

St Vincent's Parish Council

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

Meeting minutes 23 April 2025

Present: Russell Brynes (Chair), Catherine Evans, Maria Mawson (Minutes), Lizanne Rana, Dominic Rice, Fr. Walsh.

Fionnuala Frances from the Diocesan Formation and Mission Team also attended, as the team is keen to understand how different Parish Councils operate. Following introductions, RB gave some background information about the development and role of the Parish Council.

1. Opening prayer

2. Apologies: Cath Livingston, Dominic Simon, Jacquie Stacey

3. Actions & matters arising from 5 March not covered by the agenda

- Parish Prayer Book. Lizanne and Louise are still working on formatting and proof reading for final approval from Fr. before printing. This is likely to take another couple of months.
- Key pad for sink room. RB has spoken to Peter Twomey and this is being taken forward.

4. The Mass

- Easter services review. Fr. Walsh felt that all the services were better attended than last year, particularly the Easter Vigil. Having the Altar of Repose in the Hall worked very well. The Good Friday Walk was attended by 36 people, more than in the past. It was agreed that in the future it would be worth taking some photos of the walk for social media and Hallam Bridge.
- Streaming services update. Fr. Walsh has received information from <https://www.churchservices.tv/> based in Dublin. The company provides streaming and recording services to a large number of churches across Ireland and Great Britain.
- Costs for setting up the system would start from £2500. There would also be an ongoing monthly fee starting from around £90 per month. This would be higher if services were to be recorded as well as streamed. A reliable broadband connection with fixed IP address and a good sound system are essential, and the company can advise further on this.
- The meeting discussed the benefits of streaming services regularly. Parishioners who are no longer able to attend Mass in person through illness, infirmity or disability would benefit, the service could support evangelisation work, and families of parishioners not based in Sheffield would be able to take part in services including funerals, weddings and first Holy Communion.
- There was broad support for taking this forward, certainly for a trial period. The Finance Committee will be considering at their next meeting.

5. The Church

- Parish Retreat. CL has organised this for 3-5 October at the Briery Retreat Centre in Ilkley. There has been a good response from people wanting to attend.
- Parish Mission. Fr Walsh is continuing to liaise with his colleague from the Little Way Association to organise this. **Action: Fr Walsh**

6. Building the Community

- Inclusion and accessibility for people with disabilities. The audit is taking some time but is already raising some useful questions. The outcomes will be shared in due course. The group intends to contact the diocesan formation team about the possibility of training, for instance for ministers of the Eucharist or readers. The group is also considering the availability of disabled parking spaces and the drop off point. Fionnuala commented that the work that has been done in St Vincent's has been recognised by the diocese and mentioned in April Hallam Bridge. The audit template has been shared with deaneries and parishes. The next meeting of the group is on 24 April.
- Commemorating deceased parishioners. A suitable noticeboard will be ordered
Action: Fr. Walsh/CE
- Diocesan news and communication in print and audio format. CL had reported that some parishioners are not able to access Hallam Bridge in digital format. At the moment, a couple of copies are printed and left in the narthex, but parishioners are asked not to take them away. It was agreed to increase the number of copies printed (around 10), and to use the bulletin to encourage people to take them if they or family do not have digital access. This can be reviewed in the future. **Action: Fr Walsh to ask the office to print more copies.**
- CL had also raised the possibility of an audio newsletter. This will be discussed further at a future meeting. Fionnuala reported that the diocese is currently reviewing diocesan communications and the website, and could consider audio formats.

7. Parish Council

- Open parish meeting 22 June 2025. The format will be discussed at the next meeting. MM will liaise with whoever is on the drinks rota and will write a bulletin notice towards the end of May. **Action: MM**
- New members. Jacquie Stacey has joined the Council. It would be helpful to have another new member if anyone can be persuaded.

8. Children and young people – nothing to discuss

9. Live Simply updates

- The Big Lent Walk for CAFOD went very well. The group walked 2457 km, raising £800. CT wrote a short article which appeared in the April Hallam Bridge.
<https://hallam-diocese.com/care-for-creation-update-april-2/>

10. Safeguarding

- Diocesan Standards Audit. This has been completed.
- New safeguarding rep. CE has stepped down so a new representative is needed. One requirement is for an appropriate person to join Fr. in the sacristy before Mass.
Action: Fr Walsh

11. Any other business

- CL has reported that Sr. Ann from the Daughters of Charity is willing to give a talk about the work of the order and the history of St. Justin. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Next meetings - 11 June, 16 July