

St. Aidan's Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of Meeting held 2nd December 2024, 7.00pm at St. Aidan's Presbytery

1. In attendance: Vince Smith (Chair), Fr Roy Karakkattu, Sue Finch, Vivianne Gattoc, David Curtis, Peter Kirk, Deirdre Lay, Eileen Williams, Debbie Rogers

Apologies: Finbarr O'Donoghue, John Hannacher

2. Prayer & Welcome: VS welcomed everyone, and the meeting commenced with a prayer from Fr. Roy.

VS welcomed Eileen Williams to the meeting who will now be a regular member of the PC representing Safeguarding.

3. Approval of Minutes of the last meeting: The Minutes of the meeting held 16th September 2024, were approved; there were no matters arising.

4. Ministry reports and discussion as necessary.

4.1 Finance – Sue Finch

The figures for Q1 have now been corrected at the Diocese Finance office and SF reported the Q2 end figure of £120,000. The balance at the start of the year was £133,000. It was noted that this was a consequence of the refurbishment of the Presbytery (12K builders) and Tree felling and removal. There are no major expenses coming up now and SF is confident that the finances are going in the right direction.

4.2 Liturgy – Vince Smith

VS asked if we are having the Nativity at 5pm again this year. This was confirmed with Brian Gallagher and SF doing the reflections again as last year. Format of the Christmas Masses will be the same as last year and the Carols likely to be the same and will be confirmed soon.

VS reported that the choir is progressing nicely, monthly rehearsals are giving a better footing.

It was acknowledged that there are a good number of readers, with two more who are youngsters coming forward. There are now more EM's for Saturday Masses too.

The A.V. is still low on numbers.

Fr Roy thanked David for getting the new Lectionaries.

There was a discussion around Mass booklets with the new readings, perhaps like they have at Our lady's and David offered to research what's available in books/booklets.

4.3 Formation

Fr Roy mentioned FLAME in March 2025, we have 6 from SA so far and possible 2 from OL. The four parishes will be getting together and there was a brief discussion about funding this as the Parish will fund attendance from the second collection for Youth (November 2024).

4.4 Social & Cultural – Deirdre Lay

The November Quiz was unfortunately cancelled due to low numbers and clashing with another Quiz at St. Columba's. We will try again to arrange this in the late Spring and look again at the venue in case Restore Hope was too difficult to get to for some people.

There will be no Christmas raffle this year as we had planned to have the Quiz. It was agreed that in future years we will have a Quiz regardless of any other fundraising initiatives we may have.

Sunday 22nd December is the Christmas Lunch.

EW asked about the Giving Tree is it something we could do?

Fr Roy advised there would be a joint appeal on 14/15th December for SVP and the Foodbank. The amount raised would be shared. This will be put in the newsletter this weekend. EW mentioned that she would need to follow up if someone is involved.

4.5 Maintenance – Finbarr O'Donoghue

DC mentioned that the heater in the Narthex doesn't seem to be working properly – DL to look into this.

The gutters are being done on 16th December on the Church, presbytery and hall (Cost £560). The Hedgehogs have been advised to be taken out.

DL reported that the lights in the Church and several of the up and down lights in the church have now been replaced with LED lights. Maz is to complete the other works in the hall as mentioned in the last minutes. (Cost £676.48).

DL organising the final survey of the drains.

The tarmac work on the drive is on hold until the new year.

The Health & Safety audit is to be done next year from end of January (date to be confirmed).

4.6 Ecumenical – Vivianne Gattoc

Carols on the Green will be held on 14th December at 10.30 am, Fr Roy will add to the newsletter this week. The next meeting will be held on 28th January 2025.

4.7 Safeguarding – Eileen Williams

Safeguarding Sunday and the presentations went very well and the feedback was good and appreciated. EW said she thought it was beneficial for her to attend PPC meetings as she would be able to identify areas where she could be involved or need to take action. It had been mentioned about focussing on a different area of Safeguarding on a regular basis – something to think about.

Hopefully, Suzette Harris will be joining Eileen and together with the two representatives from OL they are all, along with Dot from IHM and the rep from St. Columba's they are able to support each other.

4.8 Youth

DC said the idea of a Youth Ministry Worker for the four parishes was still being explored.

EW asked to be advised if we had any Altar servers who were 18 or over as they would need to have a DBS when working alongside those under 18. Currently we do not have any. Michael Crouch is the oldest and he will be seventeen this month.

4.9 Pastoral Area Council – Peter Kirk

The last meeting was held on 25th November and PK mentioned that the Pastoral Area Christmas booklets would be available this week. The committee is keen that parishes communicate regularly about developments, even if just sharing the meeting date.

A sub-committee is to be formed for the Jubilee Year.

There will be a Pastoral area Mass at Westminster Cathedral to coincide with St. Monica's feast day.

PK said that any ideas are welcome as they want to involve the parishes more.

The Safeguarding conference went very well.

There will be a meeting at St. Teresa's with feedback from the Synod and a video by Avril.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Caspar and the requirements. It was suggested that Neil Roseman could be invited to come and give a presentation.

Next meeting will be held on 3rd March 2025.

16th June, 15th September, 1st December were also agreed.

The meeting concluded with a Prayer from Fr. Roy.