

St. Mary's Joint Parish Council and Finance Committee
Meeting 15th March 2023 at 7pm
St. Mary's Church Hall
DRAFT Minutes

Present: Pauline L; Kate E; Anne S; Sue F; Una H; Veronica H; Sean H; Simon R; Larry C; Joanne T

		ACTION
1.	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u> Received from Peter T and Malcolm T</p>	
2.	<p><u>Opening Prayer:</u> - Led by Fr Sean</p>	
3.	<p><u>Actions & Updates</u></p> <p><u>MAINTENANCE</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handrails have been installed next to stairs up to choir balcony • Inner door and two old outer doors in presbytery have all been replaced. • Expecting invoice for work soon. • Contractors have been engaged re paved area outside the front of church which is cracked and uneven. We should have date for works soon. • A new fire detection system has been installed in the house as per Diocesan Health and Safety remit. • Plumbing work around church, hall and presbytery will be completed on Tues 21st March. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thanks offered to Larry C for suggesting push taps in toilets. - Quotation for all jobs is circa £1,200, Council happy with this price. - Electric shower in the house also needs replacing, again Council happy with price quoted. • One quote for PAT testing has been received, awaiting a second and then will book for testing of items in church, hall, presbytery and house. <p><u>UPKEEP</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fr Sean asked Council for thoughts re upkeep of the church. Is a new heating system needed? Is redecorating required? Council agreed church would benefit from fresh coat of paint but any heating work would need to be done first. Larry C will investigate costs and options for installation of solar panels Fr Sean explained that we are managing use of utilities well in terms of limiting when heaters are on, having lights on timers and replacing taps in the hall toilets. 	<p style="text-align: center;">JT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LC</p>

<p><u>PARISH CENSUS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 131 completed forms were returned, registering 287 parishioners. Joanne T to invite three people interested in Parish Council to next meeting. <p>Fr Sean to speak to those interested in supporting sacrament preparation. Simon R to speak to those interested in helping with collections. Veronica H to contact those who requested information about envelopes and Gift Aid scheme.</p> <p><u>PARISH COLLECTIONS</u></p> <p>Council discussed basket collections and if we should revert back to passing basket around during offertory hymn. It was decided to stay as we are and leave baskets at two entrances. Veronica H reported the proposed DONA scheme from the Diocese by which parishes would purchase card machine to offer an option of card payments. Council declined the idea. Banking Details to be included on the parish newsletter once per quarter so those wishing to donate online can have the information to hand. With closure of more HSBC branches, Diocese is asking parishes to apply for a deposit card which would enable cash to be paid in at a post office. Simon R has filled in form for St Mary's.</p> <p><u>MUSIC STANDS</u></p> <p>Simon R asked Council if new music stands could be purchased for the choir as existing ones are old and failing apart. Council agreed.</p> <p><u>PARISH DEACON</u></p> <p>Alison Rebello who has been leading Stations of the Cross and Eucharistic Adoration at St Aidan's will be ordained on 8th July at St Mary's Cathedral.</p> <p><u>HOLY COMMUNION FROM THE CHALICE</u></p> <p>The bishops of England & Wales announced that the distribution of Communion from the chalice during Mass will resume starting Holy Thursday. Council reported a degree of nervousness about this from the Parish. It was agreed to wait and consider reintroducing again at some time in the future.</p> <p><u>FIRST AID BOXES</u></p> <p>One for church & hall and one for presbytery & house have been ordered.</p> <p><u>LIVE STREAMING</u></p> <p>Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Altar Servers must be made aware they are being filmed during mass and can request camera is not on them or decline to take part if they wish.</p>	<p>JT</p> <p>SH SR VH</p> <p>JT</p> <p>SR</p> <p>JT</p>
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	<p>Children returning from Children’s Liturgy are not on camera.</p> <p><u>MOTHERING SUNDAY</u></p> <p>Larry C told Council his daughters are planning to bake scones for Sunday Coffee Morning – Fr Sean suggested that he put a note on counter saying they were homemade.</p> <p>Nicole has also designed a board to help promote the coffee mornings so parishioners know which weeks to come through to the hall.</p> <p><u>REFRESHMENTS</u></p> <p>Una H reported there were several more people coming forward keen to help with Friday Coffee Mornings.</p> <p>Joanne T to contact those who expressed an interest in helping on Sunday mornings.</p> <p><u>SOCIAL SUPPORT</u></p> <p>Fr Sean spoke of his concerns about the mental health of some parishioners as we come out of pandemic, in particular, those who find socialising difficult.</p> <p>As a parish, could we think about some social events?</p> <p>Council recalled Strawberry Teas held in the summer with games on the lawn for children.</p> <p>Joanne T to speak to those previously involved and see feasibility for an event his year.</p>	<p>LC</p> <p>JT</p> <p>JT</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p><u>Next Meeting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday 14th June at 7pm <p>Fr Sean led a closing prayer. Meeting ended at 8pm.</p>	