

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

Minutes of the Meeting held at 19:30 on Monday 5th February 2018

- * Fr Graham Stokes Parish Priest
- * Kay O'Connor Catechist
- * Michael Parkinson Finance
- Neville Bayross
- * Neil Cocking Chairman, Music & Liturgy
- + Noel McHugh Safeguarding
- + Claire Mendonca Social Outreach
- * Neville Ransley Education / Catechesis
- * Nuala Rodger Young People
- * Elspeth Everitt Clerk

* *Member present*

Member present for part of meeting

+ *Apologies*

Item No		Action
1	<p>Welcome & Opening Prayer Fr Graham opened the meeting with prayer. Neil welcomed Fr Graham to his first meeting as Parish Priest and Nuala who will be the link with youth activities.</p> <p>Apologies Noel McHugh, Claire Mendonca</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of the last meeting (November 2017) Minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair. There were no matters arising.</p>	
3	<p>Parish Priest's remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fr Graham thanked council members for all the work they have done to date. He asked the current council to continue as a consultative group with key roles including ensuring good communication & helping to move the parish forward. • There will be no Wednesday evening mass after Ash Wednesday. At a later date mass times on other weekdays will be reviewed, taking into account the needs of working parishioners. • Diocesan records do not show the date of Consecration of the church & Claudia will be asked to contact the Diocese to correct this. • Plans need to be made for the 80th anniversary of the church in 2019, Elspeth will circulate the ideas suggested at an earlier meeting. • Hymns & music for Lent will be discussed at a meeting this week & there will be further discussions about music, including the involvement of children. • Fr Graham felt that his first few weeks as Parish Priest had gone well and that he had been warmly welcomed to SJF 	<p>NC</p> <p>EE</p>
4	Finance Report	

Item No		Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The bank balance at the end of November was over £191,000. The outstanding loan to the Diocese is approximately £236,000. The decline in income continued but should be corrected by a planned giving campaign. 	
5	<p>Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kay reported that 3 people will be baptised or confirmed at the Easter Vigil, there are 48 Confirmation candidates & 47 for First Communion. Confirmation candidates helped to provide lunch for 80 Senior citizen parishioners. Neville said the school had enjoyed Fr Graham's visit. School parents could be more involved in the first Sunday mass & this will be considered. A coffee morning could be held after the 10am mass on the 1st Sunday of the month. The school & parish will continue to collaborate in the International Day, to be held this year on 23rd June 2018. 	
6	<p>Harrow Citizens</p> <p>4 action groups have been set up on low pay, housing, mental health and refugees. The issues workshop on 31st January in the parish hall carried on group work to identify a practical action on each issue.</p>	
7	<p>Parish visit to Porto & Santiago de Compostela</p> <p>14 people have signed up for a 6 night visit from 25th-31st October organised by Pax Travel.</p>	
8	<p>Property report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New external signs were installed in December 2017 The church kitchen needs refurbishment. One estimate for £4,000 has been received and others will be sought in summer sales. Hall rewiring (estimate £12,000) is essential and will be undertaken. Neil will fix the roller shutters in the hall & organise replacement of rotting external doors. Insurers require annual gutter clearing and roof inspection. A contractor has been recommended by the diocese. The leak in the hall roof appears to have been fixed. Health & Safety – boundary walls have cracked and Neil will cement bricks back in place, the steps outside the emergency exit from the church have been dislodged and Neil will repair them. The dip and hole in the path to the Presbytery will be filled in. There is a crack in the external glass of the Baptistry window and this will be investigated. A letter has been received from a parishioner about parking problems caused by pre-school parents. Parked cars have been blocking the car park entrance. Neil will contact the pre-school to ask parents to park responsibly and for as short a time as possible. The gates to the car park no longer function and are 	<p>NC</p> <p>NC</p> <p>NC</p>

Item No		Action
	<p>damaged so may be removed. Installation of removable bollards to prevent parking directly outside the church & the layout of parking spaces will be considered.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neil shared some examples of stained glass by Michael Coles as a starting point for 80th anniversary windows. An alternative to new glass could be to re-use stained glass in the London Stained Glass Repository (glass rescued from redundant churches). 	
9	<p>Young Adults Group Kay & Nuala are working with a core group of over 20s to set up a group. Nuala will meet them regularly and pass on information about Diocesan youth activities.</p>	
10	<p>Safeguarding After discussion it was agreed that an additional safeguarding officer will be sought to share the role with Noel. The additional person should have a photograph & contact details displayed to make it easier for parishioners to raise any concerns they might have.</p>	
11	<p>Election of Vice-Chair Neville Ransley was elected without opposition.</p>	
12	<p>Any other business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problems with the PA system have been reported and will be investigated. High pitched noises are heard at times and it is sometimes difficult to hear readers at the back of the church. Readers will be asked to adjust the microphone. • It was requested that a regular review should be carried out on the rental property in Imperial Close. • More participation in Churches Together in North Harrow activities and in the Good Friday Walk of Witness should be encouraged. • A suggestion was made to put a plaque under the Baptistry window donated by Fr Shaun. This could list all the parish priests with dates. 	<p>KO'C/ GS</p> <p>Parish Council</p> <p>GS</p> <p>Parish Council</p>
13	<p>The meeting closed with a prayer at 9:20pm.</p>	
	<p>Next meeting: Monday 14th May at 7:30pm [amended following the meeting to Tuesday 8th May at 7pm]</p>	

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

Initialed.....