

St Vincent's Parish Council

"The parish council helps the priest to serve the people"

Meeting minutes 1 March 2023

Present: Russell Brynes (Chair), Kathleen Baster, Maria Mawson (Minutes), Dominic Rice, Theresa Rice, Columba Timmins,

1. Opening prayer

2. Apologies: Fr Walsh, Catherine Evans

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

Reducing the quantity of printed bulletins. CT reported that fewer copies are being printed and given out. An increasing number are using the copies on WhatsApp.

4. The Mass

Following a discussion at the previous meeting it was agreed that a meeting would be organised for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion who visit the sick, probably after a Sunday morning Mass. **Action: DR**

Reverence for the Eucharist – discussed at the end of the meeting.

Easter Services. Times were confirmed at the previous meeting. KB mentioned that churches in Crosspool jointly promote Easter Services, and wondered if there was scope to do this for Crookes. CT pointed out that we have contacts at the other churches now as a result of the Warm Hub initiative, and agreed to find out if other churches already do anything, such as posters. If they do, she will request that St. Vincent's be included. If they don't, KB volunteered to do a poster. **Action: CT/KB**

2023 marks the 190th anniversary of the foundation of the of SVP and Conferences in the Diocese have asked if St Vincent's will host a celebratory Mass on 22 April at 6pm. Fr Walsh will say the Mass. Music has been requested. **Action: TR agreed to look into music.**

RB will find out if we need to provide Readers & Eucharistic Ministers. There are SVP members in the parish who may attend and could fulfil these duties if needed. If extra ministers are required DR will ask existing ministers if they can help. **Action: RB/DR**

5.The Church

Contactless collection: awaiting information from Fr. Walsh.

6. Building the Community

Welcoming Ministry. This is working well. Currently there is one welcomer on Sunday evening, but RB mentioned that it could be useful to have two. DR pointed out that further general appeals for parishioners to volunteer all the Parish Ministries are needed. The new poster on Ministries may help, but ideally there will also be appeals from Fr. Walsh. This will be included on the agenda for the next meeting for further discussion. **Action: RB to include on next agenda.**

CT asked if it was appropriate for welcomers to be asked to hand out or draw attention to things like CAFOD envelopes, additional leaflets etc., and the meeting agreed that this was appropriate.

Display board. The poster on Ministries is ready to be printed. **Action: RB to ask CE if she can arrange printing.** CE is also working on a second poster to promote other groups.

Parish booklet. DR is still chasing responses.

Parish Council poster. The Parish Council Mission Statement has been incorporated into the text on the poster and will be included on future agendas and minutes. **Action: KB to arrange printing**

Contact cards. It was pointed that there was no provision on the contact card for additional family members. The back of the card could be used, but this information could also be requested when the contact card is followed up. Supplies of the card will be available in the narthex with regular promotion in the bulletin. **Action: KB will organise printing.**

Mission. The planned Mission by the Friars of the Renewal is not going ahead but Fr. Walsh is planning to speak to Redemptorist Fr. McBride about the possibility of a Mission. **Action: Fr Walsh**

Warm Hub feedback. The Warm Hub has now ended. RB reported that the maximum attendance at any session was three people. Those attending valued the Hub, and it was agreed that the opportunity for company was perhaps more important than the provision of warmth. The Hub also provided the opportunity for volunteers to get to know each other, and to do something jointly with other churches in the area.

7. Children and young people

Reading at Mass. RB to follow up with Bernadette on provision of support for younger readers. **Action: RB**

Young people's meeting with Sue McDonald, Diocesan Youth Development Officer. Feedback from RB and discussion. There had been some confusion about whether parents were supposed to attend. Those attending had made a number of suggestions about what they would like, some spiritual and some social e.g, social night, summer panto, rosary service. Sue is taking their ideas forward.

Some concern was expressed about the lack of diversity in the meeting, with relatively low attendance from those who generally attend Sunday morning Mass. For a future meeting, different approaches for promoting could be considered, maybe personal invitations. There had also been a suggestion that young people should be represented on the Parish Council.

This led to a discussion about encouraging parishioners to suggest topics for future Parish Council meetings. We agreed to ask Fr Walsh to put something in the bulletin in the weeks leading up to meetings, announcing the forthcoming Parish Pastoral Council Meeting, and asking parishioners to let PPC members know if there are any matters they would like us to discuss. **Action: MM to ask Fr Walsh to do this before the next meeting.**

8. Live Simply

CT reported that the Group is working well. St. Thomas, St. Timothy and Wesley Hall are interested in joint activities or action relating to Live Simply. Lenten Pledges are ongoing with the aim of helping the parish move forward together and embrace Live Simply principles.

CT is in contact with the Anglican Diocesan Environmental Group.

Reverence for the Eucharist

KB has spent a lot of time reflecting on this. There was a lot of discussion at the last Parish Meeting about social events, but perhaps less about the spiritual aspects of the Parish, including the Eucharist, which is at the very centre of our faith. There was a discussion around possible actions to remind us all of the importance of reverence for the Eucharist, and it was agreed that KB will talk to Fr. Walsh, and make some suggestions for Bulletin Extra articles.

AOB: The refugee family mentioned on the WhatsApp group before Christmas will be put in touch with the SVP.

Next meetings: 19 April, 31 May, 12 July all at 7pm in the Parish Room

Closing prayer.