

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

**Minutes of the Meeting held at 20:00 on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

- \* Fr Shaun Middleton Parish Priest
- \* Kay O'Connor Catechist
- \* Michael Parkinson Finance
- \* Neville Bayross
- \* Neil Cocking Chairman, 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       | <b>Opening Prayer</b><br>The meeting started with prayer led by Fr Shaun.   |        |
| 2       | <b>Apologies</b><br>Noel McHugh & Claire Mendonca   |        |
| 3       | <b>Minutes of the last meeting (November 2016)</b><br>Amendment to item 7: remove '& presbytery' from the second sentence. Minutes were then agreed and signed.   |        |
| 4       | <b>Matters arising</b><br>Thanks were recorded to those who helped clear up the car park on 26 <sup>th</sup> November. Neil will investigate options for a new Notice Board.  | NC     |
| 5       | <b>Property Report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Social Club has requested funding for a new carpet in the bar at a cost of approximately £1,300. The chairs also need replacing at a cost of about £1,500. They are in a poor condition and could be a health and safety risk. The club contributes to Parish Funds. Both requests were agreed.</li> <li>• Re-wiring of parts of the hall following the 2016 safety inspection will cost approximately £14,000. It was agreed that an application should be made to the Trinity Fund who may give a grant of up to 50% of the cost.</li> <li>• The inspection chamber cover outside the disabled toilet in the hall is raised above floor level and needs to be adjusted. Kay will contact Dennis to ask him to do this.</li> <li>• A PIR light outside the front of the church is being investigated.</li> </ul> | KO     |
| 6       | <b>Ministry of Welcome</b><br>The pack given to new parishioners is being re-designed.<br>A new front page with welcome in a number of  |        |

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|         | <p>languages was shared. Ways are sought to reach out to new parishioners, many from outside the UK.</p> <p>Ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kay makes contact through baptism preparation</li> <li>• Seek a group of ‘welcomers’ speaking a range of languages to contact newcomers</li> <li>• International Day weekend – carry the international theme on through masses e.g. invite bidding prayers in other languages, wear national dress or symbol.</li> </ul>  |        |
| 7       | <p><b>Parish Priest’s Remarks</b></p> <p><b>Love in Action</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 100 gifts for children of prisoners were donated to the Tiny Tim appeal (50 had been requested).</li> <li>○ Mary’s Meals clothes collection (Feb 3/4<sup>th</sup>) was very well supported. Using Mailchimp to send out a reminder with the Friday newsletter was effective.</li> <li>○ Christmas Fair &amp; craft sale raised £700 which was topped up to £1,000 &amp; donated to Bakhita House for art therapy materials. The knitting group continues to meet fortnightly &amp; produce hats &amp; scarves which are welcomed by Bakhita House residents.</li> <li>○ To come: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Harrow Citizens community activist training 2-5pm Sundays 12<sup>th</sup> &amp; 19<sup>th</sup> March in the Parish hall. Parish Council members are encouraged to attend one or both sessions. There are now 6 or 7 organisations committed to joining Harrow Citizens, 6 or 7 may and 7 or 8 could be interested in joining at a later date.</li> <li>○ Collection of toiletries for Bakhita House</li> <li>○ 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the year (Pope Francis’ Day for the Poor) – Food Bank pie collection</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ A few places will be available for parishioners on a MIND/ Caritas Westminster mental health awareness training day at St John Fisher in June.</li> </ul> <p>E-mailing the newsletter is working well. 1 request was made for a print version of the Pylon.</p> <p>Celebration of the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Parish in 2019 will be discussed at future meetings but Council members are asked to begin thinking about ideas. Two</p> |        |

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|         | <p>stained glass windows for the Sanctuary have been funded to mark the anniversary.<br/>The programme for Bishop John Sherrington's visitation on 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> February was circulated.</p> <p>The Parish Council is invited to lunch with the Bishop on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February at 1:00pm.</p> <p>29 parishioners have expressed an interest in the Pilgrimage to Poland so it should be going ahead in June.</p>   |        |
| 8       | <p><b>Finance</b><br/>Mike presented figures for January 2017. The offertory was 6% down compared with January 2016. This is not an immediate cause for concern as income is exceeding expenditure. Offertory income was boosted significantly in 2013 following the last planned giving campaign and has shown a steady decline since then. Another planned giving campaign will be held in 2018.</p> <p>At the end of 2016 the bank balance was £175,652. The outstanding loan to the diocese is £289,772 which is being repaid in instalments from Parish funds and Growing in Faith.</p> <p>Fr Shaun expressed his thanks to Antoinette Moriarty for her hard work in organising the accounts.</p> |        |
| 9       | <p><b>Adult Education</b><br/>'Theology on Tap' monthly sessions continue to be well-received attracting 20-30 people. Plans for developing the adult education programme next year are under consideration &amp; will be discussed at the next meeting.</p>   |        |
| 10      | <p><b>Pastoral Assistant's Remarks</b><br/>Following discussion with Neville Ransley, Kay is trialling some new approaches e.g. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with the Saturday class.</p> <p>Kay is working to improve the Mass attendance of Confirmation candidates and plans to recruit May 2018 candidates in March 2017. Engaging the Confirmation group in active tasks during mass has been successful. Most of the Confirmation candidates come on their own to Mass and Mailchimp may be used to encourage families to come with them.</p>   |        |
| 11      | <p><b>AOB</b><br/>A draft Questionnaire to find out why people attend 6pm</p>  |        |

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|         | Mass on Saturday and attitudes to introducing music was circulated. Neville will make minor changes and the content was agreed. The Questionnaire will be handed out on Saturday 4th March. | NR     |
| 12      | <b>Future meetings</b><br>Parish Council <b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 7:30 pm</b>  |        |
| 13      | The meeting closed with a prayer at 9:15pm  |        |

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

**Initialed.....**