

St. Mary's Joint Parish Council and Finance Committee Meeting
2nd July 2024, 7pm
DRAFT MINUTES

PRESENT: Larry C, Malcolm T, Anne S, Sue F, Sean H, Simon R, Peter T, Jane M, Kate E, Pauline L, Joanne T

Fr Sean opened the meeting with a prayer.

1) Apologies received: Veronica H, David H

2) Draft minutes of meeting held on 14th May
Correction to spelling of Anne's name.
Minutes approved.

3) Matters arising from meeting on 14th May

i) Baptism Preparation Programme – now in full swing. Zoom licence purchased for online sessions. Online spreadsheet for Trisha, Peter and Alison to support families through stages. Currently eleven families involved across both St Mary's & St Aidan's.

ii) Parish Council Display – at entrance to church and in church hall.

Suggestion that there is another display introducing parish catechists – **ACTION JT**

iii) Safeguarding display – on the wall in the hall.

iv) Council Constitution – amend to make clear the council is joint Parish and Finance committee. Rephrase to remove the time limits for serving members. Date amended version – **ACTION SR**

Add adoption of new constitution to agenda for next meeting – **ACTION JT**

v) Communion from the chalice – new eucharistic minister rota has been circulated (thank you to Melanie and Simon)

Trial over the next few week and tweak as required.

Ministers with chalice to stand far sides of altar to avoid 'queues' and crowding; reminder to be sent via email – **ACTION SR**

vi) Parish Social Event – date selected Sun 8th Sept which is Our Lady's birthday!

Reasoning that people will be back from holiday, back at school, weather should (hopefully) still be fair

Need to secure volunteers to lead and organise. Note to go in newsletter - **ACTION JT**

vii) Diocesan Vision: What is the Lord Calling Us to Be and Do?

Several members of the parish attended a session led by diocese demonstrating a suggested way to engage parishioners with this vision and evoke responses and reactions. Fr Sean explained he would prefer to better understand the Bishop's plan for the diocese, the role of partnerships and potential reintroduction of deaneries.

As a parish we can promote the Vision via the newsletter and websites and invite parishioners to reflect in their own time – **ACTION JT**

viii) Meeting minutes to be online and made available in the church hall **ACTION JT**

4) Finance Update

Current balance: £6,823.20

Diocesan levy to be paid: £6,774.99

This is normally paid in full but it can be paid quarterly if required – that would mean £1,853.30 due by the end of July.

SR asked if there are any penalties or interest paid if done quarterly – JT confirmed there were not.

Discussion re moving some money from St Mary's capital account into current account. Fr Sean keen to ensure a parish can pay its own way but St Mary's has had significant expenses recently such as paving (£8,800) Installation of new fire alarm system at diocese's request (£2,500). Council agreed to transfer funds - **ACTION SH**
New Lectionary has been ordered and paid for: £1,053.96 (private donation generously made to cover this cost).

Roof repairs: £2,322.55. This can not all be covered by storm damage.

Paint work: to be invoiced.

Five Year Electrical Testing due in July – this shouldn't be as expensive as last time as bulbs were all upgraded and a lot of work completed.

Legacy – Fr Sean asked council to consider what we should spend a legacy on, it was agreed it should be something tangible with a way to acknowledge and remember the donor. The amount the church is due to receive is not yet known.

5) Items from Fr Sean not on the agenda

Partnership meeting at St Mary's comprehensive on Wed 03 July

In terms of building works – church carpet is getting cleaned on Tues 9th July

Electrical survey happening w/c 8th July

Awaiting quotes for replacement doors into church

New wifi has been connected through church, hall and house and seems to be more reliable.

6) Safeguarding update – materials from diocese have been displayed on the wall and contact details of safeguarding leads and support groups shared in newsletter.

7) Any Other Business – hot water boiler in hall kitchen is not working. This has been repaired before so may need replacing – **ACTION JT**

8) Date of next meeting: Wednesday 18th September

Meeting concluded with a closing prayer.