



Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting of
 St. Mary, Mother of God, Hornchurch
 Wednesday 19th June 2019

DRAFT

PRESENT:	Fr. Martin Fletcher, Eddie Allen (Chair), Brian J Rodgers (Secretary) and 16 members of the parish.
APOLOGIES:	
The meeting, in the Parish Hall, commenced at 20:02hrs with a welcome and prayers, led by Fr Martin.	
	ACTIONS
MINUTES	
The minutes of the 2018 Annual Parish Meeting were adopted and signed.	
MATTERS ARISING	
The Gym – has been OK but monitoring the situation. New hymn books bought.	
PARISH PRIEST	
<p>Fr Martin thanked all who work in the parish, all the groups and all the collaboration.</p> <p>The Mission – very successful, those who attended really enjoyed it. It tapped into things we needed, like the Healing Service.</p> <p>Family Night was excellent; our thanks to Mrs de Souza for her organising the choir of junior children from St Mary's School.</p> <p>First Holy Communion – two Masses on each of the past two Saturdays.</p> <p>Coming up is the May Queen Procession.</p> <p>The Confirmation 'Going Forth' Mass is soon.</p> <p>Summer Fayre in July, details in the newsletter.</p> <p>Fr Matthias now has his visa and coming around the end of July. He may not be here the whole time, if he is needed elsewhere,</p> <p>Parish Partnership – at some stage, if we reduce to two priests, we will cut down to 6 Masses over 3 churches, so we will lose a Mass.</p> <p>Music is becoming a problem. We are losing Jacques, who will be going to Uni, so nobody to lead 9.30am music. Must find more musicians. Maybe have downloadable music but it will need someone to manage it. John Fells said Sacred Heart and Campion both have good choirs and wondered if we could get someone from there. Discussion continued at some length, with various suggestions such as putting an advert in the window of East Coast Music. One drawback is that we cannot afford to pay our musicians – they have to do it for love!</p> <p>Pilgrimage to Medjugorje – about 20 people went, some from neighbouring parishes. Talking about maybe having a Medjugorje Day or something once a week. It was a very powerful experience.</p>	
RESTRUCTURING	
<p>Jack How and Eddie Allen described how things were progressing.</p> <p>There was a meeting the previous week, attended by Steve Ward from the diocese so he could answer various questions raised. Working on renewal. Masses are less of an issue than might be thought. The diocese will put us on a list to try to maintain 3 priests for as long as possible, at least</p>	



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<p>3 years. There was a lot of discussion around Canon Law! Will push for anyone to come forward for the diaconate.</p> <p>Generally speaking, a good atmosphere of coming together of the 3 parishes.</p> <p>St Mary's have had our regular meetings to discuss this; a good attendance at the beginning but it dwindled towards the end, as these things often do.</p> <p>Jack will put a report together.</p>	
<p>REPORTS (available separately)</p>	
<p>Printed copies were distributed before the meeting.</p> <p>Youth Club (see report) – John Fells mentioned the past members who come to help for 12 weeks, when their service is signed off. About 9 club members going to Lourdes, also some past members whose parents still help.</p> <p>Eddie commented that the other 2 parishes have cited St Mary's as a good example. A lady from English Martyrs came to see what we do, as she is starting a club there, and we have given her some spare equipment to help her.</p> <p>Flower Group (see report).</p> <p>St Mary's Parish Presents... (see report) – Brenda said they need more people. Everyone has ideas but no-one is prepared to run them.</p> <p>Pass it On - Somehow, the old in our parish don't think that they are old!</p> <p>Coffee Shop – used to have 8 pairs running it, now down to 3 pairs.</p> <p>8 years ago, were raising thousands of pounds a year, now down to £600-800.</p> <p>Brenda also commented that NO Groups clean the kitchen after use, so she ends up scrubbing it once a month. Paul Connolly asked about taking a deposit for cleaning. They tried that but all the groups refused to pay.</p> <p>St Vincent de Paul Society (see report).</p> <p>Knights of St Columba (see report) – John Fells recalled when the Knights ran Youth sports events. Brian explained that reduced membership, increasing average age and the increasing difficulty of persuading teachers to supervise their pupils out of school, in their own time, had rendered them impossible to run.</p>	
<p>SACRAMENTS</p>	
<p>Jane said the First Holy Communion Masses showed what a wonderful parish we have, but how hard it is to get people to help, especially catechists.</p> <p>She mentioned the various fund-raising efforts the children did as part of the course.</p> <p>Baptisms – a steady flow, a course nearly every month.</p> <p>Confirmation went well, but Mary Redmond also needs catechists.</p> <p>First Holy Communion parents are being asked to volunteer for various jobs, but <u>everyone</u> needs to help, even in a small way.</p> <p>First Communion starts again the following week.</p> <p>Eleanor O'Connell commented that we have lots of talkers but few walkers. One comment she had was that a number of items being discussed she had no knowledge of.</p> <p>Eddie said that every year, we talk about volunteers and have tried various ideas, but we need initiatives to get the message over.</p> <p>John said they had some birthday parties for young children and mentioned how good St Mary's is and some of the families have joined the workforce.</p>	



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Jane added that is best by personal example.	
ELECTIONS	
<p>Eddie outlined what the Parish Council do and how often they meet (every other month).</p> <p>Fr Martin added that it is important to remember that it is your parish. The Parish Council don't know everything, and other views and ideas brought to the meetings can enrich it.</p> <p>Continuing to serve: Maria Rayner, Stephen Beech, Pat Edwards, Brenda Kivlehan, Jo Luxton and Teresa Young.</p> <p>Standing down: Gary Redmond, Dominica Olewunne, Frances Rodgers, Joanne Challis.</p> <p>Eligible for re-election: Eddie Allen.</p> <p>There are 6 vacancies (Brian apologised for the counting error on the agenda!).</p> <p>Nominations: - Eddie Allen, Jack How, Anita Macfoy, Catherine Orchard, Paul Connolly. These were elected by the Meeting. This leaves one vacancy.</p>	
OTHER BUSINESS	
<p>Parish Hall – rear fire exit door (left of kitchen hatch) – pigeon infestation. There is a hole in the roof, where they nest, and a pole over the doorway on which they roost, leaving droppings all over the step. This is a health hazard.</p> <p>Summer Fayre – Jo Luxton urgently needs helpers to sell tickets outside Masses the following weekend. 8am is covered. Eddie volunteered for 9.30am, Pat Edwards would do 11.30am.</p> <p>The Youth Club won't be manning a stall this year because with the change of date, John Fells will now be away.</p> <p>GDPR Consents – Brian described what this involved and why. It is particularly important for Readers and Eucharistic Ministers, as he cannot issue the phone number list with the rota until he has consents from a least the bulk of the participants on the rotas. He is also using the forms to get a commitment from those volunteering as to which Mass(es) they can cover. Those who don't eventually fill in consents will be removed from the rotas. This should clear out those who have left the parish or have never bothered to fulfil their duties.</p>	
DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS	
<p>Parish Council Meeting - Wednesday 17th July 2019</p> <p>Annual Parish Meeting 2020 – provisionally 17th June 2020.</p>	
Eddie thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed with prayers at 21.00.	
Brian J. Rodgers Secretary	Signed: Chairperson
30 th June 2019	Date