

APPROVED


Minutes of Parish Council Meeting, St. Mary Mother of God, Hornchurch
Wednesday 18th January 2017

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| MEMBERS PRESENT: | Fr. Martin Fletcher, Eddie Allen (Chair), Brenda Kivlehan, Roland Kivlehan, Jo Luxton, Frances Rodgers, Teresa Young, Brian Rodgers (Secretary). |
| PARISH REPS/OBSERVERS: | Jack How, Fr Sabu Pariyadan. |
| APOLOGIES: | Tony Bennett, Joanne Challis, Pat Edwards, Jean Horan, Trisa Mahoney, Gary Redmond, Susan Squire. |
| The meeting was held in the Presbytery Dining Room and commenced at 20:01 with a welcome and prayers. | |
| MINUTES | |
| The minutes of the meeting of 16 th November 2016 were approved and signed by the Chair. Brenda said that the original plan was to sell the piano (52.56) on e-Bay but it has gone anyway. | |
| MATTERS ARISING | ACTIONS |
| 52.57 Parking – Roland patrolled the school playground the previous week and people were quite good about moving. Need to inform everyone about not double-parking, and also about parking closer together, not leaving large gaps. Brenda and Jo Luxton to organise a leaflet for the following Sunday. As back-up sanction, could shut the gates. People also need educating about the disabled parking bays. Jo asked about the posts in some bays. Discussion followed. Gary is looking into this. | Brenda/Jo L Gary |
| 52.58 Recognition Mass – deferred till June. Will be Mass for all who help in the parish. | |
| CORRESPONDENCE | |
| From David Adams – the cathedral is being renovated so the choir is looking for weekday venues in which to sing Vespers. They could come here on Wednesday evening during Lent. From APF – usually every 5 years but last visit was 1997. Agreed to invite them later in the year. Brenda has received ‘thank you’ letters from a number of parishioners who attended the afternoon tea before Christmas. The raffle offset the costs and the final expenditure was £30. Because it used so little of the budget, there is money still available to run a summer one, providing there are enough people to run it. | |
| PARISH PRIEST’S POINTS | |
| Big thank you to the parish for Christmas. During Lent , want to do a DVD Course (CaFE), probably Monday evenings in the Van Meenen Room. One DVD (Knowing God Better) is faulty so we need a new one – no longer available. Michael Wigley is coming on Monday 6 th March to do a singing evening in the church. Brian complained strongly that the church is used by the choir for practices on Monday evenings and has been for many years (40?). No other events should be booked for the church on Monday evenings without prior consultation with the choir. Joint school/parish projects – perhaps CAFOD (but not such definite targets now) or StreetInvest, started by Fr. Patrick Shanahan, working with street children in over 40 countries. Frances said that her children, when at St Mary’s, made Lenten boxes and put money in them. Several people suggested perhaps CAFOD in Lent, as people are accustomed to it, and the other project later in the year. Jack How suggested tying this in with Sao Paulo. Fr Martin suggested people bring the boxes to the Maundy Thursday Mass and present them, perhaps at the Offertory. It was agreed that it will be for CAFOD in Lent this time. Suggestion by David Leech for a Dinner & Dance at Campion School, tickets about £30, during Lent, with profits going to CAFOD. Eddie felt the response seemed to be yes but queried the cost. Jo Luxton said it was a lot of money to spend for not much benefit to the charity. | |

