short summary of their ministry to JH by the end of June.

iv.

AP expressed her thanks and encouragement to Louise for the support she has been able to give to the parish during very difficult times. All agreed with the sentiments expressed.

6. Future Meetings

The next meeting will be at 7.00pm on Wednesday 30th September 2020.

7. Prayer and Close

Dcn Peter closed the meeting with a prayer.

Louise Moss
4th June 2020