

**Parish Council Meeting Minutes
Monday 9th October 2023**

1. Present:	Fr. Sean Carroll, Catherine Wloch (Chair), Colin Frost (Finance and SVP), Robert Nunn (CAFOD), Ron Burchell (Parishioners Rep), Jenny Mascarenhas (Mothers prayer group), Daniella Bourke (Senior and Children’s Choir), Siobhan Denny (Youth), Eileen Bonnar (Eucharistic Ministers and Readers), Nicola McGeady (Guides), Richard Wloch (Folk Group), Garry Plumb (Cubs and Scouts), Susan Jeffery (Finance and SVP), Michael Clark (Finance), Patrick Egan (Finance), David Pacquette (Finance).
2. Apologies received from:	Noreen Flynn (Minutes), Fr. Jose Netto, James Boyle (Seminararian), Zoe Elliott (Altar Servers), Harriet Plumb (Jubilee trust), Elizabeth Cox (Alter Servers), Yvonne Hillier (Safeguarding), Gino Amasanti (Finance)
3. Welcome and prayer. Fr Sean opened the meeting with a prayer.	
4. The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed off.	
5. Previous Actions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Yvonne will check if different rules apply if events take place on a regular basis. Continues 2) Fr. Sean will speak to an IT person about Altar Servers portal. Two parishioners with IT skills identified and meetings scheduled. Continues 3) Fr. Sean will speak to the School Principal regarding representative on Parish Council. Continues 4) Fr Sean to speak to Kate Kelly the PTA representative at the school. Initial discussions held but nothing firmed up as yet. Continues 5) Fr Sean to apply to Caritas for a voucher grant scheme for MSH. Continues 6) Fr Sean -A 4G dongle will be installed this weekend to resolve the issue of the DONA card reader only working intermittently. 7) Fr Sean attended a talk about ‘Communion and Liberation’ given by a group called ‘The Religious sense’. Three families from MSH attending so could have in our parish as start of adult faith formation. Next meeting 2 weeks time. Continues 	
6. Joint Finance and Parish council meeting <p>Fr Sean is keen to develop greater interworking between the Finance committee and Parish council; both do great work but could more be done together? Quoting from the book “Devine Renovation” the challenge is to ask “where is the money being spent?”, is it only on infrastructure or all aspects of the church’s work? AT MSH we do invest in both capital works as well as spiritual development through our Catechetical and Youth leaders but could we do more? All present were asked to consider this together with their groups and provide suggestions at the next meeting.</p> <p>Some initial ideas: Catechetics for adults – one of the outcomes from the parish Synodal work, additional youth resources and funding Youth Day in 2025, developing the children’s liturgy at the 10am mass, external speakers, closer collaboration with the school, reintroduce the Scouts and Guides church parade (this is being planned already).</p>	
7. Christmas	

Fr Sean reiterated the importance of Advent being the period of anticipation and so any events must reflect this. Daniela will look into seeing if the traditional Christmas carol service can be adapted to fit, candidate date would be second Sunday in Advent.

Siobhan has proposed to open the youth centre on Sundays in Advent but will need adult helpers.

A suggestion to have a blessing of family Advent wreaths was warmly received but will need to be planned.

Christmas Fayre

The date has now been fixed for Dec 2nd, Susan Jeffery with Colin Frost organising. All progressing well. The precedent has been for the proceeds to go to parish projects and identified charities as this provides a focus helping raise funds and last year it was split three ways: SVP St Gregory Food bank, SVP MSH and Fr. Duncan Lourdes fund. A suggestion from a previous meeting was for a new piano for the coffee lounge to enable choirs to practice, Richard to identify costs, however the Food bank is in desperate need of donations and is at risk of closing down so we need to strike the right balance.

8. Planning

The volunteering appeals were held over three successive Sundays and approximately 30 parishioners responded which is a good start. Each volunteer will now be contacted.

9. Update from Parish organisations

Altar Servers

A full inventory of the cassocks and cottas in the sacristy has been completed. We need to establish which sizes, if any, need to be replenished.

There are 6 new servers undergoing training currently and 2 servers attend the Westminster mass for Altar Servers on Saturday 7th October, supported by James and Zoë

Preparation has started for the Guild elements of the St. Stephen's Day mass on

26th December. Looking to enrol 5 servers into the guild and 3 will be receiving their silver medals.

Early stages of planning begun for a Christmas Social, budget to be confirmed by November meeting.

James has very kindly agreed to manage the rota whilst he is with the Parish.

Finance committee

Fr Sean identified several items that will need to be funded: redecorating the church, replacement of the condemned boiler, car park resurfacing and introducing digital displays in the church. Funds adequate at the moment.

SVP

The food bank at St Gregory in South Ruislip is really struggling as donations have reduced significantly; there have been no toiletries for several months and food items reduced to 8 per family. Donations from Supermarkets have dried up as they tend to sell off items at reduced rates rather than donate. The annual SVP appeal is coming up soon where this will be identified as a pressing need.

Youth

Sessions have now recommenced for all year groups. The Lourdes group starts in October.

CAFOD

CAFOD collections were successfully held on 7th and 8th October with thanks to Father Sean and James for their help and support. CAFOD have donated £30K to CARITAS Rabat in Morocco and £50K to a trusted organisation in Libya for energy support following the recent earthquake and floodings.

Children and Adult Choir.

Several more children and one adult have joined the choirs. A couple of additional musicians have also volunteered.

Folk Group:

Angela Alvares who leads the musicians and singers will be the point of contact for the Folk Group from now on.

Mother's Prayer Group.

The prayer group continues meet regularly and to offer prayers.

Parishioners' rep

Nothing to report

Jubilee trust

Thursday lunches are doing well with around 25 attending; next lunch is on Thursday 19th October from 10:30am onwards for a contribution of £7.50. There will be a guest speaker from Age UK, who will provide an update on their services and how to keep safe in our homes.

The next social event will be an evening of music and dancing in Hesdin Hall on Saturday November 18th from 7.30pm- 11pm. Proceeds to The Catholic Children's Society to help with their Youth Mental Health Programmes

Cubs and Scouts

Cubs doing well with 35 split across 4 groups.

Brownies and Guides

Rainbows struggling due to lack of volunteers but hanging on. Brownies doing well as are the Guides. The Ranger unit has closed.

Safeguarding

Applications were all up to date for Lourdes. DBS applications for all Catechists in progress.

Parish Website

Fr Sean has given go ahead for the new website. Meeting to be held with the parish team to discuss content and access.

10. AOB

A request was made to include the persecuted church in our bidding prayers.

11. Next Meetings.

The next meeting will be 13th November 2023.

12. The meeting closed with a prayer.