

St Vincent's Parish Council

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

Meeting minutes 21 February 2024

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

1. Opening prayer

2. **Apologies:** None received.

3. Actions & matters arising from the 24 January meeting not covered by the agenda

- The Dona machine not working at the moment, but Fr. Walsh hopes it will be fixed soon. A parishioner had suggested that it would be useful to have an "out of order" notice on it, and Fr. Walsh agreed to do this if the machine is not fixed by 25 February. **Action: Fr. Walsh**
- The tradition of requesting Masses for special intentions. Fr. Walsh will write a short item for the bulletin, with a follow up in October in preparation for the November dead list. It was agreed to include some information about donations (stipends), to emphasise that donations for Masses are not required, but are welcomed. Fr. Walsh confirmed that the average donation is around ten pounds, and that donations received go into parish funds. It was agreed that it would be useful to include this information in the bulletin item. **Action: Fr. Walsh**

4. The Mass

- DR is organising the Ministers rota for Easter. **Action: DR**
- Receiving Holy Communion under both kinds. A few parishioners have asked Father Walsh and other members of the Council about this, as receiving from the chalice has been reintroduced in some parishes. One parishioner had specifically asked for it to be discussed at a Parish Council meeting. Fr. Walsh is not planning to reintroduce receiving from the chalice, but he will speak about the issue at Mass in the near future. He may ask for a show of hands to get an indication of how many would wish to receive Holy Communion under both kinds. If receiving from the chalice were to be reintroduced, more ministers of the Eucharist would be needed so that existing ministers are not overwhelmed. **Action: Fr. Walsh**
- Offertory Procession. RB asked if Fr. Walsh is happy with the current arrangements, as there have been occasional glitches. It was agreed that generally the process works well, and that the majority of parishioners like to see the children being involved. Parishioners are generally happy to take the bread and wine to the altar. DS observed that he has attended Mass in various places over the past few years, and in his view St. Vincent's does a better job of involving children than many other churches.

5. The Church

- First Holy Communion and Confession. First Holy Communion will take place on 26 May, 2 June or 9 June, date to be confirmed at the first meeting with parents on 25 February. A programme of weekly meetings (excluding school holidays) will start on 3 March, to take place after Sunday morning Mass. The music group will be rehearsing Easter music in the church after mass on March 17, but Fr Walsh confirmed that the meeting that day will not use the church.

6. Building the Community

- Parish booklet. Fr Walsh printed a few copies for the Narthex, these have been taken away. DR confirmed that some updating is needed for the version on the website, which he will do in due course. **Action: DR**
- Parish social. The idea of a Parish Social has been raised previously, but it would require people to organise it. MM agreed to draft a notice for the bulletin asking for people interested in organising, with the possibility of inviting them to a future Parish council meeting to discuss further. **Action: MM**
- Inclusivity: People with disabilities. Catherine Livingstone has contacted RB to say that she has discovered that the diocese is likely to be doing some work in this area in connection with the Jubilee Year in 2025. A survey will be circulated to parishes, and the diocesan Jubilee group is meeting on 26 February. Katherine Ryan Murray from the parish is involved in this. Catherine Livingstone will wait for further information from the diocese before taking any further action.

The diocese has a web page for the Jubilee Year <https://hallam-diocese.com/jubilee-2025/> and there is also an article on the Hallam Bridge web site <https://hallam-diocese.com/the-jubilee-year-2025-pilgrims-of-hope/>

It was agreed that that the Jubilee Year should be on the agenda for the next meeting. It was also suggested that Katherine Ryan Murray could be invited to attend a future meeting. **Action: MM to include Jubilee Year on the next agenda.**

- New communities. The Council is keen to make sure that new parishioners from different parts of the world feel welcome. DS mentioned that in the last few years many medical and health workers have come to Sheffield from Kerala, which has a large Catholic population. Some are likely to stay in Sheffield for a relatively short time as they will move on to jobs elsewhere. DS is not aware that people don't feel welcomed, and mentioned that in southern India, there is no tradition of socialising after Mass.

7. Parish Council

- Dominic Simon was welcomed to the Council. The meeting agreed that it would be useful to have at least one more member, possibly a younger person. DR is still willing to speak at the end of mass one week to appeal for new members. **Action: DR**
- ⑩ The Parish Council posters need to be updated, and CE agreed to trim the existing posters and re-use photos as appropriate, adding photos of new members in due course. **Action: CE**

8. Children and young people

No items for discussion

9. Live Simply updates

- ⑩ The Live Simply award application is almost ready to submit.
- ⑩ The Big Lent walk is taking place after 9.30 Mass on 3 March and was advertised in the bulletin on 18 February.

10 Safeguarding

- CE confirmed that the diocesan policy on Creating a Safe Environment is being promoted and followed in the Parish. Documentation is available from <https://hallam-diocese.com/safeguarding/policy-practice/procedures-manual/>

11 Any other business

- World Day of Prayer 2024. An event has been arranged at Bents Green Methodist Church, all welcome. CE will send the details through for the bulletin. **Action: CE**
- A parishioner has started working for 5 hours a week to provide administrative support to Fr. Walsh.

Dates for next meetings

20 March, 24 April, 22 May. All 7pm