

**St Aidan's Parish Pastoral Council**  
**Minutes of Meeting held 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 7.00pm remotely via Zoom.**

**1. Present:** John Hannacher (JH, Chair), Fr Ken (KP), Dcn David Curtis (DC), Shadia Anderson (SA), Dcn Peter Collins (PC), Sue Finch (SF), Peter Kirk (PK), Deirdre Lay (DL), Louise Moss (LM), Finbarr O'Donoghue (FO), & Vince Smith (VS).

**Apologies:** Brian Gallagher (BG), Vivianne Gattoc (VG) & Anne Parsons (AP).

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020 were approved. JH thanked the PPC for their input to his report to the parish, which was published on our website in lieu of an AGM in July.

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

**4.1 Finance.** Report from SF.

Our Diocesan parish accounts are showing an overall balance of approximately £125,000, which is the same as at the end of April, so although our income has reduced, our current outgoings are being covered and we are not having to use savings to cover routine costs. A substantial number of parishioners make their offerings via standing order, and unlike the weekly plate, these have not changed since the church was first closed in March.

All were in agreement that our parish is in a very fortunate financial position, and there was no need to appeal to the parish for funds at this time. The maintenance issues flagged up by the quinquennial report have been resolved and there are no expensive works planned.

**4.2 Liturgy.** Report from VS.

No update since the last meeting.

**4.3 Formation.** Report sent in advance from BG.

Confirmation is going ahead on 9<sup>th</sup> October at St Josephs.

First Holy Communion is also going ahead at St Aidan's on 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> November, with the candidates split into two groups to enable sufficient distancing in the church.

There had been a suggestion that we try to organise a CAFOD walk, but it was decided that with the current 'Rule of Six', and potentially changing guidelines that it would not be possible at this time.

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

There are no events at the moment.

Coffee after Mass and the monthly lunches are missed, particularly by our elderly parishioners, but there is nothing we can do at present.

**4.5 Maintenance.** Report from FO.

Since the last meeting the work on the memorial garden has been completed, and all agreed it looked great and was a worthwhile project.

The bulbs in the high level lighting in the church have been replaced.

FO had noticed the earth wire in the building has been removed, and is liaising with our usual electrician to fix this. Action: FO.

**4.6 Ecumenical.** Report sent in advance from VG.

There is a plan for a remembrance event on the green in Little Chalfont on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November. However, this has not yet been signed off by the council and may not be able to go ahead this year.

It is St Aidan's turn to host the Women's World Day of Prayer (WWDP) in March 2021. No plans have been made yet.

#### **4.7 Youth.** Report from SA.

There have been no parish youth events since the last meeting.

Mark Holdsworth (head at Our Lady's School) recently invited some recent alumni of the school to a zoom meet-up which was a success. There is another meeting planned on 9<sup>th</sup> October, and the hope is that participation will grow over time.

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

There has not been a meeting since the last PPC meeting.

There is likely to be a change of Dean as Fr Michael is moving on, but there has been no announcement yet.

Deacon David will be joining St Aidan's at least until the end of the year. JH welcomed him to the parish.

### **5. AOB**

#### **i. Disinfecting the church**

Since we have re-opened the church, before every service volunteer cleaners have been cleaning all the benches (and touch points such as light switches and door handles) with a disinfectant solution.

Several other parishes in the diocese, including St Columba's, and St Teresa's in Beaconsfield, have invested in a fogging machine. This sprays a very fine mist of disinfectant into the air, which then settles onto surfaces. The benefits of this system are that it is quicker than manual cleaning, and disinfects the air in the church as well as the surfaces. However, the machine costs around £1,000, with ongoing costs for the disinfectant solution.

DL pointed out that the benches are already showing signs of wear from all the manual cleaning, and they will eventually need an expensive re-stain if we continue with our current protocols.

All agreed that we should invest in the machine. Action: LM to purchase and then train cleaners and stewards to use it.

#### **ii. Streaming our services.**

DL has been speaking to Graham Wood (who installed and services our AV system). A stand-alone camera which will work independently of the AV system, although will be compatible with it, will cost in the region of £2,000. Action: DL and VS to look at the various options.

Before we invest in a camera we need to upgrade our broadband and install it in the church.

Action: DL to speak to LM about what is required, and LM to get a quote from BT.

#### **iii. Separate phone line for parish secretary.**

As Louise is now working mostly from home, it would be beneficial for her to have a mobile parish phone number. A pay-as-you-go SIM will cost about £10 per month, and can be used in an old phone Louise already owns. The new phone number will be advertised in the newsletter and on the website.

### **6. Future Meetings**

The next meeting will be at 7.00pm on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020 via zoom.

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

Dcn David closed the meeting with a prayer.

Louise Moss  
6<sup>th</sup> October 2020