

St Vincent's Parish Council

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

Meeting minutes 24 April 2024

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 20 March meeting not covered by the agenda

Dona machine.

A parishioner and a diocesan representative have been assisting with this. The machine will be hard wired so that it is not reliant on wifi, which should make it more reliable. The wired connection can also be used in the future to enable live streaming of services.

Out of date documents on web site.

LH has spoken to a colleague who has suggested some solutions, and they are willing to look further into this. In the first instance Fr. Walsh will look into removing out of date documents from the web site. **Action: Fr Walsh/LH**

Year of Prayer 2024 and Jubilee 2025.

CL asked for advice on which groups to involve in a focus group. Contact details for groups are in the recently updated parish directory on the web site. Katherine Ryan Murray is attending weekly diocesan meetings and will provide updates as needed.

Wheelchair in church

This has now been repaired

4. The Mass

Communion under both kinds - reintroducing the chalice.

Fr Walsh asked for a show of hands about this at Masses on 14 April, and there was no majority in favour of reintroducing the chalice. The issue is therefore considered resolved. Most parishes in the diocese and nationally have not reintroduced the chalice and Fr. Walsh reiterated that when the host is received, the body and blood of Christ is present. There was some discussion about the show of hands and how the questions may have been interpreted, and some surprise was expressed that there has not been any diocesan or national guidance.

Live streaming Masses.

A wired internet connection is being installed to make the Dona machine more reliable, and it will also enable live streaming of services if this is required. There is a demand for this for funerals in particular, but other services could also be live streamed. There was some discussion about making sure that participants such as readers and ministers are fully informed before this happens. **Action: Fr Walsh**

5. The Church

Diocesan statistical analysis and questions: outcomes from the Parish meeting 20 April. Ten parishioners attended the meeting with Fr. Walsh, and there were useful discussions on the statistics and the questions the bishop asked. It was mentioned that it would have been helpful to have statistics from other years for comparison, and also more detailed

statistics with age profiles. Fr. Walsh has received 4 or 5 responses from parishioners in addition to the discussions at the meeting, and parishioners will be encouraged again to put their views forward so that they can inform the parish response to the Deanery.

Deacons

Fr. Walsh suggested that it could be beneficial to have a Deacon in the Parish, and asked for views on this and how to take it forward. There is a diocesan coordinator for deacons based at Sacred Heart, and it was suggested that he could be asked to organise a day for prospective deacons. LH suggested that it would be helpful to circulate information in the parish about what is involved, with a view to encouraging parishioners to reflect on whether this might be for them. Louise will send a few notes to Fr. Walsh so that he can pursue further. **Action: LH**

6. Building the Community

Ecumenism.

It was suggested that the Catholic church could learn from other Christian churches, and it was noted that ecumenism does not seem particularly visible in Sheffield at the moment. The St. Vincent's Live Simply group is working with other churches in Crookes, and it was suggested that St Vincent's could organise a service in the autumn to coincide with the Season of Creation, and invite members of the other churches in Crookes. CE will take this back to the Live Simply group. **Action: CE**

7. Parish Council

The Terms of Reference

http://www.stvincentschurch.com/uploads/4/2/5/8/42588219/st__vincent_terms_of_reference_for_pastoral_council.pdf will be reviewed at the meeting in May, and the frequency of meetings will also be discussed. **Action: MM to include this on the agenda**

CL expressed an interest in attending future meetings and was welcomed as a new Council member.

8. Children and young people

Confirmation & young peoples group. Clare Mulhall is willing to coordinate social and prayer activities.

9. Live Simply updates

The assessment is taking place online on 26 April.

10. Safeguarding

CE will liaise with Clare Mulhall on arrangements for the young peoples group.

11. Any other business

Following a note from Fr. Walsh in the bulletin, CL suggested having a piece of glass on the altar to protect the altar cloths from candle wax. Following a short discussion, it was agreed that this wouldn't be necessary as the candle wax isn't a huge problem.

Dates for next meetings

22 May, 19 June, 17 July. All 7pm. Russell will not be available for the meeting on 17 July so an alternate Chair will be needed.