

APPROVED

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting, St. Mary Mother of God, Hornchurch
Wednesday 20th September 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Fr. Martin Fletcher, Eddie Allen (Chair), Susan Squire, Frances Rodgers, Teresa Young, Joanne Challis, Pat Edwards, Brian Rodgers (Secretary).
PARISH REPS/OBSERVERS:	Jack How
APOLOGIES:	Jane Tatam, Brenda Kivlehan, Roland Kivlehan
The meeting was held in the Presbytery and commenced at 20:02 with a welcome and prayers, particularly to Korean martyrs St Andrew Kim Tae-Gon, Paul Chong Ha-Sang and compatriots.	
MINUTES - The minutes of the meeting of 12 th July 2017 were approved and signed by the Chair.	
MATTERS ARISING	ACTIONS
<p>52.57 Parking – As Gary was not present, Fr Martin suggested leaving this issue for the moment as parking is reasonably OK at present.</p> <p>Hall Kitchen keys – no information on this.</p> <p>Talking to First Communion group – there is a meeting on Tuesday 17th Oct, 7 – 8pm Parish Hall. Jo Challis said Jane has tackled every parent individually, so just needs reinforcement. Eddie to send e-mail around Parish Council to see who is available.</p> <p>Thanksgiving Mass – no date yet.</p> <p>Talk to Baptism Course – Jo can't go, someone else needs to go – 2nd and 3rd Thursdays, 8pm</p> <p>Simple Balance Sheet – Jo handed out a flier she had drafted. Council agreed it should go inside the newsletter one weekend. She suggested a short spiel before the end of Mass, with people at the back to help give out Gift Aid forms and sign people up. Suggested weekend 30th Sept/1st Oct. Susan, Eddie and Pat will help. Caraid will be running Gift Aid.</p>	Eddie
CORRESPONDENCE	
<p>Letter from Jane Tatam:</p> <p><i>First Holy Communion</i> – programme has begun with 74 children, largest number for some time. She is trying to accommodate a number of senior school children within the main programme. It is not ideal but the best we can do at present.</p> <p><i>Baptism</i> – continues as usual. In line with recent Parish Council discussions, she is encouraging parents to involve themselves in parish life.</p> <p>She is available weekday mornings if anyone has questions.</p>	
PARISH PRIEST'S POINTS	
<p>Parish Office – Eileen and Christine have moved on. We now have Caraid on a trial basis, Mondays and Thursdays from about 8am to 4pm. If she stays, she will also work Tuesdays.</p> <p>Blessing of Graves – this will take place in November at the three cemeteries in the area.</p> <p>APF Appeal – 14/15th Oct. This is the red box scheme. Fr Frank Downing from the Mill Hill Fathers would like help with giving out boxes at the back of the church.</p> <p>Opening up the church – Fr Martin said it is a struggle some days. He has some people doing it but can't be sure from day to day who will turn up. He needs someone to set up for morning Mass and shut the sacristy after Mass has finished. Discussion followed over possible solutions.</p> <p>Fr Martin will be away in early October and Fr Joe Farrell will be covering so we need extra assistance during that time with opening up, setting up and securing afterwards. Also checking readings and bidding prayers are ready for the 6.30pm Mass on the Saturday evening.</p> <p>DBS Certificates – Brian asked who is current and how many. Fr Martin fetched the list he had, which only had a dozen or so names.</p> <p>Christmas Masses – Fr Martin raised this problem again. Christmas being a Monday, on the Sunday there would be 3 morning Masses for 4th Sunday of Advent and 2 evening Vigil Masses for Christmas, with 3 Masses on Monday, i.e. 8 in two days, which is too much for one priest.</p>	

