

St. Mary's Joint Parish Council and Finance Committee Meeting
28th June 2023, 7pm
Draft Minutes

ACTION

In Attendance : - Una H, Malcolm T, Anne S, Sue F, Veronica H, Simon R, Sean H, Peter T, Kate E, Pauline L, Joanne T

Apologies for absence: - David H

Welcome:- To new members Anne R and Jane M

Opening Prayer:- Led by Fr Sean

Parish Finance Update – Joanne T

Diocese Levy for 2023 /24 has been paid in full

Current account remains strong at £18K

First Aid boxes have been replaced. One in church hall, one in finance office, one in presbytery.

Update from Fr Sean

PAT testing completed in church and presbytery

Fire extinguisher testing completed.

Second hand books in the hall have been replaced.

Also a selection of spiritual books which are offered on a borrow, read and return basis. Both to be promoted in newsletter.

JT

St Mary's has been offered to diocese as a venue for one of the Listening Exercise sessions.

Clergy session will take place at St Mary's on 12th July.

Anne R and Joanne T will assist with teas and coffees.

Estimates to be sought to repair paving outside the church.

JT

Thank you to all musicians and singers for their ongoing support during liturgies. It is very much appreciated, especially during celebratory masses.

Thank you to Veronica H for a great response from parishioners signing up to gift aid scheme.

There was a discussion re use of offertory envelopes which are expensive to buy and not always used by people requesting them.

Simon R commented its preferable for people to donate via standing order.

Revisit in December when deciding how many envelopes to buy – include on relevant agenda.

JT

Thank you to catechists for all their work with this year's First Holy Communion children and families. A meeting will be arranged to prepare for next year. Sending Forward Masses at both St Mary's and St Aidan's on Sun 16th July.

SH

No communication has been received from the diocese re Baptism preparation. Fr Sean to follow up.

SH

Essential to ensure all relevant DBS certificates are up to date. Those requiring clearance for their roles within the parish will be notified by the diocese when their certificate is due to expire. Anna P can assist with DBS queries.

Minutes of meeting held on 15th March

Malcolm T queried the discussion around the reintroduction of the chalice. There was still a feeling amongst Eucharistic Ministers that it was too early and the majority were not ready to offer chalice during communion. Minister and priest are still required to sanitise hands before communion.

Parish social committee are keen on the idea of hosting a summer strawberry tea. Joanne to liaise with to get a date set and promote.

JT

Any other business

Donations at Christenings

With no formal Baptism preparations taking place since COVID, many families seem unaware of custom to make a donation to the church.

It was suggested a laminated sign is placed next to collection basket advising those new to the parish that a donation can be made following a baptism celebration.

JT

Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 20th September at 7pm

Closing prayer – led by Fr Sean.