

St Aidan's Parish Pastoral Council
Minutes of Meeting held 2nd December 2020 at 7.00pm remotely via Zoom.

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

Apologies: 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 30th September 2020 were approved.

4. Ministry reports and discussion as necessary:

4.1 Finance. Report from SF.

Overall we have a balance of around £128,000 in our accounts, which is similar to the previous quarter. Although income from the plate is down, many parishioners give via standing order and this income is enough to cover our outgoings at present.

4.2. Liturgy. Report from VS.

Since the last meeting overheads at Mass have been reintroduced, and quiet music is played via the AV system while parishioners are arriving and leaving, and during communion. Feedback has been good – parishioners have reported it helps things feel more 'normal'.

Live streaming – Report from DL.

Broadband has been installed in the church, as well as a camera and associated hardware. Trials of the equipment are now ongoing and live streaming of the Mass will begin as soon as we are confident all glitches have been ironed out. Hopeful this will be by Christmas but no guarantees.

There are various settings for the camera – simplest is a single view of the whole altar. If a more experienced operator is available then there are various different pre-set views for the camera to zoom to, for example closer to the lectern or Fr Ken.

Action: LM to make sure we have the right licences to stream music, put up signs in the church letting parishioners know Masses might be live-streamed, and check with the Diocese that we are complying with safeguarding requirements.

KP expressed his thanks to DL for all her hard work getting the parish to a position that we would be able to start streaming Mass.

4.3. Formation. Report from BG.

Pastoral Area confirmations went ahead as planned on 9th October. Congratulations to all who worked so hard behind the scenes to make it happen.

First Holy Communion Masses at St Aidan's are planned for 5th and 12th December.

4.4 Social and Cultural. Report from DL.

Nothing to report since the last meeting.

4.5. Maintenance. Report from FO.

Earth wire in church: this is still outstanding. FO is in touch with electrician Maz to resolve.
New shed roof: The gardeners had noticed one of the sheds needed a new roof. Quote to replace was received and accepted and this work has been done.

4.6. Ecumenical. Report from VG.

Remembrance Sunday: This event went well. DL laid a wreath on behalf of St Aidan's.
Carols on the Green: This is scheduled to go ahead as planned in Little Chalfont at 12pm on 11th December. Action: LM to put in newsletter.

4.7. Youth. Report from SA.

Nothing to report from within the parish.
Mark Holdsworth (head teacher at Our Lady's) is having success with a zoom Justice & Peace group with some children at the school. The plan is to extend this to include more children in time.

4.8. Pastoral Area Council. Report from PK.

Nothing to report since the last meeting.

5. AOB

i. Disinfecting the church.

A fogging machine has been purchased, which sprays a fine mist of disinfectant solution into the air. It disinfects both the air in the building and all surfaces the droplets land on. Training has been given to stewards and it will be in use from this weekend. IHM/St Columba's and St Joseph's have also purchased machines.

ii. Christmas Services.

Fr Ken offered to say an extra Mass to increase capacity, and will liaise with Fr Roman before confirming times. In the event of over-subscription it was agreed that parishioners who had helped with our re-opening would be prioritised.

Action LM to create a booking form on our website and email parishioners to invite them to request spaces. Booking will close at least a week before Christmas to allow LM time to work through the requests and allocate spaces.

iii. Vulnerable parishioners.

Do we need to do more to try and keep in touch with our elderly and isolated parishioners? Suggestion was made to speak to the SVP and ask them to get involved.

6. Future meeting

The next meeting will be at 7.00pm on Wednesday 3rd March 2021.

7. Prayer and close.

JH wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, and Dcn Peter closed the meeting with a prayer.

Louise Moss
14th January 2021