

Parish Council Meeting Minutes
Monday 17th April 2023

1. Present:	Catherine Wloch (Chair), Robert Nunn (CAFOD), Eileen Bonnar (Eucharistic Ministers and Readers), Ron Burchell (Parishioners Rep), Zoe Elliott (Altar Servers), Yvonne Hillier (Safeguarding), Jenny Mascarenhas (Mothers prayer group), Daniella Burke (Choir), Siobhan Denny (Youth), Harriet Plumb (Jubilee trust), Nicola McGeady (Guides), Elizabeth Cox (Minutes) Fr. Sean (Parish Priest) and Fr. Jose (Assistant PP).
2. Apologies received from:	Noreen Flynn (Minutes), Richard Wloch (Folk Group) and Colin Frost (Finance and SVP)
3. Welcome and prayer. Fr. Jose opened the meeting with a prayer.	
4. Matters and actions arising from previous meeting. Feedback for new mass times (advertised in the newsletter) has been generally positive. Nicola asked for further information about the changes to the outdoor lighting at the Scout Hut. The Chairperson has requested a written list of the requirements from the hut users (to be collected and provided by Nicola) to ensure the lighting meets their needs.	
5. Updates from the Groups Safeguarding All DBS applications have been submitted, only one outstanding on the old system. Yvonne has tried to chase but struggling to get a response from the Diocesan Safeguarding team via email or telephone. Altar Servers Twenty-five altar servers took part in the Easter services and this provided a good opportunity for additional training. It was also identified that many of the servers need new cassocks and cottas so an audit will be completed soon and new sizes ordered as needed. Zoe will attend the first holy communion parents meeting next week to encourage those making their first holy communion this year to consider joining the training for new altar servers in September. Siobhan suggested a similar opportunity for the confirmation candidates during their “church in the world session”. Jubilee Trust The Ceilidh Night was successful and made £870 profit. It is hoped that this money will be used to help a parishioner attend the pilgrimage to Lourdes. They are pleased to report numbers are increasing for the first Friday lunches. CAFOD CAFOD will be joining the fossil fuel protest outside parliament on Friday 21 st April. There is an upcoming CAFOD parliamentary reception on May 22 nd 2023. Robert would like to get parishioners involved in the “fix the food system” campaign (further details on CAFOD website). He hopes to speak after mass 16 th July and would request signatures from the parish. West London Justice and Peace Network will be meeting via Zoom on 22 nd April from 10-12. Girl Guiding Our two Brownie units are full and running successfully. Sadly, due to a lack of volunteers the Rainbow group may have to close in September. Other groups in the area are facing the same issue so it may be	

possible to recruit from these groups, but the leaders would not be parishioners. Fr Sean does not see this being a problem from a parish perspective.

Nicola reports that the guiding groups within the Parish are happy to re-start church parades and will discuss the frequency with the Scout leaders. Harriet (on behalf of the Scout leaders) says she believes they are also happy to attend future parades and have the same issue with a lack of volunteer leaders.

SVP

The SVP continue to operate in the parish and are very involved in the Food Bank run by St. Gregory's in South Ruislip. They are very grateful for all the generous donations made by parishioners.

Choir

Easter services went very well, with thanks to John the organist for his contribution on Good Friday. Daniella will work with Richard (Folk Group) to provide music for the first holy communion masses. The children's choir continues to grow (numbers now around 21) and will sing on the first Sunday of the month at the 10am mass.

Folk Group

The Folk Group are sad to report the sudden and unexpected passing of Tom Maramaros who was a keen singer with the Folk Group. His funeral was held on Thursday 18th April in St Benedict's Ealing Abbey with a large congregation and a guard of honour provided by St John's Ambulance. He will be missed.

Mothers Prayer Group and APF

The group asked for a reminder to parishioners about the APF – red boxes, now known as Missio.

Youth

There is a young adults (18-35) survey out (which will be live for 1 month) asking people what they would like from our parish community. Each month different people attend the young adult mass, numbers are still small but hopefully growing as they are yet to have everyone attend at the same time!

Six people have volunteered for the Lourdes pilgrimage, which has now been booked. DBS checks are awaited for all those over 16.

The youth groups would like to work with other parish groups and ask for ideas for collaborations.

6. Fr. Sean update

Upcoming changes

- Communion was received under both kinds at Maundy Thursday service. Fr Sean would like to reintroduce this to all masses starting at Corpus Christi. It will be a personal decision to receive.
- Eucharistic ministers and readers will be re-enrolled at the celebration of Corpus Christi.
- With the new mass times Fr Sean would like singing and music at both the 10am and 11.30 masses, with a family focus for 10am

Finance and admin update

- Inside doors have been identified as health and safety risk. A quote has been received to toughen the glass and replace the springs.
- Quotes are awaited for the display screens and improvements are needed to the sound system.
- The fire door that leads out to the Scout hut needs bars to be health and safety compliant.
- Nothing has yet been heard from the family of Fr Duncan Adamson about setting up a trust in his name. This has been chased but if there is no response the funds will be used for the Lourdes pilgrimage.

- The job description for a catechetical coordinator is nearly finished and will be advertised soon with the aim to have someone in post by September. The new role will cover a broader scope than before.

7. Easter Feedback

Fr Sean was very happy with how all the Easter services went and thanked those who helped. Next year

- Thanks to Siobhan and the youth group for leading stations of the cross one week. In future different parish groups could lead the stations of the cross each week, including for the evening of Good Friday. It was suggested that the Mother's prayer group could lead a session from Mary's perspective.
- The ecumenical service wasn't fully inclusive. Catherine explained that the organisers did try to get in contact, but with new priests across the churches in the area things did not go to plan this year. She will coordinate with the lead next year and increase advertisement.
- Next year relevant parish groups will work together and start planning for Easter in January

8. Discussion on Parish Pastoral Council

During the discussion a common theme of the need for more volunteers was noted.

Fr Sean would like to host a volunteer feedback meeting on 5th June:

- open to all parishioners
- to collect honest feedback about volunteering within the parish, any stumbling blocks
- to generate ideas for future plans
- Fr Sean will look to see if we would invite someone from Caritas to attend.

It is hoped to recruit a facilitator to focus on volunteering with:

- a volunteer subcommittee to organise and facilitate these ideas
- job descriptions to help define expectations for each volunteering role

One of the initial projects will be to develop a Welcoming Group within the parish, with the aim of making people feel part of the community. This goes beyond activities directly relating to mass or church, such as calling people when they register with the parish.

Out of 70 first holy communion candidates approximately 20 attend church regularly. Fr. Sean wants to find ways to encourage more families to take an active role in the parish community.

9. AOB

From a list of topics from the Synodal pathway, a decision was made to discuss spiritual development as an agenda item at the next council meeting. Initial suggestions involved getting guest speakers in and making more use of the facilities we are lucky to have in this parish.

10. The next meeting will be on 15th May 2023 7:30pm in the Coffee Lounge.

June 12th	Oct 9th - joint meeting with Finance Committee
July 10th	Nov 13th
Sept 11 th	Dec 11th

11. The meeting closed with a prayer.