


Minutes of Parish Council Meeting, St. Mary Mother of God, Hornchurch
Wednesday 14th September 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Fr. Martin Fletcher, Eddie Allen (Chair), Joanne Challis, Pat Edwards, Jean Horan, Jo Luxton, Gary Redmond, Frances Rodgers, Susan Squire, Jane Tatam, Brian Rodgers (Secretary).	
PARISH REPS/OBSERVERS:	John Fells	
APOLOGIES:	Brenda & Roland Kivlehan	
The meeting was held in the Presbytery Dining Room and commenced at 20:02 with a welcome and prayers.		
MINUTES		
The minutes of the meeting of 20 th July 2016 were approved and signed by the Chair.		
MATTERS ARISING		ACTIONS
<p>Sacraments – length of First Communion training sessions. Still to be discussed by Jane and Fr. Martin</p> <p>52.46 – Parish Hall fire exits. Gary Redmond has arranged an inspection on 7th Oct, 11am. John Fells said money is being raised as necessary following the results of the report. Jane reported that the Parish Meeting room was locked. The meeting agreed it was a fire exit and must not be locked.</p> <p>Youth Mass – 23rd Oct 2016. John spoke to the group and they think this is too early, what with the new intake. 19th Nov suggested instead – John will talk to the group.</p> <p>Large Screen in Van Meenen Room – this may happen.</p> <p>Photo Gallery – part done. Brian brought his camera to the meeting!</p> <p>Youth Club access to rear playground – now sorted.</p> <p>52.54 – Susan Squire asked about it. Fr. Martin said they haven't been keeping this info and photos but suggested starting in November with a special Mass in Nov 2017. Eddie Allen suggested putting a note in the newsletter and fixing a board to which people could attach pictures of those who have died this year.</p>		Jane/Fr.M
PARISH PRIEST'S POINTS		
<p>Fr Martin said Fr Sabu would be arriving Saturday. Will probably take on the hospital work.</p> <p>The Bishop will be coming on Wednesday afternoon and will go into the school. Confirmation is at 7.30pm, 42 Confirmandi. The Bishop has asked for a group photo with him afterwards. Then follows a reception in the Hall, parishioners to bring cakes, etc., leaving them in the Hall before Mass.</p> <p>School Renovation – Many thanks to all who gave their time to help – all ages and nationalities were there. John Fells pointed out that this would not have happened without the expertise of Gary Redmond and Martin Sullivan.</p> <p>Gary said St Mary's garden has been revitalised and should be used.</p> <p>On Saturday at 4pm, a thank-you celebration for all who helped.</p> <p>Noise – Fr Martin has written a letter in the newsletter about the noise in church during Mass (particularly 9.30am). He read it out. Some discussion followed. The meeting urged Fr Martin to read it aloud at all Masses, rather than hope that people will read the newsletter.</p> <p>Jane felt parents have trouble saying yes or no to their children. The children's behaviour is not good on the piazza at school times. David Leech has said he will mention it in the school newsletter.</p> <p>Fr Martin said he has been here 17 months and wants to review and reflect on the various groups/committees and see whether some changes may be advisable. He will report back to the Parish Council with his findings.</p>		Fr. Martin

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<p>SACRAMENTS</p>	
<p>Jane commented that it is the start of a new term. She thanked St Mary's Presents... for the revamped kitchen.</p> <p>First Holy Communion – she has enough catechists for those in the groups but needs more for those on the lists. Mass attendance is important and the children are encouraged to go out to the Children's Liturgy during Mass.</p> <p>Fr Martin commented that he has noticed at funerals that often the two younger generations don't know what to do because they slipped out of the faith.</p> <p>John added that after a long training session (9.30am – 12.30pm), the children are hyper and difficult to control.</p> <p>62 children are making their First Communion and there are 7 on the waiting list – need at least two extra catechists to enable handling the numbers and allow for people being unavoidably absent for some reason.</p> <p>Gary felt it should be our primary goal to give the sacraments to those that wish them.</p> <p>Fr Martin said that Jane had again an appeal in the newsletter. Joanne Challis offered to nudge people. Jane expressed concern that people turn up then drop out, leaving her a problem.</p> <p>Gary was vocal about the importance of providing sacraments for all who need them. Fr Martin replied that we are trying every way we can to get people in, even if it means using the presbytery as well as the Hall.</p> <p>Joanne asked about putting an appeal in the school newsletter. Jane felt that First Communion is separate from school.</p> <p>Eddie stated that we will give those 7 children First Communion. Jane was upset about this - she felt that her role was being undermined.</p> <p>Joanne said the Parish Council would like them to be included.</p> <p>Frances Rodgers said Jane needed to work out the practicalities – ratios of children to catechists, etc.</p> <p>Fr Martin affirmed that we are not saying Jane is not doing her job but that we should look around for additional support for her so that she can achieve the desired result.</p> <p>Eddie apologised for the way he phrased what he said and added that we will appeal for more, suitable people. As a community we must support Jane in her job.</p> <p>John pointed out that time is running out, as the course starts on 25th September.</p> <p>Jane felt that it is up to her to carry the responsibility, so she has to be sure of the catechists who assist her.</p>	
<p>FINANCE</p>	
<p>Joanne said there is nothing to report as the Finance Committee meeting is the following week. Last time, we talked about addressing the whole parish. A lot has been prepared and will be considered in the meeting.</p> <p>On the kitchen front, we want to keep the lovely kitchen looking lovely, so would like to be able close the kitchen to unauthorised usage. Asking for a £50 per year contribution from non-religious groups towards a maintenance fund for it.</p> <p>Jo Luxton commented on the problems already arising.</p> <p>Fr Martin thought we should have a set of rules that is given to any group that uses the kitchen - what to do about rubbish, breakages, etc.</p> <p>Jo suggested a key deposit for each hire to cover any problems.</p>	

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YOUTH		
<p>John said the Coffee Bar still needs decorating, as they ran out of time, but it will be done soon. Gary confirmed this.</p> <p>John also said that, thanks to a Jack Petchey Award, the Youth Club have donated the lights for the back playground.</p>		
OTHER BUSINESS		
<p>52. General items.</p> <p>55. Church Cleaning – Pat Edwards said it is nice to have the kitchen clean but what about the church itself. It is filthy – not a lot of people volunteer to clean it, and it needs a complete makeover. Gary said they were going to clean it for the Bishop’s visit but didn’t manage it. This is an issue that needs to be dealt with.</p>		
DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING		
Wednesday 16 th November 2016, 8:00pm The Presbytery.		
FORTHCOMING MEETINGS – Provisional dates		
18 th Jan 2017, 15 th Mar 2017, 17 th May 2017, AGM 21 st June 2017, 19 th July 2017, 20 th Sept 2017. [Please put these dates in your diaries]		
The meeting closed with prayers.		
Brian J. Rodgers Secretary	Signed: Eddie Allen Chairperson	
25 th September 2016	Date 16 th Nov 2016	