

APPROVED

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting, St. Mary Mother of God, Hornchurch
20th May 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Fr. Martin Fletcher, Eddie Allen, Tony Bennett, Maureen Boorman, Joanne Challis, Jean Horan, Jane Tatam, Claire Trew, Brian Rodgers (Secretary).
PARISH REPS/OBSERVERS:	Gary Redmond, Ann Turner, Angela Bennett, Phillipa Bennett, Brenda Kivlehan, Roland Kivlehan, Mary Redmond, P.J. McEvoy, Christine Toolis, John Dawson.
APOLOGIES:	John Fells, Theresa Hayes, David Leech, Trisa Mahoney, Sara O'Brien, Kathy O'Dea, Susan Squire.
The meeting was held in the Presbytery Dining Room and commenced at 20:05 with a welcome and prayers.	
MINUTES	
The minutes of the meeting of 18 th March 2015 were approved and signed by the Chair.	
MATTERS ARISING	ACTIONS
<p>Gary reported that after canvassing all parties, they are going to get a small group together to start with, then expand, by canvassing people for more help. Will report back to next meeting, probably getting under way by September. He said there is much good will but it needs harnessing.</p> <p>Brenda was concerned that we aren't big enough at present. However, the Summer Fayre is already in hand with St. Mary's Presents and PFA.</p> <p>Claire suggested delegating events to specific people – Brenda and Jo said they have been trying to do this for two years. Eddie said there are a number who can manage events – we need to get them. Claire recommended appealing to individuals rather than a general appeal.</p>	
CORRESPONDENCE	
<p>Angela gave a resume of a letter she had sent regarding the shortage of flower arrangers – they cannot carry on as they are. By next January, it will have to be minimal provision (Christmas, Easter and one or two special occasions). They had to change from Saturday to Friday because of Exposition, and some who would volunteer can't because they work on Fridays. She suggested moving Exposition to Fridays. She does not want to compromise quality and standards. Eddie summarised these points.</p> <p>Angela said they will give full training – most volunteers start at the beginning! Eddie suggested either an appeal after Mass, or stop flowers for a couple of weeks to give a reality check to the parish.</p> <p>Church cleaning has a similar problem.</p>	
PARISH PRIEST'S POINTS	
<p>Fr. Martin thanked everyone for his welcome to the parish. He was taken aback by the size of the parish and the presbytery.</p> <p>We need the school and parish to work as one. We are trying to build up each person's faith. He has some real concerns, with the parish going from two priests to one.</p> <p>His main role is to celebrate the sacraments and visit the sick. This weekend he had five Masses with big congregations. There are five each weekend (incl. Saturday noon). He came out of 11.30am Mass exhausted and by Monday was totally drained! He was on hospital duty as well.</p> <p>The reality is that soon every parish will have only one priest.</p> <p>At Masses he is doing a lot of the lay work. He has a supply priest in June and another in August. They do not open or close the church, so who does it?</p> <p>We need to spread the burden. For Holy Communion Masses, tell the parents to do the cleaning</p>	

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<p>arrangers but someone has trimmed it. She needs it but can't now use it this year.</p> <p>26. Repository – John Dawson said that now the CWL had closed, there was no-one to do the repository. Eddie said to add it to the list.</p> <p>27. Mass Intentions – Fr. Martin would like to go from one to two per Mass – the meeting agreed.</p>		
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – Moved to 24th June (just before the Summer Fayre!)		
DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING		
Wednesday 15 th July 2015, 8:00pm The Presbytery.		
FORTHCOMING MEETINGS		
16 th Sept, 18 th Nov, 20 th Jan 2016, 16 th March 2016, 18 th May 2016, AGM 15 th June 2016. [Please put these dates in your diaries]		
The meeting closed with prayers at 21:45.		
Brian J. Rodgers Secretary	Signed: Eddie Allen Chairperson	
29 th May 2015	Date 15 th July 2015	