

St. Mary's Joint Parish Council and Finance Committee Meeting
13th March 2024, 7pm
Draft Minutes

In attendance: Sean H / Peter T / Malcolm T / Larry C / Pauline L / Sue F / Ann S / Jane M

Apologies received: Simon R / Joanne T / David H / Kate E

Opening prayer: Led by Fr Sean

Minutes of previous meeting: Approved

Actions arising:-

Peter to discuss baptism preparation with Fr Sean – carry forward

Safeguarding to be added to agenda as standing item – from next agenda

Finance Update:-

Current balance is:- £10,900

This is £7,000 less than where we were this time last year, but we have had significant expenditure for repairs to paving outside church and missed payments to NE Clean.

NE Clean - £5,000 paid / £2,500 to pay next financial year.

Parish average monthly income: - £3,800

This financial year the parish has raised over £5,400 for charitable causes.

Offertory in 2024/25

Should we include parish bank details in newsletter?

We currently receive £1,605 per month in standing orders.

We receive circa £280 per month in offertory envelopes

There was discussion on the benefits of including the parish bank account details in the weekly bulletin for new (or existing) members who wish to set up standing orders etc. It was noted that there were forms relating to this available in the hall. It was agreed this could usefully be included in the notices, but to do so after Easter which is the beginning of the new financial year.

Action – JT

Easter 2024:-

Wed. 27th (St. Mary's) 7.00pm Penitential Service

Holy Thursday (St. Aidan's) 7.00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday (St. Aidan's) 3.00pm Led by Deacon Alison Rebello

Good Friday (St. Mary's) 3.00pm Led by Fr Hall

Holy Saturday (St. Mary's) 5.30pm

Easter Sunday (St. Aidan's) 9.15am

Easter Sunday (St. Mary's) 11.00am

Mon. 1st April (St. Aidan's) 4.00pm Eucharistic Adoration

There was further discussion of reintroducing communion in both kinds. It was agreed that Joanne would check with all eucharistic ministers if they are

- happy for this to re-start this
- happy to administer the chalice but not to consume the elements once the congregation had finished, or
- are not happy to have this reintroduced.

Once this is known, a final decision will be taken as to the next steps.

Action – JT

Fr Sean advised that seven adults are due to be received into the Church and confirmed at Pentecost (some will also be baptised as part of this process).

Birthday Commemorations: -

Fr Sean confirmed that he would prefer donations to the SVP New Bridge Street charity rather than cards and gifts.

Joanne will set up a giving page to facilitate this and promote to parishioners.

Action - JT

Parish Council membership:-

There was discussion based on Malcolm's proposal (previously circulated by e mail) how best to progress this.

It was agreed that

- Information about the history of the parish could be added to the website.
- Names and photographs of council members could be posted on the notice board.
- Contact details for council members will not be included as this may present a safeguarding/confidentiality issue – anyone wishing to contact a member of the council can do so when they see them at Church, or via the office.

Action – JT

Further development of the parish profile and/or council constitution will be considered when current discussions at diocesan level are concluded. Veronica to be asked if she has a current version of the constitution (as the version shared at the meeting was thought to have been updated more recently)

Action - VH

Parish Social Event (fish & chip supper):-

51 people signed up to the event, 44 people there on the night.

Many thanks to all who helped take menu choices and money prior to event.

Thank you to Malcolm for ordering and collecting food – everyone successfully fed!

Many thanks to Gillian who sold raffle tickets - £140 donated to People's Kitchen.

Thank you to Frank G for the table quiz.

Several calls for another event – esp for mixed age groups

It was agreed that future events should be planned for later in the year, and a request be shared for anyone interesting in helping to plan a calendar or specific events be asked to put their names forward.

Items from Fr Sean:-

A new lectionary is to be introduced for use from Advent, utilising the updated English Standard Version translation of the Bible. This will require the purchase of possibly four new books with a potential total cost of up to £1,000. Fr Sean will give thought to any preparation on the background and impact of the changes to the readers.

Fr Sean again referred to the opportunity to give thought as to where the members of the council and the parish would wish the parish to be in five to ten years' time against the significant changes taking place in the church, to ensure that the community continues to be served and the Gospel preached.

Discussions are ongoing at diocesan level which will be shared with parishes, at which time Peter agreed to co-ordinate taking this forward in the parish with the support of the council and congregation.

The meeting closed with prayer.

Date of next meeting:- TUESDAY 14th May

Joanne to check members' availability to make sure this date works for everyone (noting that it is a Tuesday not the usual Wednesday).

Action – JT