

**Parishes of St Aidan and St Teresa of the Infant Jesus**  
**Minutes from The Joint Parish Advisory Group Meeting**  
**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2019**  
**St Aidan's Hall**

**Attendees:** Fr Mariadass, Bernie L, Julia F, Sr. Dorothy, Frank G, Mike P, Janet W, Sarah B, Pat A, Sheila C, Beverley G, Paul G and Kath G.

1. Father Mariadass opened the meeting with a prayer.
2. **Apologies:** David B, Lucy M, Stephen F, Carol L, Andrea H
3. All those attending introduced themselves to the group.
4. **Election of Chair and Secretary**  
It was agreed that going forward – when the meeting is held at St Aidan's they will chair the meeting and cover the minutes, when held at St Teresa's, they will chair and cover the minutes of the meeting.
5. **Review of previous meeting**  
Bernie confirmed the content of the last joint meeting held in January. Although these were not formal minutes they gave an overview of the matters discussed.  
Bernie thanked Mike and Frank for coordinating the joint diary for the parishes and keeping it up to date. Mike and Frank will review it again and check against dates etc to identify what else can be planned in advance.  
It was agreed that the usual spiritual events would continue to be led by Lay People within the parishes.
6. **Update on Joint Easter Services**  
Father M reported that while the actual services had gone well, it had been questioned why there were not separate masses when there were two priests available. Father M confirmed that this would be reviewed for next year, but would be based on priest availability. He confirmed that he had wanted to try and keep things consistent should one of the priests leave.  
Julia highlighted the importance of reviewing the accessibility for those unable to attend the Easter masses.  
It was identified that the services had been good, although it was highlighted that mass on Ash Wednesday was overcrowded and that there were some parking difficulties.  
It was suggested that the music could be shared for big events/services going forward. A Music Group meeting has been planned and will be organised.  
The possible closure of St. Dominic's was queried but not discussed further at this time.
7. **Sponsored walk to be held on 6<sup>th</sup> July**  
Last year's walk was confirmed as a nice route, although was tricky when accessing The Dene, via Castle Farm Road. Alternative options/routes were suggested including Hulne Park in Alnwick which provides various routes and various lengths. It was discussed as an option which could include a visit to the castle, the town and the monastery. It was suggested to be considered for next year, as it was felt too short notice to plan for this year. Janet to investigate if the monastery could be booked for prayers.  
Another option discussed was to hold a mass at St. Aidan's at 10:00am to get the metro to Monkseaton, walk back to North Shields and then get the metro back. It was questioned about the cost of the transport which might put some people off. It was agreed that this could also be a possible route in the future, as it is a flatter walk which might encourage more people to join along the way.

Next year's sponsored walk will be planned at the next joint meeting in January. It was agreed to stick with the Dene route this year, starting with mass at 10:00. Father M to arrange sponsor forms. Possible fund raising causes included Aid to the Church In Need.

**8. BBQ**

This will be held at St. Teresa's on 26<sup>th</sup> August and volunteers will be required. The equipment is already available for use. Ticket prices will be checked against last year.

**9. Joint Parish Retreat**

Options were discussed for a retreat, including a visit to Holy Island or Minsteracres. It was agreed that a trip to Holy Island would be discussed at the next joint meeting and that Bernie would check dates for Minsteracres for September/early October this year.

**10. Future Joint Activities**

A Winter Fayre was proposed for consideration as there are already school/summer fayres a planned. It was agreed that any funds raised from fayres would remain with the parish which organised it, but that it was hoped that parishioners from both parishes would support events.

Altar Servers: A meeting to be held on 29<sup>th</sup> June with a view to organising a potential trip to Holy Island with picnic. It was suggested that there may be new members to join the altar servers following the latest Holy Communion celebrations.

Partnership Mass: Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July – Bishop Robert is visiting the priests of the partnership with an evening mass for the partnership. The venue of the mass is to be confirmed.

**11. Partnership update**

Julia provided an update, with the next meeting due to be held in July. A partnership vision has been agreed and an interim plan put in place. The partnership will continue to support each other's local communities and where possible share resources and work collaboratively for the benefit of the whole partnership.

There has been a hiatus in activity due to the change of Bishop, but a variety of successful activities have been taking place and will continue to do so. Activities have included local Spirituality and Prayer groups, Journey in Faith, Liturgy of Mercy, Walking Pilgrimage and a review of activities for Young People and Outreach to people in need.

A Confirmation programme will begin in September.

**12. AOB**

St. Teresa's are due to hold a monthly planning meeting with their next formal meeting to be held on 11<sup>th</sup> September. St. Aidan's next meeting to be held 6<sup>th</sup> October at 6:00pm

**13. The next joint meeting will be held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 7:30pm at St. Teresa's.**