

St Aidan's Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of Meeting held 3rd March 2021 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 PC.

LM has resigned from her position as Parish Administrator and will be leaving at the end of April. The Diocese have been contacted regarding recruiting a replacement.

3. Minutes: Minutes of the last meeting on 2nd December 2020 were approved.

4. Ministry reports and discussion as necessary:

4.1 Finance. Report from SF.

The Q3 return has been completed. Our income was only £5,800 this quarter and our expenses were £9,200. However, we have a healthy reserve in our account and so there are no immediate concerns regarding the parish finances.

The largest non-routine expense from the last quarter was the purchase and installation of the equipment to allow us to stream our Masses, and the majority of this was covered by a generous donation from a parishioner.

SF suggested that as we will be recruiting a new administrator, now would be the right time to incorporate the bookkeeping element of her volunteer role into the new job description. It would take an hour or two a week. The PPC were in agreement. Action: SF to liaise with LM to include finance role into the new job spec.

4.2. Liturgy. Report from VS.

Nothing to report since the last meeting.

4.3. Formation. Report from BG.

There is no formal sacramental preparation at the moment.

Changes to the Pastoral Area will probably impact our confirmation programme.

There are two weddings booked for the spring.

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 has contacted Maz about this previously but will get in touch again to remind him.

DL reported that during the cold spell the pipes outside the candle room froze. These have now been lagged and it shouldn't happen again.

KP reported that during the cold weather the radiators in the house stopped working. A plumber has installed a new pump and resolved the problem, although suggested that in the next year or so the radiators will either need draining or replacing.

BG reported that the mechanisms on the window catches in the church need maintenance as a few are sticking.

4.6. Ecumenical. Report from VG.

St Aidan's was due to be hosting the Womens World Day of Prayer service this month but it has been cancelled due to lockdown. We will host next year instead.

4.7. Youth. Report from SA.

A Youth Newsletter was published on our website for Lent and publicised in the main newsletter.

Mark Holdsworth (head teacher at Our Lady's) is having success with a zoom Justice & Peace group with some children in years 7 & 8 who used to go to the school. St Aidan's should advertise this in our newsletter. Action: PC to forward the wording that was used in the IHM newsletter to LM.

4.8. Pastoral Area Council. Report from PK.

Our Chiltern Pastoral Area has merged with Beaconsfield and High Wycombe to become the South Bucks Pastoral Area. It is unclear at the moment how this change will impact St Aidan's but more detail will be shared as it emerges.

5. AOB

i. Re-opening the church.

As was announced in the newsletter last week, St Aidan's will be re-opening for the public celebration of Mass at the beginning of Holy Week. All previous arrangements regarding stewards and distancing will be in place. We will continue to stream the Mass once we re-open, and KP thanked DL and VS for their work.

ii. Live-streaming of the Mass

KP asked if we would be able to start streaming the Saturday Mass as well as Sunday. At the moment only DL and VS are trained to use the system so we need more volunteers and training will take time. Using different camera angles at different points in the Mass improves the experience when watching from home, but adds complexity for the operator.

PK praised the streaming but thought a single camera angle would simplify things and enable more operators to be trained.

We need to recruit new members to the AV team, particularly younger members of the parish, but this has proved difficult in the past.

KP thanked the PPC for all that they are doing through these difficult times, and LM for her work over the last 6 years.

6. Future meeting

The next meeting will be at 7.00pm on Wednesday 2nd June 2021.

7. Prayer and close.

KP closed the meeting with a prayer.