

**APPROVED**

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting, St. Mary Mother of God, Hornchurch  
23<sup>rd</sup> September 2015

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	Fr. Martin Fletcher, Eddie Allen, Tony Bennett, Maureen Boorman, Joanne Challis, Jean Horan, Sara O'Brien, Gary Redmond, Frances Rodgers, Susan Squire, Jane Tatam, Brian Rodgers (Secretary).
<b>PARISH REPS/OBSERVERS:</b>	
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>	Trisa Mahoney, Kathy O'Dea, Dominica Olewunne, Theresa Hayes.
The meeting was held in the Presbytery Dining Room and commenced at 20:05 with a welcome and prayers. Fr. Martin read out an item about Padre Pio.	
<b>MINUTES</b>	
The minutes of the meeting of 15 <sup>th</sup> July 2015 were approved and signed by the Chair.	
<b>MATTERS ARISING</b>	<b>ACTIONS</b>
<p>62. Susan said a meeting was held on 29<sup>th</sup> July to sort out prioritisation. Gary asked for the list to be circulated. Another meeting to be set up to update list before that.</p> <p>61. Eddie spoke further about the meeting of catechists.</p> <p>Confirmation - Fr. Martin said the Bishop will be visiting on 5<sup>th</sup> Oct 2016 and will carry out Confirmation. Still to be discussed – the next course, age range, one group or two, etc. There will be a meeting of catechists on 5<sup>th</sup> Oct 2015.</p> <p>Communion – discussions in hand on the number of Masses, etc. Fewer candidates this year.</p> <p>21. Music – Brenda Kivlehan is trying to get a choir of young people from the school to sing at 9.30am Mass. Claire Trew is also looking into this.</p>	
<b>CORRESPONDENCE</b>	
None	
<b>PARISH PRIEST'S POINTS</b>	
<p>A big thank you to the parish for looking after the three Polish priests during the summer.</p> <p>55. Boilers – the house boiler was started last week, the church boiler is to be started on Tuesday. The house installation still needs further work. The contractors are doing a good job.</p> <p>Repository Shop – had some response to request for help, 2 for 8am, 3 or 4 for 9.30am, 2 for 11.30am. No-one yet for 6.30pm.</p> <p>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament – starting on Thursday afternoons from about 2.30pm – 5.30pm. On First Friday, no morning Mass but evening Mass with exposition and a healing service.</p> <p>Sacristan – Delia has been asked to be main sacristan. John Dawson will cover the Wednesday evening Mass. Slight problem with purificators – someone has taken the dirty ones, presumably to wash them, but no-one knows who and they haven't yet been returned.</p> <p>Altar Servers – Fr. Martin has talked to Roland and they feel it would be good to enrol the servers in the Guild of St Stephen, as was done in the past. The Feast of St Stephen would have been good but it is doubtful anyone would turn up on Boxing Day, so probably on feast of Christ the King, which is also World Youth Day.</p> <p>Hospital – Fr. Martin has started announcing that the Sacrament of the Sick is available after each Mass for those going into hospital for any reason. The Deanery is going to adopt this in all the parishes. The Sacrament of the Sick is for the living, not the dead.</p> <p>Eucharistic Ministers Meeting 21<sup>st</sup> October, in the church at 8pm. Fr. Martin asked for names of anyone who might be suitable to be a minister (18+). Need more who can go out to the sick. There are quite a few sick and he cannot visit them regularly. Also he would like to send the</p>	

