

St Aidan's Pastoral Parish Council: Minutes of Meeting - Sunday 16th July 2017.

Present: Father Martin, Bernie Lamb (chair), Sister Dorothy, Julia Firbank, Frank Gilmour, Alison Rebello, Kath Gray, David Baez and Carole Lee.

Apologies: Stephen Fallon, Lucy Mendez,

Opening Prayer delivered by Carole Lee. Sister Dorothy agreed to lead next meeting.

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

- **Choir** – Further discussions to be held about this, likely to be after the summer holidays with a view to preparing something for the Christmas season.
- **Technology in the hall** – this was reviewed with Andrew Willson who identified that the further apart the laptop is from the connecting box, the more likely there is to be problems. A longer lead has been ordered. Bernie to check if this has been received.
- **Key** – quotes are being received by Peter for the key fob system to manage the security system and which can also be accessed via Father Martin's mobile phone. These will be agreed by the finance committee.
- **Ministry of Consolation** – Sister Dorothy, Carole and Julia attended the day meeting at Ushaw in June. Speakers included Paul Paes and Karen Groves. The day was very worthwhile. All three have registered an interest to attend a course to be run in partnership in the autumn.

Items from the Agenda

- **Churches together** - The May Service at St. Aidan's was well received by all denominations. The July Service at St. Andrew's was well received but fewer people attended. Quarterly Services – 22 October at St. Bartholomew's, 28 January 2018 at St. Aidan's Meeting of Representatives - Thursday 14 September, 11am at St. Bartholomew's.
- **Fair Trade** - Sales have not improved. The stall may need to close. This is a similar situation to other parishes. No date has been set yet for Mark Reed to come to speak to the congregation
- **Justice and Peace** - The spring Plant and Home Bake sale raised £370 for charity. Many thanks to all who supported in any way. Volunteers are always welcome. Future events – Autumn Sale – 16/17 September, Sharing Fair – Date TBC Problems with iCan collections have now been resolved.
- **Council of Laity** - Changes connected with partnerships will be announced in time for the November meeting.
- **October Devotions** - Rosary to be led by: 1 Oct – Carole, 8 Oct – Father Martin, 15th Oct – Sr. Dorothy and Kath, 22 Oct – Julia, 29 Oct – Alison.
- **Parish Pilgrimage to Holy Island** – August 26. Father Martin has booked 56 seater coach for members of St. Aidan's and St. Teresa's. Father Martin will give a reminder from the altar in the coming weeks in the hope of increasing the number of families attending. It may then be opened up to members of the Parish partnership to encourage attendance. Father Martin is still discussing the possibility of hiring a bus with a lift to aid access for all. It is planned to return via Seahouses with the chance to buy fish and chips, returning back to St. Aidan's at approximately 6pm.
- **The Jesmond St. Mary Partnership** - At the informal meeting of the Development Group in June partnership priests and lay representatives shared details of each parish and discussed visiting parishes and arrangements for a formal meeting in September. The inaugural meeting of the partnership Finance Group met on 12 July to discuss similar arrangements e.g. venue, meeting times, officers etc.

- **Council Members** - Bernie to follow up on photographs of the Council with a view to refresh the picture frame to enable parishioners to approach council members as necessary. Bernie also to review the Parish Constitution to check the number of members required for the Council.

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- **Details of 2 gatherings:**
'Called to the Supper of the Lamb' – Day of Reflection for existing extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion led by Fr. Shaun Purdy, Sat 9 September 2017, 10:30-16:00 at Ushaw College. Places are limited so booking is required no later than 28 August 2017.
All Walking Together – Interfaith Peace Pilgrimage on Saturday 21 October 2017. Posters will be displayed at the back of church.
- Sr. Dorothy advised that she is able to take up her role to support Communion and Word Services again. This news was gratefully received as it will support those delivering such a valuable ministry.
- **Newsletter**
Suggestion Box – St. Teresa's uses a suggestion box for parishioners to raise queries with the Parish Council. It was agreed that St. Aidan's would try the same approach. It was also agreed to include a regular notice in the bulletin to remind parishioners of the Council as a forum to raise any concerns/queries.
Format of Names – Alison queried the format of names of Eucharistic Ministers which should be recorded as first name and initial of surname. This format is to be adopted by St. Aidan's. Bernie to ensure that the Minister Rota is provided in the same format.
Sunday Word – This was discussed as it stopped being available once the new joint newsletter was produced. Comments were expressed that parishioners, especially those housebound missed the spirituality of this newsletter. Father Martin agreed to reinstate this part of the newsletter. There are some costs involved but he did not think this was too prohibitive.
- **Mass Times** – Father Martin advised that he needs to reduce the weekend masses to 3 as advised by The Bishop. The least attended option is Saturday Night Vigil at St. Teresa's with 40-45 attending. Father Martin explained that it was not easy to simply cancel a mass as some attendees come from the Longbenton area and find this is the best mass to attend due to work commitments. He has already begun discussing options with St Teresa's. Possible options were also discussed in light of mass times in other churches throughout the partnership to avoid conflicting mass times. Sunday mornings are well attended in both churches. It was questioned if churches would cope with numbers if there was an increase in Sunday attendance due to cancelling a mass. No decision was made at this time but needs to be made by October.
- **Cross in boiler room** - Father Martin has been asked about the cross as it is taking up room. It was considered appropriate to approach Father Michael to see if he could use it with his creative woodwork.
- **Church Grotto** – Father Martin explained that he had been approached by a couple in the church grounds who enquired why a grotto had not been situated in the corner of the carpark. This was discussed and will be referred to the Finance Committee for further consideration and to see what costs this would entail.

Father McMahon – Sr. Dorothy passed on good wishes from Father McMahon.

Next Meeting – Sunday 8th October @ 5pm