



Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting of
St. Mary, Mother of God, Hornchurch
Thursday 22nd June 2017

DRAFT

PRESENT:	Fr. Martin Fletcher, Eddie Allen (Chair), Brian J Rodgers (Secretary) and 14 members of the parish.
APOLOGIES:	Teresa Young, Brenda Kivlehan, Jo Luxton, Susan Squire.
<p>The meeting, in the Parish Hall, commenced at 20:00hrs with a welcome and prayers, including the Prayer for the Centenary of the Diocese.</p> <p>Brian made the point that this is not a Parish Council AGM, as stated in the newsletter, but the Parish Annual Meeting, at which the Parish selects and mandates the Parish Council to carry out its work on behalf of the Parish for the coming year. Next year, this must be made very clear to the Parish. It is probably why so few people attend.</p>	
	ACTIONS
MINUTES	
<p>The minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting were adopted and signed.</p> <p>Matter Arising – Fr. Martin said we now have John playing guitar at 11.30am Mass on alternate Sundays to those supported by the Choir.</p> <p>Eucharistic Ministers – Still need more.</p>	
PARISH PRIEST	
<p>Fr Martin said he was giving thanks to the Lord for the past year and the many blessings given to the parish, all the volunteers who help.</p> <p><u>Sacraments</u></p> <p>Marriages - less this year, more next.</p> <p>Confirmation – delighted with the programme, the young people and catechists were fantastic. Our thanks to them.</p> <p>First Holy Communion – The four Masses went very well, lots of catechists getting involved.</p> <p>May Queen Procession – 2nd year. Big crowd, lovely spirit, first holy communicants and catechists there. Also now have permanent staging to bring out when needed.</p> <p>Meeting proposed for parish council and catechists to come together, Wed 5th July.</p> <p>Fr Martin will be at a deanery meeting the following day to discuss how we can make the sacramental programmes better.</p> <p>Fr Angelus may stay for a few weeks, mid-July to end of August.</p> <p>Fr Matthias will be coming from 11th Aug to end of September.</p> <p>Question is how we get parishioners more involved in the life of the parish. Parents come for the sacraments but we are not picking up on this and asking them what they can contribute to the life of the parish. The priest needs the help of the lay people to take the non-priestly burdens off his shoulders. A management team of volunteers.</p> <p>Fr Martin has no back-up now, only occasional help from Fr Joe Farrell.</p> <p>Delia Rowley commented that people don't respond to general requests – they need asking one to one. Fr Martin needs a team to help him approach people. Gary Redmond said if you gather all who help, it is a lot. Brian Rodgers pointed out this is good for specific jobs but not general commitment.</p>	



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<p>John Fells said the Youth club get new groups in September. They ask each parent to come in 1 week in 6, and they are struggling to get them. Eddie Allen wondered if we need to be firmer. John said it is generally the same people.</p> <p>Fr Martin said that, with fewer priests, it is more important than ever to get more people involved in certain areas.</p> <p>Mary Redmond felt we should build the expectation that people have to opt out instead of opting in.</p> <p>Gary commented that the man who fixed the tower roof is Sikh. He said his church expects him to do it for nothing.</p> <p>Eddie asked if Fr Martin is asking for a group to be formed. Jack How commented that people see the tasks but ask themselves how often, and what would they be expected to do. Perhaps write job descriptions.</p> <p>Jo Challis added that if we get info on First Holy Communion forms, etc., someone (not Jane) needs to collate the information. Gary said he will talk to David Leech because all the new parents come to a meeting. It is an opportunity to get across the expectation that they <u>will</u> be involved.</p> <p>Fr Martin said we need to see how the school and parish can work more closely together. Delia asked if we can get a PTA rep permanently on the parish council. Gary said that at the moment, that is his role.</p>	
<p>REPORTS (available separately)</p>	
<p>Printed copies distributed before the meeting (also available from Secretary on request):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. St Mary's Youth Club - John Fells said they had an incident on the previous Friday and the volunteers, especially the Campion boys, acted promptly and with great professionalism and it was dealt with successfully. There will be a Youth Mass in November or whenever decided (usually Youth Sunday). 2. Flower Group 3. St Vincent de Paul Society – Jo Challis said they will be holding a drive in September for new members. 4. Church Choir 5. Repairs and Maintenance Committee – John Hawes commented that there seem to be too many benches in the Blessed Sacrament side aisle. Brian said this needs sorting – the benches numbered and a plan drawn so they are all returned to their correct places. Gary said we talked about having several collections a year specifically for repairs and maintenance, otherwise we are battling to keep up. Need some financial reserves specifically for this purpose. Eddie suggested a £20k target each year for this, adding to it and frequently reminding people about it. Gary said Gidea Park sent a letter round detailing what needed doing and what was required. They set a £90k target and, so far, have £66k. Eddie said he is happy to write a letter but needs details to help clarify the requirements. John Fells felt the parish will be more generous with money than physical help. <p>Sacraments (verbal report)</p> <p><i>First Holy Communion</i> – Jane Tatam said 68 youngsters made their First Communion this year. The children also made their Reconciliation, as did most of the parents. They joined in the May Queen Procession. More children this coming year, but losing a few catechists</p>	



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and hoping to replace them. Eddie said it needs to be said in such a way that they feel that they can't refuse to help, but without alienating them. Need some people to "sell" the roles. Delia added that we need to ask everyone to pray for the parish. John F and Brian commented on how sanctions can produce negative feelings – we need a positive approach. Jane thanked all who had helped throughout the year.