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<p>ministers out from Mass.</p> <p>DBS checks needed for these ministers, indeed for anyone who visits the sick.</p> <p>Mass Intentions – there is a backlog so Fr. Martin will have two intentions for each Mass instead of one.</p> <p>Holy Souls – the Remembrance Book will be put out again this year.</p> <p>Christmas Masses – Fr. Martin asked about starting Midnight Mass earlier, perhaps 11pm. The other Masses will be 6.30pm on Christmas Eve and 8am, 9.30am and 11.30am on Christmas morning, as usual. The meeting discussed making “Midnight Mass” even earlier and the consensus was for 10pm, with the Carol Service starting at 9.15pm.</p> <p>A Goan priest, Fr. Nixon, is staying with Fr. Angelus and may come to St Mary’s for a couple of weeks.</p> <p>Gary queried having Mass in the field in May. Fr. Martin would like to celebrate Mary in May, maybe having one Mass outside (weather permitting!). Also a Corpus Christi celebration in June. Eddie asked Gary to set up a meeting to consider these. Jean made a point about the processions being stopped because of too many cameras/people taking photos.</p>	
<p><b>SACRAMENTS</b></p>	
<p>Nothing particular to report.</p> <p>Catechists meeting next Sunday.</p> <p>Holy Communion started this week.</p> <p>Confirmation is in progress, which is why Theresa is absent.</p> <p>Baptisms are as normal.</p> <p>Confirmation in future – with the proposed change of age, could end up with large numbers, which would drain catechist resources, because we cannot put all ages together. Nothing set in stone yet. Will depend on numbers. May be very difficult to organise or not as bad as we think. Need a new programme for the younger group, as the present programme is aimed at the older age group. Eddie felt we should push the point that parents of candidates get involved.</p> <p>Fr. Martin said we should start by finding out who would be interested, then consider how we go forward. Jo felt we should emphasise the need for volunteers so we don’t disappoint anyone. Jane commented on how few Holy Communion parents have helped this year.</p> <p>Fr. Martin said we will leave this until we see the response at the open meeting.</p>	
<p><b>FINANCE</b></p>	
<p><b>Summary</b> – Jo said that so far, we are looking at a deficit of about £10k but we haven’t had the Gift Aid return yet. They have done a first draft budget for the coming year. We have been sailing close to the wind and were saved bank charges (of around £2.5k per year) by the money for the boilers. Projecting a deficit of £11.5k this year, partly because of changes needed to the presbytery to bring it up to standard.</p> <p>The Bishop has seen the house and decreed ‘business downstairs, living upstairs’.</p> <p>Gary felt we should tell the parish in basic terms what it costs to run the parish, and then ask for help.</p> <p>Jo clarified the use of specific funds. As a charity, we have to use them for the purpose stated. The other work comes out of the general fund.</p> <p>We are waiting for the diocesan report on what actually needs doing. The situation as known was explained, and Jo asked for ideas. Much discussion followed.</p> <p>It was decided that a joint letter should go to the diocese from the Finance Committee and Parish Council, expressing our concerns at the apparent expenditure that is being imposed upon us.</p> <p>Fr. Martin expressed his views strongly on the way the diocese is treating him on this issue.</p>	

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<p>Eddie felt we should have a better forum to investigate options to provide the facilities required, and this should be done locally.</p> <p>Susan reminded everyone that, as a charity, the diocese should not undertake work that puts it in debt.</p> <p>Eddie felt we need to have someone co-ordinating on neutral ground so we don't escalate the discord.</p> <p><b>Actions</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The letter as proposed.</li> <li>2. Gary and Fr. Martin to discuss possible building solutions.</li> <li>3. Someone neutral to hear the views of the parties concerned and mediate.</li> </ol> <p>Eddie thought we need a working party to look at solutions that can be presented to those concerned and to the diocese. He outlined how he saw this going forward.</p> <p><b>Maintenance Committee</b> – a separate meeting was arranged for 27<sup>th</sup> Sept to update the list of jobs required.</p> <p><b>Gift Aid</b> – need to push this again. Suggestion adopted to make two, separate stand-up announcements, the first to ask for volunteers, the second to push gift aid.</p>		
<b>YOUTH</b>		
<p>Gary reported that as the school now has a new entrance, which is open to the main corridor, there is now no way for the Youth Club to use the back playground as there is no separate route without access to the school. This needs to be resolved as soon as possible.</p>		
<b>OTHER BUSINESS</b>		
<p><b>52. General items.</b></p> <p><b>29. Parish Hall</b> - Jo, on behalf of Mother and Toddler Group, commented on how good the hall is and thanked everyone involved.</p> <p><b>30. Sr. Teresa</b> - Susan asked about her state of health. She is suffering increasingly from dementia.</p> <p><b>31. Parish Meeting Room</b> – Brian referred to a note he made at the last meeting about discussing it. It is in reasonable shape but needs refreshing with a coat of paint. There was also discussion about restricting access to it, with new locks.</p> <p><b>32. Christmas Bazaar</b>, 28<sup>th</sup> November – Jean said we need helpers running stalls, selling raffle tickets etc. Jo commented that as it supports the whole parish community, the 'non-school' side should be better represented in the helpers. Jean added that we need a team to make the teas, as this used to be done by the CWL, now no longer present in the parish.</p>		
<b>DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING</b>		
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2015, 8:00pm The Presbytery.		
<b>FORTHCOMING MEETINGS – Provisional dates</b>		
20 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2016, 16 <sup>th</sup> March 2016, 18 <sup>th</sup> May 2016, AGM 15 <sup>th</sup> June 2016, 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2016, 21 <sup>st</sup> Sept 2016. <b>[Please put these dates in your diaries]</b>		
The meeting closed with prayers at 21:36.		
Brian J. Rodgers <b>Secretary</b>	<b>Signed:</b> Eddie Allen <b>Chairperson</b>	
28 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2015	<b>Date</b> 18 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2015	