St Vincent's Parish Council
"The parish council works with the priest to serve the people"

Meeting minutes 30 October 2024
Present: Russell Brynes (Chair), Catherine Evans, Cath Livingston, Maria Mawson (Minutes), Dominic Rice, Theresa Rice, Dominic Simon, Fr Walsh.
Katharine Ryan-Murray also attended this meeting.

1. Opening prayer
2. Apologies: Louise Heaton, Lizanne Rana

3. Actions & matters arising from the 18 September meeting not covered by the agenda

- Adoremus event update. No detailed information was shared, no action required.

- Diocesan statistical questionnaire update. Fr. Walsh shared a summary of the responses that had been made by the parish via the questionnaires and at the meeting held in April. It was agreed that these would be discussed further at the next meeting. Fr. Walsh also shared a paper he had sent to the Bishop outlining a possible solution to the issue of falling numbers in some parishes. It was agreed that this would also be discussed at the next meeting. **Action: MM to add to agenda**
  [Shortly after the meeting, the Bishop issued a Pastoral Letter on this matter, together with summaries from the Deanery meetings that were held after the consultation https://hallam-diocese.com/pastoral-letter-november-2024/ and MM shared these with Parish Council members on 4 November]

- Renaming the newsletter The Vincentian. Fr. Walsh did not feel that the newsletter needed a name.

4. The Mass
Streaming services update.
Fr. Walsh has a meeting coming up with somebody who may be able to help with the IT needed to make this work. **Action: Fr Walsh**

Bidding prayers.
As these are the also known as the prayers of the faithful, should they be written by members of the parish. There was some support for this, and it was agreed that a notice should go in the bulletin to invite people who might be interested in preparing prayers to express their interest, and an appeal made at Mass. It was agreed that a meeting of interested people could be held in January to discuss further. **Action: Fr Walsh/RB**.
An individual was identified who could potentially be approached to coordinate a team of volunteers. **Action: RB to follow up if necessary**

Healing / Carers Masses.
The SVP is arranging a carers mass on Tuesday 10 December and this will also have a social element afterwards. Fr. Walsh confirmed that from the start of Advent, he will offer healing at the end of evening Mass on the first Tuesday of every month.

Christmas Masses.

The children's Mass will be at 5pm on Christmas Eve and TR has been in touch with the children's liturgy group to check that they are happy to plan this. There will also be a Midnight Mass as this was popular last year and Fr. Walsh is willing to say it again. Mass will also be said at 9.30 on Christmas morning.

5.The Church

Synod 2021-2024.

Fr. Walsh circulated copies of the full Synthesis Report on Hallam Diocese Synodal Journey and a summary version. Both are available from the following web page, together with the National Synthesis Report for England & Wales. https://hallam-diocese.com/synod/

KRM mentioned that the final report from the General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops had been published recently, and is available from https://www.synod.va/en/news/final-document-of-the-xvi-assembly.html An English translation should be available soon.

It was agreed that these documents would be read and discussed further at the next meeting. KRM also highlighted a discussion that had taken place on the BBC Radio 4 Sunday programme on 27 October https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m0024ctc

Action: All to look at the documents, MM to add to agenda.

Confirmation

Only 4 candidates have come forward so far, and Fr. feels that more are needed for a viable preparation group. If no further candidates come forward it might be better to defer to 2025, and if numbers are still low consideration could be given to joining with another parish to form a preparation group.

Evangelisation

Fr. confirmed that he regularly visits St Marie's School and talks to the children about the church and the importance of attending mass. Children can help influence their parents to come to mass. It was agreed to discuss further at the next meeting. **Action: MM to add to agenda**

Jubilee 2025

- Prayer book updates. The deadline for submitting prayers is in November, a final call will be going in the bulletin.
- The Jubilee prayer will be said at Sunday Mass from January. The full version is quite lengthy, but KRM has done a shorter simplified version and will share it with Fr. Walsh. **Action: KRM**. The prayer could be added to the end of the bidding prayers after the Hail Mary, and printed in the bulletin every week.
- Inclusion and accessibility. Katharine Ryan-Murray spoke about the work that the Diocesan Jubilee Commission has been doing. The diocesan inclusion policy underpins everything, and KRM offered to amend the wording of the policy to customise it for St Vincent's. **Action KRM.** An audit template is available, and this should be worked on by a representative group of parishioners so that appropriate actions can be taken. Clare Mulhall has already expressed a willingness to be involved, and a call will be put in the bulletin for volunteers willing to work on the audit. **Action: Fr.Walsh/CM.** A Mass Toolkit provides advice on how to include and involve a wider range of people in Masses. KRM also talked about a piece of software that produces visual guides with symbols and pictures that can be used by people with special needs, and recommended that this should be purchased for the parish.

6. Building the Community
The international food event is now taking place at the Christmas Bazaar on 30 November.

7. Parish Council
Open parish meeting. MM and DR are finalising the notes from the meeting, and there will be some issues to follow up at the next parish Council meeting. The notes will go on the web site in due course, and made available in the narthex. It was agreed that the attendance was slightly disappointing. In the future, a meeting on Saturday morning, or at a time of year when evenings are lighter might be more appropriate.

8. Children and young people
The question of young people attending mass was raised in connection with the discussion on Confirmation, and had also been raised in the open parish meeting. There is no information about how many young people are in the parish. The timing of Sunday morning Mass may clash with other activities, but it isn't possible to change it as Mass times are coordinated with Sacred Heart parish.

9. Live Simply updates
A document on ethical purchasing had been shared by Columba Timmins on behalf of the Live Simply group. It is hoped that there will be a coordinated approach to buying appropriate cleaning materials and tea/coffee supplies in the parish. The Live Simply group is working on guidelines for hall bookings for Fr. Walsh to pass on. There has also been a suggestion that a set of reusable plastic plates and cups could be provided so that groups can be encouraged not to use paper plates and cups at children's parties.

10. Safeguarding
CE is due to attend several meetings and will update the Council in due course.

11. Any other business

Date for next meeting <u>Thursday</u> 28 November, 7pm