

Sacred Heart Parish Open Meeting

Sunday 21st May, 2017 4 pm in Parish Hall

MINUTES

Present:

Speakers: Fr Karol Porczak – Parish Priest; Elizabeth Barker – Outgoing Chairman; Michael Read – Incoming Chairman; Paul Kent – Treasurer; Ellen Kemp – Finance & Building Committee Chairman; David Kerr – Proclaim! Coordinator; Magdalena Kania – Parish Secretary - Minutes

Approximately 25 Parishioners

Apologies from: James Howe, Music Group; and Fiona Smith, Holy Land Committee.

Welcome and opening prayer

Fr Karol opened the meeting with a greeting and a prayer.

Chairman's Report

Elizabeth presented her report as outgoing Chairman – copy attached.

Annual Accounts

Paul presented a summary of the parish accounts – see attached spreadsheet. He particularly referred to:

A drop of nearly 10% in collections income for a variety of reasons including: a 14% reduction in Mass attendance; Alive in Faith contribution fatigue and the need for more secure collection systems.

Some major expenditure variances including: Papworth Church planning costs recorded an unplanned increase of £3,385; Priest's salary and expenses were reduced by £5,089; Administration increased by £2,155; Other costs increased by £7,689.

Some major budget increase estimates for 2017 including: overall income remaining flat at a level reduced by £640; property costs increased by £10,899; Courtyard Project budget for completion during 2017 estimated as £57,540 (offset by Alive in Faith income, but that will be spread over 5 years, requiring some bridging funding); Priests salary & expenses budget has been increased by £5,337; Other costs have been budgeted to reduce by £7,291, with no furniture costs in 2017.

Overall he did not see big funding problems and we should be able “to keep our heads above water”. Alive in Faith should produce a substantial income in the longer term but we cannot be sure how much that will be.

Rika Sanderson asked a question about Gift Aid recovery and Paul responded that it is claimed on the basis of recorded income from envelopes and standing orders with an allowance for loose collection money. The recovery would therefore be reduced in proportion to lower

overall collection income and he agreed with Rika's suggestion that there should be a fresh push at Masses to increase committed Gift Aid.

Courtyard Update (and Papworth)

Ellen reported on three items from Finance and Buildings Committee (F&BC)t.

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Courtyard Project:

She summarised the history of the project to cover the courtyard due to problems of collapsed soak away drains and rising damp affecting the fragile brickwork. This enabled the creation of a new room for the church. Building work commenced on 24th April as scheduled and, despite bad weather, the project is two weeks ahead of schedule.

Fr Karol illustrated the project with a series of photographs of the former courtyard and work completed so far. The next phase is four weeks for the brickwork to dry out. During this time the new room will be reviewed to plan how it will be used (as a confessional, meeting room and space for the children's liturgy) to determine if any additional furniture may be required.

Phase 3 will start on 3rd July when the the roof lantern, two radiators (with a heating and cooling function) and audio-visual system will be installed and the new room completed.

The estimated date for project completion is 28th July.

As mentioned in the Parish Treasurer's report funding the project is being met by the Diocesan 'Alive in Faith' initiative and some monies have been received, however, the parish will need to meet the outstanding cost of the scheme in 2017 and be repaid over the 5 year period of the 'Alive in Faith' scheme.

Papworth Church:

She outlined the history of the closure of St Francis of Assisi Church in Papworth Everard in 2007, and the transfer of the local congregation to Huntingdon parish.

The Diocese was granted planning consent last September for the site is to be sold for residential development subject to conditions on the level of social housing to be included and Diocesan Trustees met on 2nd March, however, the planning constraints have not yet been resolved and a decision to dispose of the site is still awaited. The parish is expecting to receive a percentage of the income received by the Diocese from the sale of the derelict site.

2016 Quinquennial Review (QQR)

Cracks in the walls of the presbytery were highlighted in last year's QQR. The problem was reported to the Church's property insurance company and a Loss Adjustor visited the site.

It was agreed to conduct a CCTV drainage investigation survey and this was completed on 20th March. Further action is required and this is being progressed by the F&BC. This includes repairing three drains, and having trial holes excavated to determine the soil type. Work on the trial holes is booked for Saturday 3rd June.

Good Friday Liturgy

Fr Karol had received a number of concerns from parishioners about the Good Friday Liturgy of the Passion. The Gospel which is usually narrated was sung thus excluding the parts spoken by the congregation.

The new arrangement will not be used next year and the matter will be discussed at the next Liturgy meeting.

Proclaim!

David introduced his attached report on incorporating the Church's new evangelisation mission, called Proclaim! in our Diocese, into our parish programmes. We are already well advanced in many aspects of the global mission and our Diocese' model, but there are some refinements to add, including better communications with parishioners, particularly those who do not attend Mass regularly.

Election of Chairman

Elizabeth proposed that the current Vice-Chairman of the Parish Steering Committee be appointed as Chairman. This was endorsed by the meeting and Michael Read was duly appointed as the new PSC Chairman.

Election of Representatives

Three people had been nominated to fill vacancies for group representatives on the Parish Steering Committee and no other nominations had been received. The following were appointed to the PSC:

5pm Mass – Arthur Ryans

11am Mass – Philip Spencer

Social Committee - Ian Wallace

Michael took the Chair for the remainder of the meeting and started by saying that he had big shoes to fill in replacing Elizabeth. He asked the meeting to record a deep and sincere vote of thanks to Elizabeth for all her work. This was unanimously approved with a round of applause for Elizabeth.

Fr Karol's Report:

In an oral report Fr Karol referred to:

- The Divine Mercy picture has now been approved and permission was granted to hang the picture at the front of the Sanctuary of the Church. New fixings are needed as the current ones were only temporary measures.
- One passage from "The Diary" of St. Faustina will be read and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy will be said 15min before every weekend Mass.
- On June 26th Bishop Alan Hopes will celebrate Mass in St Ives Bridge Chapel continuing the celebrations for the Sacred Heart Feast Day when a new paten purchased by Fr Karol will be used for the first time. For collection security new, tighter collection rotas are being implemented.
- 2nd collections are set in place (list available at parish office)
- Fr. Karol is looking for commercial quotations for CCTV for parish buildings.
- There is no prospect of having an assistant parish priest this year.
- Fr Karol outlined changes within the Order of Our Lady of La Salette Missionaries. There are currently 12 members. The Order does not currently have a formal structure, or constitution. Fr Provincial is trying to create religious houses, with a minimum of 3 religious per house eg Peterborough and St Ives together.

Any Other Business

There was no other business raised.

Date and time of next meeting.

A date for next meeting will be fixed by the PSC but it is expected to be in November and be held between Sunday morning Masses.