

St Vincent's Parish Council

"The parish council works with the priest to serve the people"

Meeting minutes 20 March 2024

Present: Russell Brynes (Chair), Catherine Evans, Louise Heaton, Maria Mawson (Minutes), Lizanne Rana, Dominic Rice, Theresa Rice, Fr. Walsh.
Catherine Livingstone also attended to discuss the Jubilee 2025 & Year of Prayer 2024

1. Opening prayer

2. Apologies: Dominic Simon

3. Actions & matters arising from the 21 February meeting not covered by the agenda

Dona machine.

There are still some issues with the Dona machine, possibly relating to the wifi connection. A parishioner is assisting Fr with it. Parish bank details are provided in the bulletin every week, these can be used for one off online banking donations if the machine isn't working.

Easter Ministers rota has been done.

Mass stipends. Fr Walsh has written about stipends in the bulletin.

Parish Directory.

- Fr Walsh mentioned that this has been removed from the web site, due to concerns about spoof emails and the inclusion of contact details. DR pointed out that all the individuals concerned had given their consent to the information being published on the web, and therefore it was agreed that the Directory could be put back on the site.
- In connection with this, CE mentioned that she had been contacted by a parishioner who had done a google search for their name, and the results included a link to an out of date list of first communion catechists with contact details, even though the document can no longer be found in any public section of the Parish web site. This is a matter for concern, and LH agreed to investigate further to find out what can be done about this.
- Shortly after the meeting MM was able to speak to a colleague with expertise in this area. In their view, the document in question must still be stored within the web site somewhere, even if it does not appear publicly on the site, otherwise google would not be able to find and link to it. Most likely, the document is stored somewhere in the "back end" of the web site. The solution is for whoever manages the web site to ensure that any out of date documents are removed from the web site, and then in due course, they should not appear in google search results.

4. The Mass

Communion under both kinds.

Fr. Walsh confirmed that there has been no diocesan or national guidance about reintroducing the chalice, and that it has not happened in most parishes. He intends to speak about this at Mass some time after Easter, and will introduce the topic in the bulletin in the previous week.

5. The Church

First Holy Communion

The date agreed with parents is 2nd June with First Confessions the day before.

Year of Prayer 2024 and Jubilee 2025

- The Parish is represented on the diocese Jubilee commission by Catherine Livingstone, Katherine Ryan Murray, Bernadette Twomey, Columba Timmins and Catherine Evans.
- Catherine Livingstone attended the meeting on behalf of the group, and explained that one focus for the Year of Prayer in preparation for the Jubilee is the "Teach us to Pray" booklet issued by the Vatican. This can be downloaded in 6 languages from <https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en/giubileo-2025/verso-il-giubileo/2024-anno-della-preghiera/insegnaci-a-pregare.html>. Printed copies will be available to all parishes, and CL proposed a focus group meeting with wide representation to talk about how to best use the booklet in the parish. CL will consult the other parish representatives and Fr Walsh about the best time for a meeting. **Action: CL**
- There is another booklet "We Dare To Say" that has already been circulated to parishes. This is a resource for small group faith-sharing and for individual meditation, featuring five sessions each based on a line from the Lord's Prayer. Each session includes scripture, prayers and a reflection with questions. This booklet can be downloaded from <https://hallam-diocese.com/jubilee-2025/>

Pastoral letter, parish statistics and related questions

- Available from <https://hallam-diocese.com/pastoral-letter-2nd-3rd-march-2024/>
- The Deanery has asked every parish to submit a short report on the four questions at the end of the statistical report. Every Parish should have a meeting to discuss and collate responses so that the report can be prepared.
- The meeting will take place on Saturday 20 April, 11-12.30. It will be promoted as a meeting about the future of the diocese, and refreshments will be served. It was suggested give feedback anonymously using flip chart paper and post it notes. These could also be available in the hall for those not able to attend the meeting.

6. Building the Community

Parish social.

No responses so far to the appeal in the bulletin for people to organise activities. There are a number of social activities in the parish already (tea/coffee after Mass, pantomime, bazaar, quiz and chips night) but there may be room for more. CL suggested a "zeros" party, organised for and by people with a zero in their age. CL will investigate further to find out if anybody would be willing to organise. **Action: CL**

People with disabilities

CL confirmed that the Diocese Jubilee Commission will be circulating a survey to all parishes for people with disabilities and their carers. Further details to follow.

7. Parish Council

Louise Heaton and Lizanne Rana attended for the first time, and another parishioner is considering joining the Council. CE has revised the membership poster and will add new members photos when she receives them.

8. Children and young people

No items for discussion

9. Live Simply updates

CE reported that the assessment for the CAFOD Live Simply award will take place on 26 April. If successful, St Vincent's will be only the second parish in the diocese to achieve the award.

On 23 June there will be a plant and cake sale to raise funds for St Justin's.

10. Safeguarding

- ⑩ CE and Fr. Walsh have discussed guidance around groups of young/vulnerable people meeting on and off church premises. On the premises, they must be accompanied by at least two DBS checked adults, ideally one of each gender. Groups going off the premises must be accompanied by a third person in case of any accidents or other emergencies.
- The Prayer Tree can remain until another parish wants it, and there have been prayers added to it. It was suggested that it could be displayed in the church itself for a little while.

11. Any other business

- ⑩ DR has organised meetings for readers on Palm Sunday after masses.
- ⑩ CL asked about the wheelchair in church which needs some attention. Fr. Walsh will ask the parish maintenance team to look at it. **Action: Fr. Walsh**

Dates for next meetings

24 April, 22 May, 19 June. All 7pm