

St Aidan's Parish Pastoral Council
Minutes of Meeting held 9th November 2021 at 7.00pm
At Our Lady's Church

PRESENT: Fr Roy, John Hannacher, Joe Tavernier, Shadia Anderson, Sue Finch, Vivianne Gattoc, Brian Gallagher, Peter Kirk, Vince Smith, Ann Parsons, Deirdre Lay

APOLOGIES: Finbarr O'Donoghue, David Curtis, Peter Collins

PRAYER AND WELCOME: John Hannacher welcomed everyone, and the meeting commenced with a prayer from Fr Roy.

MINUTES: As agreed at the meeting there is a small group representing both parishes, Joe Tavernier and Fiona O'Donnell from Our Lady's and John Hannacher, Sue Finch and Brian Gallagher from St Aidan's. They have had their first meeting and they will continue to work together and share best practices.

Minutes of the last meeting, held on 23rd June 2021, were approved.

FINANCE ST. AIDAN'S – Sue Finch: Fr Roy wants Finance to be a joint parish approach. Joe and Peter Kirk agreed to work with Sue.

Post Meeting Note: Fr Roy has advised that the Finance Committee for Our Lady's will be Sue Finch, Joe Tavernier, Fiona O'Donnell and Ray McCarthy.

Parish Audit

This was carried out on 14th October by Richard Robinson, one of the diocesan auditors. We have yet to see a report of his visit but speaking with Fr Roy and myself afterwards he assured us that we are doing a good job.

Richard informed us that we do need a Finance Committee which meets regularly and is independently from the Parish Council.

The report, when we receive it, may show other areas needing improvement.

Money Counters

We do need to look for some additional suitable money counters. Presently the money is being counted by myself and Deirdre. We have a second team, Peter Kirk and Frank McElroy and they are happy to count more frequently. (Pre-covid we had 6 counting teams each operating 2 months of the year. 4 of the original teams have indicated that they no longer wish to be involved.

Parish Finances

- On 30th September we had £137,500 in our Diocesan Account and £4,500 in our local account
- £4,466 has been claimed in Gift Aid from April - September
- £624 is received weekly in SO Offertory Contributions (£16,233 April – September)
- We are receiving rental for the presbytery from Fr Ken and Imre.

- The Entertainer has not used our car park since March 2020, resulting in loss of annual income of up to £6,600 pa.
- The Yoga group no longer wish to use the Parish Hall as we are now expecting groups that hire it to leave it as they find it ie with the tables and chairs back in place. We may see other groups drop out as a result of this in the future.
- We have received a quote for repair work to the Kerb at St Aidan's of £800 from Tim Baker, and one for car park lighting of £1,920 from MGP Electrical Contractors.
- Gardening costs continue to be a major expense, but recently the grounds have had a complete overhaul - all the hedges and shrubs have been cut back and a proportion of the cost for this is in the disposal of the cuttings.

Diocesan Finances

Tony McNiff, the diocesan Chief Operating Officer, has circulated to parish finance teams the Feedback Notes from the Finance Group Meeting held on 21st September 2021

The issues raised have been considered by the Council of Priests, the Finance Audit and Risk Subcommittee and by Trustees at their Main Board meeting. The actions/timescales set out in the notes have been agreed by the Main Board.

The Diocese is short of money and is looking to raise more revenue from the parishes. We will do our annual appeal in the new tax year but felt that we should not be asking parishioners to make additional contributions at this time. COVID has caused a lot of hardship for many families.

LITURGY– Vince Smith: Priority is Christmas. After discussion it was agreed to have a 5pm Nativity Mass at St Aidans. 7pm Vigil Mass at Our Lady's and 11.30pm Carols followed by Midnight Mass at St Aidans. 9.30am Christmas Day Mass at Our Lady's and 11am at St Aidans.

Shadia is to contact Heather with regard to organising the Nativity Mass.

Fr Roy is to ask Gerard if he would be available and happy to play the organ for the carols and Midnight Mass and Christmas Day Mass.

