Minutes of St Patrick’s Pastoral Parish Council Meeting

7:00pm on Wednesday 26 January 2022

In attendance: Canon Paul Douthwaite; Greg Mearman, Chair; Carol Proudlock; Tricia Whitfield; Carol Bainbridge; Pauline Burnside; Pat Middleton; Halina Holman; Jane Smith; Michelle Dennis.

1. Canon Paul opened the meeting with a prayer.
2. Apologies for absence. There were no apologies for absence.
3. Resignation letter. The Chair reported that he had received a letter of resignation from Stella Foody. The Committee acknowledged Stella’s contribution to the PPC. The Chair agreed write to Stella on behalf of the PPC and parishioners, thanking her for her work.
4. Minutes of the meeting of 3 November 2021. The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.
5. Matters arising from the minutes.
* Synodal Church. Work in relation to the Synodal Process was completed and a report submitted to the Diocese.
* Communication. Canon Paul now highlights key points from the bulletin at the end of Mass.
* Ministry of the sick. In addition to his own visits, Canon Paul has identified Eucharistic Ministers to visit sick parishioners and distribute the Blessed Sacrament to them.
* Ministry rotas. These are now organised by the Bulletin team with help from Canon Paul.
* Social Events. The Parish Christmas Draw was a great success thanks to the work of PPC members. In particular Carol Proudlock’s work in co-ordinating and wrapping prizes and selling tickets. It was agreed that we would trial the holding of future social events in church. The Blessed Sacrament would be relocated to the safe in the sacristy for the duration of social gatherings.
* Advent and Christmas arrangements. These were completed successfully. Numbers attending Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services were down on previous years, but this was attributed to the Omicron Variant which was at its height over Christmas.
1. Parish Pastoral Council Constitution and Statutes. Canon Paul circulated a draft of a document in which he had set out the Constitution and Statutes for our PPC. Canon Paul advised that the document was based on Canon Law relating to the formation of PPCs. Members were asked to submit comments or suggestions to him by 9 February. The document will be finalised on that date and be adopted by the PPC. It was confirmed that the new PPC Constitutions and Statutes will replace any previous version. The PPC cannot function in the absence of a Parish Priest or during an interregnum. Discussion indicated that PPC members were generally in agreement with the draft. There were suggestions about potential new members to cover Liturgy, Youth and Health & Safety representation. It was agreed that once finalised by Canon Paul, the document would be published on the Parish website. It was agreed that PPC Minutes would be published on the Parish website, after they were agreed at PPC meetings.
2. Any other business. Planning for the church year. It was suggested that planning should commence soon for St Patrick’s Day, Lent and Easter.
* St Patrick’s Day. There will be a mass on 17 March to celebrate St Patrick’s Day. It was noted that the school children may not attend the Mass in the light of existing Covid conditions. As St Patrick’s day is on a Thursday it was suggested that parishioners could meet in church after Mass on Saturday 19 March for light refreshments, on the lines of our Christmas event. Carol Bainbridge and Proudlock agreed to help out with the arrangements.
* Lent. Canon Paul plans to have Stations of the Cross, Benediction and Mass every Monday evening at 6:00pm during Lent. He will consult with parishioners and prospective PPC members about other liturgical events during Lent, Holy Week and Easter.
1. Wilf Lavery RIP. The PPC were saddened to hear of Wilf’s death and acknowledged his work over numerous years as Chair of the PPC and on numerous other duties on behalf of parishioners. A minutes silent prayer was held for the repose of his soul. It was agreed that a Mass Card would be sent to Claire from the PPC.
2. Next Meeting. The date for the next meeting was agreed for Wednesday 27 April at 7:00pm.
3. Meeting Closed. The meeting was concluded at 7:55pm with a prayer from Canon Paul.