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| <p>Brenda commented about doing the Poor Man’s Meal and charging £10 for a bowl of soup – it worked well.</p> <p>Eddie felt that if David is happy to organise the whole thing then let him get on with it and we will give support with selling tickets.</p> <p>Aylesford, Sat 10th June.</p> <p>Music – John Parkinson used to play at St Dominic’s but played at St Mary’s last Sunday and is willing to do so every fortnight.</p> <p>Eddie added that Jacques will be doing his GCSEs, he may need to step back a bit.</p> <p>SACRAMENTS (supported by written report from Jane Tatam)</p> <p>Fr Martin did a leaflet about how to bring your child to Mass, based on a diocesan leaflet.</p> <p>Children’s Liturgy – had a meeting with catechists. They felt too many children were going out of Mass and this causes difficulties in managing them. Fr Martin brought it in to give the Gospel at their level but dynamics have changed. The catechists thought it better for 1st Communion children to stay in the Mass, since they have their books, etc. 1st communion parents have to sign in each week (Jane organising). Jo Luxton added that the group has dropped to about 8 now, which is much better.</p> <p>First Holy Communion - children had Reconciliation in November. A lot of parents also went as well! Very successful. First Holy Communion Masses will be on 6th and 13th May, at 11am and 2pm. As previously agreed, there will be a collection at each Mass. Jane’s comments against this were accepted but the decision was already recorded in the November minutes.</p> <p>May Queen Procession – on 21st May at 10.30am (again amalgamating the 9.30am and 11.30am Masses). Refreshments will be provided afterwards in the parish hall. Brenda asked if the school hall could also be used because of numbers? Fr Martin to speak to David Leech. Gary to set up a stage for the altar as before.</p> <p>Confirmation – 53 candidates will be confirmed at the 11.30am Mass on Sunday 4th June (Pentecost). The candidates will go on a retreat to Walsingham House, 17th – 19th March, run by Mary Redmond.</p> <p>Parish Hall</p> <p>a) On two occasions, a child has been locked in the middle cubicle in the girls’ toilets. Jane said they managed to free themselves but the way the doors are made makes it difficult to rescue a trapped child. She asked that this be rectified. Brian said he had received an e-mail from Joanne Challis saying her father had overhauled the locks and they are now much easier to operate.</p> <p>b) Light in boys’ toilet. Jane has noticed that this is frequently left on and wondered if a timer could be put on it. Brian confirmed this happens often and added that the other evening the girls’ toilet light was also on. He cautioned against a timer because if it turns off at night while someone is in there, it could cause problems for them. Apparently the caretaker is supposed to turn them off before he leaves each evening but it might be others using them that leave them on. Fr Martin to talk to David Leech.</p> <p>Brownies – Fr Martin wants to get them to come into church, perhaps at 9.30am Mass. On hold because Brown Owl is on maternity leave!</p> <p>Van Meenen Room – Brian mentioned that he has twice found the door unlocked on a Sunday evening. This could be following the Children’s’ Liturgy, because they use the main bunch of keys and it may get borrowed by someone else, leaving them unable to lock up. Agreed they can have their own key which will be kept with their bag of resources.</p> | Fr Martin |
| FINANCE | |
| Roland said they are in process of putting the budget together but it is still tight. | |

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| SOCIAL EVENTS | | |
| <p>Winchester Trip was very enjoyable, although coach not full. New Year's Eve Party was very successful.</p> <p>St Mary's Presents...</p> <p>a) Quiz Night 4th Feb in Parish Hall. Need to sell more tables. b) Craft Fair 12th March – looking for craftsmen/women to take part.</p> | | |
| OTHER BUSINESS | | |
| <p>52. General items.</p> <p>59. Parish Room – needs general clean up and sort out, probably during half-term.</p> <p>60. Newsletter Sick List – Brenda commented on the size of the list and thought it needed checking. Eddie wondered if we should put a general statement and have a book of names in the church.</p> <p>61. Iona Club – Jo Luxton commented that there is still a note asking for members in the newsletter yet the club is refusing new members.</p> <p>62. Hospital Chaplaincies – thought Queen's and King George's Hospital chaplaincies were linked – no, they are not.</p> <p>63. Altar Servers Medals – being presented soon.</p> <p>64. Hall Kitchen – groups are supposed to pay £50 per year for its use but no income received so far. Eddie suggested talking to the school, who organise the bookings.</p> <p>65. Church Cleaning Day – a cherry-picker will be used to clean the upper window ledges and other parts above normal reach.</p> | | |
| STEWARDS OF THE GOSPEL | | |
| <p>Jack How spoke to the diocese about a booklet they produced, asking for thoughts. The deadline was originally before Christmas but now due by Holy Week. He read out some of the questions. If we are not careful, we will erode as a parish. This offers an opportunity to pass ideas around, particularly to help less active/fortunate parishes. He asked about holding a bigger meeting. Brenda thought a number of smaller groups to discuss the questions and then bring the answers together. Fr Martin thought the following Wednesday, using Parish Council members. Jo Luxton suggested 1st Feb, announcing it at the two Sundays prior to that. We need reps from all the groups. Jack will send Brian the document and he will distribute it to the Parish Council.</p> <p>Final decision was to hold the meeting on Thursday 2nd Feb in the Van Meenen Room at 8pm. The meeting's title will be "The Future of Our Parish" – come and give your opinion on the future of our parish - a number of questions about options.</p> | | |
| DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING | |  |
| Wednesday 15 th March 2017, 8:00pm The Presbytery. | | |
| FORTHCOMING MEETINGS – Provisional dates | | |
| 17 th May 2017, AGM 21 st June 2017, 19 th July 2017, 20 th Sept 2017, 15 th Nov 2017, 17 th Jan 2018. [Please put these dates in your diaries] | | |
| The meeting closed with prayers at 21:15. | | |
| Brian J. Rodgers Secretary | Signed: Eddie Allen Chairperson | |
| 23 rd January 2017 | Date 15 th March 2017 | |