

**ST JOHN FISHER ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES**

Minutes of the Meeting held at 19:30 on 14th November 2016

- * Fr Shaun Middleton Parish Priest
- * Kay O'Connor Catechist
- + Michael Parkinson Finance
- * Neville Bayross
- * Neil Cocking Vice Chair, Music & Liturgy
- + Noel McHugh Safeguarding
- * Claire Mendonca Social Outreach
- + Johnpromise Umeh Youth
- * Neville Ransley Education / Catechesis
- * Elspeth Everitt Clerk
- * *Member present*
- # *Member present for part of meeting*
- + *Apologies*

Item No		Action
1	Opening Prayer The meeting started with prayer led by Fr Shaun.	
2	Apologies Noel McHugh, Mike Parkinson & Johnpromise Umeh	
3	Minutes of the last meeting (September 2016) Were agreed and signed.	
4	<p>Matters arising</p> <p>8. Fr Shaun has contacted Paul Higginson at St Dominic's about Harrow Citizens and a meeting is being arranged.</p> <p>10. St John Fisher school have successfully taken responsibility for a 10am mass in October and November & this will continue once a month. At school 10am masses the church has been full, children have participated in the music group & with reading etc. Good feedback has been received from parents. One concern has been expressed by a neighbouring parish that families are attending St John Fisher instead of their normal church. However this mass is being advertised in the school as being for St John Fisher parishioners and children volunteer to take part. Two new hymns that the children know have been played by the music group. A suggestion was made that an invitation go out in the bulletin to all musicians to join one of the music groups and pupils of other schools could also participate.</p> <p>13. Neil has written to the editor of the Pylon explaining the decision to deliver the magazine by email (with printed copies on request). The letter has been acknowledged.</p> <p>The episcopal visitation was deferred until January due to illness. When the date is confirmed meetings will be arranged with the Chair of the Parish Council, Chair of the Finance committee and the Safeguarding officer.</p> <p>A large group of about 50 people attended the first</p>	NC

Item No		Action
	<p>Theology on Tap session. Some were from Bushey and other parishes in the Deanery. Dates & topics for the rest of the year have been set and all talks will be on the website.</p> <p>17. Neil will set up a working party to clear the car park and hedges.</p>	
5	<p>Love in Action update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A report has been produced and the plan was explained at masses one October weekend. The report will be on the website, emailed to parishioners and reproduced in the Pylon. • Tiny Tim appeal for toys will be launched next weekend. • Representative speakers of Tamil, Sinhalese & Polish will be sought to assist in welcoming new parishioners. A question will be added to the new parishioner pack asking if they would welcome a visit from a speaker of their own language. A group of existing mothers will be sought to befriend new mothers, possibly with a coffee morning. 	<p>CM</p> <p>SM</p> <p>CM</p>
6	<p>Music Audit</p> <p>Neil is in the process of analysing the more than 400 responses received. Most responses have welcomed a mixture of organ/ music group with hymns & a sung mass at 10 & 11.30 masses. Julian Melville is analysing responses from 8.30 attendees. Over 60% of people going to Saturday evening mass would like some music. It was agreed that further questions need to be asked to find out if the lack of music was a motivation to attend. Neville Ransley will send draft questions to Fr Shaun. The next step could be to introduce hymns &/or parts of a sung mass on special Saturday evenings.</p>	<p>NR</p>
7	<p>Finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The financial position is stable. However part of the hall failed the 5-yearly electrical inspection meaning essential remedial work must be carried out to maintain insurance cover. One estimate has been received & another is awaited. A grant for part of the cost has been applied for from the Trinity Fund. Neil mentioned that a raised inspection hatch in the floor between the kitchen and main hall door is a health & safety issue. This will be followed up. 	<p>SM</p>
8	<p>Westminster schools update</p> <p>Fr Shaun & Neville Ransley have had a meeting with representatives of the diocese to discuss plans for the future organisation of Diocesan schools. Further meetings are to be held.</p>	

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9	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The mass count is down from around 1,000 to under 900. This is similar to other local parishes. One possible reason is demographic shift with a move of younger families out of London Boroughs. • The newsletter will soon be delivered by email using Mailchimp software. Data entry is complete. For about 1 month there will be print & emailed newsletter then 100 will be printed for those without access to email. The cost of photocopying is over £3,000 per year. 	
10	<p>Future meetings Car Park working party Saturday 26th Nov 11-12 noon Annual Parish meeting Monday 28th Nov 7.30pm Parish Council Monday 6th February 2017 7.30pm Parish Council Monday 15th May 2017 7.30pm</p>	
11	The meeting closed with a prayer at 9.35pm	

Signed..... Date.....