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<p>He will probably have a single Sunday morning Mass, at 9.30am. (Jo, Brian and Frances groaned!)</p> <p>May Queen Procession – because of fitting First Communion Masses, half-term and Confirmation in quite a short period, the Procession may have to be in June, not May. He will talk to Jane and the confirmation team.</p>	Fr M
<p>SACRAMENTS – see Jane’s letter above</p>	
<p>FINANCE</p>	
<p>Jo C is meeting with Caraid soon.</p> <p>Money Counting – Fr Martin popped into the hall and asked for helpers and ended up with ten!</p>	
<p>YOUTH</p>	
<p>Young people usually talk on Youth Sunday, Feast of Christ the King, in aid of the Youth Service. There has previously been discussion within the Parish Council of the Youth Club having a collection to help subsidise costs. Suggestion is to give the takings from one Mass that weekend to the Youth Club and the remainder to the Youth Service.</p> <p>Next year, World Youth Day is in South America.</p>	
<p>PLAN FOR RESTRUCTURING THE DIOCESE</p>	
<p>Jack How needs to send back a reply on behalf of the parish. He skimmed through the questionnaire within the document (distributed previously to Parish Councillors) and then worked through the proposals.</p> <p>There will be a meeting at English Martyrs on 13th October, 7.30pm, with Steven Webb, Diocesan Director of Development.</p> <p>Susan asked why, if we have a shortage of priests in Europe and a surfeit in the developing world, the Vatican cannot get organised to redeploy them.</p> <p>Fr Martin pointed out they need to come here already trained and ordained, otherwise there are problems with them coming over for training and then running off to get jobs.</p> <p>Jack explained the restrictions on the points for discussion, which must not breach Canon Law, e.g. no mention of women priests.</p> <p>Susan felt it was forming a strategy to manage decline.</p> <p>Eddie said you cannot get people to volunteer. Jo disagreed, saying we have to get people more involved and maybe by depriving them a little, we will persuade them to step forward.</p> <p>Susan saw this as a downward spiral of priests, property and finance.</p> <p>Jo felt that selling off redundant property removed the opportunity to re-evangelise in the future, because we will have nowhere to place them. Further discussion followed.</p> <p>Jack said that a lot of our strength is that we have lots of groups within the parish. We need to promote our strengths as a parish.</p> <p>Fr Martin said it is inevitable that change will happen, maybe sooner than we think.</p> <p>Jo pointed out that the church porch needs revamping so newcomers can easily find information (about the parish and its groups and facilities). Pat Edwards suggested looking at St Peter’s C of E church in Harold Wood – the display board is amazing (she showed a photo).</p> <p>Jo suggested a simple display of groups with suitable contact details (e-mail addresses) for each.</p> <p>Next step is to go to the meeting on 13th October.</p> <p>Brian to send the document to Marion to put on the website, with a note to go in the newsletter directing people to it and asking them to e-mail comments to him, or put them into the presbytery. Also print a number of copies to put at the back of the church.</p> <p>Jack suggested handing over the porch to the Confirmation group (past or present) to help decide how to arrange it.</p>	

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OTHER BUSINESS		
<p>Pass It On Club – Jo said it is doing very well, 1st Saturday each month. If any older people would like to come, they would be welcome.</p> <p>Notice of Second Collections – this needs to be in the previous week’s newsletter, not the newsletter for that weekend, so people can come prepared. Pat commented that she went to her grandson’s baptism in Canada and the weekly collection there is \$10,000.</p> <p>Fr Maurice Gordon is going to Elm Park but will be staying at St Mary’s for 9 days.</p> <p>Training on running Alpha Course – being organised at Campion.</p> <p>Noise in Church – Eddie commented that the noise at 9.30am is quite high – perhaps time to repeat the announcement, as it is the beginning of the term. Jo added that the point should be made that adults should be setting a good example. Jack said it is one thing if a child is upset but a different thing to let them chat. Further discussion followed.</p>		
DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING		
Wednesday 15th Nov 2017, 8:00pm The Presbytery (or Van Meenen Room).		
FORTHCOMING MEETINGS – Provisional dates - Please put these dates in your diaries		
17 th Jan 2018, 21 st Mar 2018, 16 th May 2018, AGM 20 th June 2018, 18 th July 2018, 19 th Sept 2018.		
The meeting closed with prayers at 21:26.		
Brian J. Rodgers Secretary	Signed: Eddie Allen Chairperson	
22 nd September 2017	Date 15 th November 2017	