

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

**Minutes of the Meeting held at 20:00 on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

- \* Fr Graham Stokes                      Parish Priest
- \* Kay O'Connor                         Catechist
- Michael Parkinson
- \* Neville Bayross
- \* Neil Cocking                            Chairman, Music & Liturgy
- \* Gerald O'Keefe                        Safeguarding
- + Delores McLean-Boyd                Safeguarding
- + 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><b>Welcome &amp; Opening Prayer</b> Fr Graham opened the meeting with prayer. Apologies have been received from Delores Mclean-Boyd &amp; Neville Ransley</p>	
2	<p><b>Minutes of the last meeting (11<sup>th</sup> November 2020)</b> Minutes were agreed as a true record and signed. <b>Matters arising:</b> Parking issues before weekday morning Masses appear to have been resolved with no further complaints.</p>	
3	<p><b>Parish Priest's remarks</b> <b>Finance summary:</b> The Finance Committee met last week and the Annual Financial Return has been approved with minor amendments. The bank balance at the end of December 2019 was £175,000 (bank account) and £129,000 (loan account). The stewardship drive was successful &amp; resulted in approximately 25% increase in standing orders and promised planned giving. This will be offset by a reduction in cash donations. <b>Property group:</b> A survey of building assets is to take place. Quotes are coming in for the replacement of the front door at 11, Imperial Close, the top floor front presbytery windows, replacing the lower panel on rear presbytery door, securing the front porch and assorted tree removal and pollarding. A new boiler flue has been installed and a grille will be put up to protect it from damage. Lights in the back section of the church have failed and should be repaired by the company who installed them in the next few weeks. <b>Future Capital Projects:</b> Stained glass windows &amp; CCTV around the church and car park will be the next significant projects requiring funding.</p>	

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	<p><b>Poor Box proceeds:</b> This can amount to £2,500-£3,000 per year and the following suggestions were made for charities to donate to addressing poverty locally or in London especially, but not solely, Catholic in foundation :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Cardinal’s Lenten appeal</li> <li>• Cardinal Hume Centre</li> <li>• Firm Foundation (Harrow Night Shelter)</li> </ul> <p>Further suggestions to Fr Graham would be welcomed</p> <p><b>Parish social life:</b> 2 coffee mornings went well, particularly after the 10am Mass. One raised money for St John Fisher School and attracted new families to Mass; the other was in Fairtrade fortnight and raised money for Traidcraft Exchange. Other groups could also use this opportunity to raise funds and provide a social space for parishioners.</p> <p><b>Catholic Papers:</b> Very few are purchased. As there was no response to the request for views on cancellation the decision was made to cancel all except the Westminster Record. A notice in the newsletter will inform parishioners that papers will no longer be available from the church but can be ordered from the publisher at lower cost to the reader.</p>	
4	<p><b>Liturgy and Music</b></p> <p>Coronavirus precautions mean that from now on no hymn books or Mass books will be used. Well known hymns will be selected. Readers will be asked to adjust the microphone to their height and read slowly while the written text is not available.</p> <p>A number of new readers have been trained &amp; include a range of ages and ethnic background. Some volunteered on the Time and Talents form during the Stewardship drive.</p> <p>3 new servers have volunteered for 10am Mass.</p>	
5	<p><b>Education</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First reconciliations are taking place this week.</li> <li>• The Confirmation group is going well. 25 of the group and 8 other young people went to a successful 13-18 event at St George’s Church in Sudbury. Pinner parish also took part. A follow-on event is planned. The paperwork involved in organising the visit took up a considerable amount of Kay’s time.</li> <li>• From May at the 10am mass the first Sunday of the month readers will always be young people of the parish when the school are not able to attend.</li> <li>• At Easter 4 people who are in this year’s RCIA</li> </ul>	

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	programme will receive the sacraments of initiation.	
6	<p><b>Safeguarding</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was previously reported that DBS checks had been completed for volunteers with the SVP and Bereavement groups. DBS checks have now been completed for all Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Volunteers in all other groups, catechists, altar servers and some members of the choirs, will now be contacted to check if their DBS clearances are up to date and, if not, DBS checks will be completed for those individuals.</li> <li>• The Diocesan Central Safeguarding Team is hosting a PSR Conference at Vaughan House in June. It will be an opportunity to compare experiences and practices with other Parish Safeguarding Representatives. Gerald will enrol for the update.</li> </ul>	
7	<p><b>Harrow Citizens Update</b></p> <p>Daphne Giachero has taken over from Paul Amuzie as local organiser. She and Fr Tim have organised a workshop on the climate emergency in the parish centre on 23<sup>rd</sup> March. The workshop will explore individual, institutional and local actions people can take. This could link in with preparation of a ‘Green Plan’ by the Finance Committee.</p> <p>A youth safety workshop at St Alban’s Church was held and identified some small local safety issues that could make a difference if resolved, e.g. poor lighting in alley ways.</p> <p>The housing action group includes members of this parish, St Alban’s, Kol Chai synagogue and St Peter’s. Leaflets highlighting actions tenants can take to improve housing conditions were distributed in Rayners Lane in January and there were conversations with a number of tenants. How to improve common stairs and landings was a recurring theme. Street homelessness is another focus of concern for the action group.</p>	
8	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>2 murals are planned for Rayners Lane and there is an opportunity to comment on what should be included via the Harrow Council consultation page. The closing date is 30<sup>th</sup> March.</p>	

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	It was noted that Dr David Lloyd is retiring after more than 40 years' service as a GP at the Ridgeway Surgery.	
	The meeting ended at 9.15pm.	
	<b><u>Future dates:</u></b> <b>Parish Pastoral Council: Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June at 7:30pm</b> <b>Parish social events:</b> <b>28<sup>th</sup> March    Fund raising concert</b> <b>23<sup>rd</sup> May       Singalong</b> <b>20<sup>th</sup> June       International Day</b>	

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

**Initialed.....**