

St Vincent's Parish Council

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

Meeting minutes 22 January 2025

Present: Russell Brynes (Chair), Catherine Evans, Louise Heaton, Cath Livingston, Maria Mawson (Minutes), Lizanne Rana, Theresa Rice, Dominic Simon, Fr. Walsh.

1. Opening prayer

2. **Apologies:** Dominic Rice

3. Actions & matters arising from the 28 November meeting not covered by the agenda

- Parish Prayer Book. The prayers collected are being sorted into sections, and Fr. Walsh has agreed to write an introduction. The prayer book will be printed in A6 format similar to the Day by Day booklets. Aspects of the format such as the font will be chosen to take into account the needs of those with dyslexia and other disabilities. The cover will feature a photo of the mosaic of St Vincent from the church, with credit given to the artist Bev Popplewell. **Action: LR/LH**

4. The Mass

- Streaming services update. Fr. Walsh had no reply from the company he approached initially, and is still trying to find an alternative. CL offered to get details of the system used by a church she had attended recently in Guildford. **Action: CL**
- Christmas Mass update. The Children's Mass was very well attended, and Midnight Mass was attended by 60 or 70 people. The Christmas morning mass was not as busy as expected. Fr. Walsh will review the need for a Midnight Mass in future, and may consider having one earlier at 8pm, as this has been done in the past.
- Bidding prayers update. Russell has spoken to Gerry Burke, and he is willing to coordinate an initial meeting. He suggests an announcement in the in the bulletin to recruit a team. He has suggested a team of around six people in the first instance. The first Sunday of Lent would be a good time to start, and some guidance from Fr. Walsh about writing prayers would be useful. **Action: RB/GB**
- Optional readings. In the new lectionary there are some Sundays that have several optional readings to choose from. As readers often use the Day by Day booklets to prepare, and if different readings are chosen it can make things difficult for them. Fr. Walsh agreed that in future the Day by Day option would be used. **Action: Fr. Walsh**
- Jubilee Prayer. In addition to including the prayer in the bulletin, it was agreed that it would be useful to have copies on the benches for those that don't take a printed copy of the bulletin. There are different Jubilee Prayers available, but it was agreed that the version Fr. Walsh is using is concise and easy to read. **Action: Fr Walsh to arrange copies for the benches.**

5. The Church

- Diocesan Pastoral Council. Fr. Walsh has not received any information from the Bishop about the formation of the DPP.

- Sheffield Deanery meeting in December. Fr. Walsh did not have anything to report.
- Jubilee 2025 Parish Mission. This had been suggested during a discussion about evangelisation at the previous meeting. Various ideas were discussed. CL has visited Stanbrook Abbey near York, and suggested that it would be a good place for parishioners to visit. Holiday lodges are available, and the community also welcome visitors for quiet day retreats. More information is available at <https://www.stanbrookabbey.org.uk/hospitality/day-retreats/> CE spoke about the Irenaeus Project which is a retreat centre in the Archdiocese of Liverpool. Parish retreats can be facilitated, more information at <https://www.irenaeus.co.uk/parishretreats> CE has a personal contact there and agreed to get further information. **Action: CE**

6. Building the Community

- Inclusion and accessibility for people with disabilities. A meeting to discuss the draft parish policy and related audit was held on January 16th. The meeting agreed that each attendee will look at the audit individually and their thoughts will be compared at the next meeting. It was pointed out that as a relatively new building, St. Vincent's is already in a good position in terms of accessibility, with level access throughout and a very effective hearing loop. The aim is to be proactive in anticipating different needs rather than responding to them as they arise. The Vicar General for the diocese Fr. Des Sexton is interested in the work that is being done and has asked to meet the working group. CL mentioned that a mass for people with disabilities is being arranged in Doncaster on May 31st.
- International food event Saturday 1st March 4-7pm. A meeting is being arranged to plan this in more detail. Fr. Walsh will attend and say a prayer of thanksgiving at the start. It is intended that proceeds will go to St Justin. The St Justin group has been asked to run a raffle, but will need more guidance, for example numbers of prizes, and whether tickets should be sold in advance or just on the evening. **Action: CL and other members of the organising group.**
- Commemorating deceased parishioners. CE has been approached by two parishioners to ask if there could be a place to post photos of deceased parishioners to help people recognise and remember them. It was suggested that a section could be created to put photos on the website, as well as on a noticeboard in church. **Action: Fr Walsh & CE to discuss further.**

7. Parish Council

- Louise Heaton announced her intention to step down from the Council as she will no longer be able to attend meetings due to work commitments. She will continue to work to complete the prayer book. This was also Theresa's last meeting, having announced her intention to step down at the previous meeting. Thanks were extended to both for their contributions.
- Open parish meeting 2025. Attendance at the parish meeting in October 2024 was slightly disappointing. Alternative options were discussed for the 2025 meeting, including meeting in the summer when evenings are lighter and weather more favourable, or changing the time to Friday evening, Saturday morning, or after Sunday morning mass. A provisional date of 22 June was suggested, to start after

9.30 mass. Details to be confirmed at a future meeting. **Action: MM to include on next agenda.**

8. Children and young people – nothing to discuss

9. Live Simply updates

- The Live Simply group provided an update from the meeting on January 12th. The Parish Council was asked to consider thoughts on two issues in particular, energy use and managing the church grounds for biodiversity.
- The idea of fitting solar panels to the church roof in response to the continuing energy crisis has been raised in the past, and neighbouring churches in Crookes have had them fitted recently. The suggestion was discussed in some detail. but it is not a priority for Fr. Walsh at the moment.
- The parish is already part of the Sheffield Wildlife Trust Nature Recovery Sheffield initiative. SWT has offered to visit to offer biodiversity advice on the grassed area next to the church car park. The meeting welcomed this, and it was agreed that Columba Timmins be asked to move this forward.
- The Parish Council is also supportive of the continuing monthly pledges and ongoing work to reduce, re-use and recycle materials used in church activities, particularly plastic.
- **Action: MM to update CT on these discussions.**

10. Safeguarding

- CE reported that a Diocesan Standards Audit has been received to be completed in conjunction with Fr. Walsh and Nicole Jones. **Action: CE**

11. Any other business

Dates for next meetings:

5 March (Ash Wednesday) after 7pm evening mass.

23. April 7pm