Baptism – ongoing – Jane felt this is where we need to concentrate our efforts on drawing parents in. They are on the start of a good journey. Eddie suggested a day for getting groups to be advertised. Jo C suggested the Summer Fayre as a good opportunity.

Confirmation – Mary Redmond reported that on 4th June, 55 were confirmed, 2 from English Martyrs. In March, they went to Brentwood Cathedral, Walsingham House, etc. A lot in a short time. She thanked St Mary's School for the use of the Audio-Visual equipment. A new programme was developed and worked very well. The young people were wonderful and parents really supportive. Also had some previous Confirmandi assisting, who were very good, connecting to the Confirmandi in a way adults can't. Next year, will factor in a going-forth service. Will incorporate the element of service, whereby they will be expected to contribute in some way to the life of the parish.

6. Knights of St Columba

7. Steward of the Gospel – Jack How outlined the initial work. He has no specific brief. Four things to look at, Youth, Adult Formation, Lay Training and Succession Plan. Main one must be Youth. Should be a BIG conversation in the parish – perhaps start with the young people themselves. Mary Redmond suggested getting in touch with the lay chaplains in the schools. Jane thought there are plans in the diocese to link things more but she hasn't heard any more of the Vicariate. Fr Martin added that the bishop hasn't the priests for these things so needs good lay people to run them.

John Fells commented that no-one has ever come from the diocese about youth.

Provision for 12-16 years is missing. He feels the Brentwood Youth Group is a waste of time – they never come to visit.

Fr Martin pointed out that the problems over child protection recently have caused everyone to be scared of getting involved with Youth.

Mary R suggested we could get BYG to come and do retreats here, but we would have to pay them.

Jack said there would be a Stewards meeting the following Saturday, to which he can't go, but the afternoon will be about Youth. He will get feedback and pass it round via Brian.

8. St Mary's Presents... - raised £8,500 to do the kitchen up.

9. Financial Summary – Jo C explained the figures. The Finance Committee have agreed a budget, planning for £13k surplus, to give us breathing space. For events, we should state purpose of the fund-raising, which works better.

Suggestion made to include income/expenditure deficit figures on newsletter back page, in eye-catching format!

ELECTIONS

Continuing to serve: Susan Squire, Pat Edwards, Brenda Kivlehan, Jo Luxton and Teresa Young. There were seven vacancies on the Parish Council, two from those standing down after 4 years, four from those eligible for re-election following completion of 2 years and one outstanding from 2016. Resignations for personal reasons.



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<p>Gary Redmond, Frances Rodgers and Jo Challis willing to stand, leaving 4 vacancies. Eddie Allen willing to stand for election. No other nominations were received from those present. The meeting accepted this situation but it will need reviewing. Gary suggested putting it in the newsletter and tapping people on the shoulder.</p>		
OTHER BUSINESS		
<p>Diversity & Inclusiveness – Eddie said we need to run more events such as One World Night, to get more ethnic groups involved. Fr Martin wants to have some spiritual events, like the May Queen procession, pilgrimage to Aylesford (which had to be cancelled from lack of numbers), prayer evenings, inviting the various ethnic groups to come. Delia commented that we need to use our skills and resources to help organise things.</p> <p>Rotas – John F commented that the Eucharistic Ministers for 9.30am Mass seem to have gone AWOL. The usual ones have to keep doing it. Eddie said that for the Saturday morning rota, he gets a call the day before to remind him. Discussion followed on the problems of getting people to honour their rota commitments. Brian added that there are a lot of people on the Euch. Ministers rota who never do anything but he can't remove them unless they ask or he is told they don't fulfil their commitment. He has asked on numerous occasions for a letter to go out to each minister, asking them to confirm their commitment or they will be removed – it hasn't happened yet.</p> <p>Mary Redmond proposed a vote of thanks to Tony and Trisa for their input to the Parish Council in the past 4 years.</p> <p>Gary suggested that at the next Parish Council meeting we set a date for a Thanksgiving Mass.</p> <p>Eddie thanked Brian for his efforts, and the councillors for their work this past year.</p>		
DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS		
<p>Parish Council Meeting - Wednesday 12th July 2017 Parish Annual Meeting – Wednesday 20th June 2018</p>		
Eddie thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed with prayers, including for Fr Gerry Butcher, who died recently.		
Brian J. Rodgers	Signed:	
Secretary	Chairperson	
8 th July 2017	Date	