FORMATION – Brian Gallagher: 1st Holy Communion has started at St Aidan's . We have 3 Catechists. Fr Ken is no longer able to run the parent meetings that have been arranged. Fr Roy stated that the focus should be on the children and he will be having a meeting with the Catechists to decide the way forward.

There are 14 children being prepared for 1st Holy Communion at Our Lady's.

Confirmation is going well there are 39 candidates. The date has been confirmed and will be 11th June 2022 at St Aidan's.

Suzette Harris is running the Baptism courses at St Aidan's.

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL – Deirdre: We have re-started the monthly parish lunch. Next lunch is on 19th December. We do need more volunteers, currently only two teams providing the lunches.

MAINTENANCE – Finbarr O’Donoghue:

St Aidans:

Repair to kerbstones and drain: It was agreed that the work should go ahead. for the repair of the loose kerbstones and cleaning and refitting of metal drains. Cost £880.

Lighting - It was agreed that the removal of the small silver bollards from the lawns and cables and installation of a 5m lamp post with 3 way flood light near the exit of the car park should go ahead. Cost £1,920. Discussion as to whether the lights should be motion sensitive or on a timer followed. We need to be mindful of the impact on our neighbours should we use motion sensitive.

Our Lady’s:

The church roof at Our Lady’s is leaking badly. This has been reported to the diocese. A survey has been done but as yet no response with regard to the work being approved for the go ahead has been given. Fr Roy is in contact with the diocese.

Post Meeting Update – the roof repair is now underway. Scaffolding has been erected 17th November.

The inside of Our Lady’s church is in need of redecorating. We are awaiting a quote.

Post Meeting Update – quote for redecorating has been received and accepted.

ECUMENICAL – Vivianne Gattoc

Remembrance Service will be held on 14th November on the Village Green in Little Chalfont. The service starts at 10:50am, 2 minutes silence at 11am and will finish at 11:20am.

St Aidan’s will be hosting the Women’s World Day of Prayer on 4th March 2022. More information will be provided nearer the time.

Carols on the Green in Little Chalfont Saturday 11th December at 10.30am

YOUTH – Shadia Anderson: Main aim is to encourage more families back to church. Hopefully the Christmas Nativity will be an attraction. Possibly a general advert to encourage the children to come.

PASTORAL AREA COUNCIL – Peter Kirk: there has not been any meetings or communications for some time and nothing from the Dean.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

St Aidans: We need to encourage more welcomers. Pre COVID Fr Ken used to be at the back of church to greet parishioners and there would be someone handing out the newsletter and Mass book. Ann Parsons would normally hand out the books and newsletter on a Sunday and there would also be someone on a Saturday. Ann has continued to do the meet and greet since we re-opened. Parish Council members in the past have supported Fr Ken by

being present in the Narthex before the start of Mass.

Synod – Brian advised everyone that we have been invited to make a contribution to the Diocesan Listening Phase of the Synod and that we should be starting the process as the closing date for the national contribution is April 2022. Fr Roy advised that the clergy had all been advised and that there would be information coming out to the parishes with regard to their input in the near future. As soon as this was available it would be shared.

Our Lady's – there is still no conclusion from the Bishop with regard to the Latin Mass on a Sunday morning. This is causing major problems. The Guild Hall is not available for the children's liturgy during the 9.30am Mass, they are currently meeting in the presbytery causing a concern re numbers and health and safety. Fr Roy has no time to meet with parishioners after Mass as he has to get to St Aidan's for the 11am Mass. Fr Roy has requested that the Latin Mass time is moved to 11am but the group are not in agreement. The school have offered the use of their facilities for coffee after the Latin Mass which would free up the Guild Hall but once again they have refused. There is only one family from the parishioners of Our Lady's who attend this Mass. The Bishop is aware but seems reluctant to take any action.

Parish secretary: Ala Dabrowska has left. Ala wanted to work more hours than we could offer and has since found a new position. We wish her well.

We have appointed a new Parish Secretary, Deborah Rodgers, who is a parishioner at St. Columbus in Chesham and she will start work on Monday 22nd November at Our Lady's.

Next Meeting will be held on Monday 7th March 2022 7pm at Our Lady's

Fr Roy closed the meeting with a prayer.