

St Aidan's Pastoral Parish Council: Minutes of Meeting - Sunday 8th October 2017

Present: Father Martin, Bernie Lamb (chair), Sister Dorothy, Frank Gilmour, Kath Gray, David Baez. Stephen Fallon, Lucy Mendez, Carole Lee

Apologies: Allison Rebello, Julia Firkbank

Opening Prayer was delivered by Sister Dorothy, Kath Gray agreed to lead next meeting.

Minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and agreed with key updates and actions noted:

- **First Children's choir** took place on Sunday 8th October and was well received
- **Fair trade Meeting** – Sales have picked up in the last 2 weeks. Mark Reed is scheduled to visit on 15th October to raise awareness.
- **Pilgrimage to Holy Island** – this was considered to be a great experience and a very happy day. Thanks were extended to Father Martin for organising the day.
- **PPC photos** – Lucy to take the last 2 photos (Kath and Stephen) to enable the new photo board to be displayed to help parishioners identify the current committee members.
- **Suggestions Box** – Bernie has received 2 suggestions to be discussed later in the meeting.
- Minutes from previous meeting were agreed.
- Any other Items to be included on the agenda were raised

Items from the Agenda:

- **Churches Together - information provided in advance by Julia**
Quarterly Services – all at 6.00 pm: 22 October 2017 at St Bartholomew's; 28th January 2018 at St Aidan's; 29th April 2018 at St Andrew's
Carol Singing in Forest Hall – Saturday 16th December 2017. From 10.00 am. As in past years a collection will be taken for a charitable cause - Christian Aid /CAFOD or another, depending on appeals at that time.
Christmas Angels 2017 St Aidan's will join with St Andrew's and other churches to knit these. Last year about 1500 knitted angels were distributed around the area.
- **Fair Trade / Justice and Peace**
The Autumn Event was well attended and raised £582.00. Many thanks to all who helped in any way.
The Sharing Fair is on 28/29 October- It was highlighted that there had been no donation made to it recently as no transport has been sent to for any collections.
Father Martin suggested the Peoples' Kitchen Elswick run by the Missionaries of Charity as a possible recipient as they have very few donations.
Stephen identified that the Trussle Trust had received donations following the school's Harvest Festival.
Sister Dorothy queried if there was any demand for clothing donations. This was to be checked out as not confirmed at this time.
It was noted that the East End of the City was covered by donations from St Teresa's.
- **Council of Laity**
A Mass of Thanksgiving and Celebration was held on 6 October for members of the original Council. Bishop Seamus thanked everyone for their support and valuable contributions. He stressed the importance of developing discipleship in communities. The date for the re-formed Council has not been finalised.
- **Partnership Update**
The Partnership Development Group Away Day is on 11 November at St Mary's School, Benton Park Road.
'October Partnership Matters' is now available on the website. A copy is on the notice board. This will be an agenda item for January's Committee meeting.
Father Martin advised that St Aidan's - along with all Partnership members has paid £200 into a joint account for future joint administration costs.
- **Advent Liturgy**
10th December @ 4:00pm – using Diocesan material. Julia will lead the service.
- **The PPC Constitution** – this was reviewed in general terms and was identified to be reviewed again in approximately 2 years' time once Partnership arrangements have become more formal. The Constitution currently states that the committee be made up of approximately 12 members. It was agreed that the current number of 11 was therefore acceptable.
- **Sacrament of Confirmation** – Father Martin advised that currently 9 young people in the parishes of St Aidan's, St Teresa's and St. Marys have started the first session of the programme. Their confirmation mass will take place at St Teresa's on 22nd November. The group covers those young adults currently in school Year 9 or above.

It was also identified that this should be opened to other adults in the parish and how this could be supported. Father Martin suggested considering designated parishioners to give catechetical talks. There is material available to support these sessions which last about 20 minutes.

This will be reviewed in January with Father Martin to prepare something to say on the matter.

- **St Stephen's School Update** - Stephen provided an update stating that the school had made a good start to the term and that it was good for him to be back full time. Following the Ofsted inspection in 2017 and the Section 48 inspection, he was looking forward in 2017/18 to developing the role of parents in the spiritual development of the children due to the important role they play.
 - The first mass of the year had been the Harvest Festival and included using one of the Lampeduca Crosses which were made with from wood salvaged from refugee boats and distributed by CAFOD.The Trussle Trust was very grateful for donations of 3 large bags containing toiletries, clothes and food.
- A Mission Week is being planned based on the statement -
'I can do all things in Christ who strengthens me' – encouraging and supporting children to build resilience through their faith, using Northern Dance, liturgy, prayer and an art display of the children's work. It is also planned to support parents and help them build an awareness of their faith. A range of events are currently being considered and once confirmed will be shared with the parish with possible activities taking place within the church hall during the Mission Week for possible talks to parents/staff. This was considered a great opportunity for Parishioners to get involved. Carole gave the example of 'sharing journeys through faith' from a parishioner's perspective and encouraging the interaction between some of the older parishioners and the children of the school.
 - Father Martin will be approached for support through events.
 - The mini bus is being well used to take children out, including a trip for Year 4 to Holy Island.
- Year 6 have a planned trip to Belgium to visit the Battle Fields next year. Approximately 16 children are to attend. Fund raising opportunities were mentioned as a way of the parish supporting funds to enable as many children as possible to attend such a worthwhile trip.
- It was also suggested that the children be invited to support the proposed Mass for the Sick.
 - 'Mini Vinnies' is currently a thriving group within the school which brings great opportunities for involvement with the children and the parish.Stephen finished by stating that he was very proud of the school and was looking to building further links with the parish.
- **Suggestion Box** - A further push for volunteer help on Sundays to support Frank with duties, such as opening/closing church etc.
 - A request for additional support with the organ.These will be taken forward, either by a bulletin entry or as a request from the pulpit.
Frank left the meeting @ 19:24
- **Links with St. Aidan's and World War I** – Win Riley has identified strong connections with the Parish and Soldiers who fought in World War I and was happy to help with planning a WW1 Remembrance service. Father Martin proposed a memorial/plaque for these parishioners. It was suggested that names be provided along with evidence to confirm links with the Parish. This could be funded by a donation from the Finance Committee, possibly with additional support from Lottery Funding.
It was identified that this could also be tied in to the work St. Stephen's have planned on this topic.
Thanks were extended to Fr Martin for the greater prominence given to the icon of Our Lady donated by Polish Airmen.
- **AOB**
 - Celebration of the Word and Holy Communion Liturgy.** New copies are available for immediate use.
 - Mass for the Sick** – Sister Dorothy proposed that a mass/anointing service be held for the sick and elderly of the Parish. This could be supported with tea in the hall and could involve the children for St. Stephen's. This mass had been held previously but had stopped. The committee supported the proposal, with Father Martin proposing Saturday 10th February for the event which would tie in with World Day of Prayer or the Sick.
 - Mass Times** - It was agreed that Christmas Mass times would be the same as last year as it was thought that this had worked well and allowed Father Martin to cover St Aidan's and St. Teresa's. Father Martin was asked about the proposal to lose one of the weekend masses that had been mentioned at the last meeting. Father Martin confirmed that while there was no Mass on a Saturday morning he was able to cope with the current numbers, but that the matter would need to be reviewed at a later date.