

PARISH MEETING MINUTES

21st March 2017 at 7.00 pm

Present: Father Paul Lomas (FP), Angela Dennehy (ADy), Ann Taylor(AT), Christine Bodley (CB), Joan Bleackley (JB), Cath Cohen(CC), Ruth Hamilton (RH), Denise Hardman (DH), Julian Cearns (JC), Paul Kirrane (PK)

Apologies Collette McAndry(CM), Delia Lucas (DL)

1. Fr Lomas opened the meeting with a prayer.
2. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 14th February 2017 were read and accepted.

3. Matters Arising

Matters arising were dealt with in the appropriate section

4. LITURGY

4.1 Lent – The lent courses at Christ Church are going well discussing: - Sikhism, Ramadan (Hamid's contribution, regarding Muslim practices being inexistence in early Jewish & Christian law, was appreciated). Next week is looking at Buddhism, but there will be no session here. Lent Study – Life Church has had to cancel their sessions.

4.2 Children's Liturgy – Numbers are good for Infant – notice did go in the school newsletter. They have new mats, music and crayons. Not many coming in to the junior liturgy. St. James's school is having an Ofsted visit – we will remember them in our prayers.

4.3 Newsletters have gone to black and white – no one has commented on the lack of colour. The inclusion of mass intentions has been well received. It was suggested we use colour for Christmas and Easter. The reduction in the number of mass sheets ordered will come in after Easter, as orders are weeks in advance. It was noted that they ran out of newsletter at the 11am mass – not wanting to print more as often they are inside mass sheets– suggest instruct Welcomers not to give one to children.

The microphone on the Lectern was discussed as often can't be heard towards the back – there were mixed responses. FP is reluctant to spend more money on a new one as the 'fault' lies mainly with the person not projecting their voice. Suggested training for readers. **Action: FP/JB**

4.4 Holy Week – starts Palm Sunday. We have previously started off with children and parents in the hall which was considered not ideal. It will be better for the Choir and those remaining in the church to gather in the front of church, if weather is ok and in the porch in bad weather. This was thought to be more dignified.

Chrism mass is at the Cathedral – FP will not be going due to the long drive there and back.

Evening masses will be on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Holy Thursday office reading at 10 – Mass at 8pm. No rededication of ministers as this is done by the Bishop.

Good Friday – suggested we promote the CTHG walk of witness to the Green, 11am starting from the Heald Green Hotel; FP and youngsters are not able to join in because of our own children's service.

CTHG members will attend our Stations of the Cross, as they did last year.

Saturday Vigil – will be at 8pm –followed by hot cross buns in the hall. No Baptisms but one on Easter Sunday.

4.5 Kingdom Revelator magazine are being left in the porch, questioned do we know where they come from? Suggested we ask Daisy and Gracie.

5. YOUTH

14 candidates for Confirmation. It depends on how many there are from Our Lady's and St. Ambrose as to when the Confirmation date will be; Fr John wants to pin down a date. St Anne's have around 20. CB asked FP not to have any baptisms on the 21st May

6. CHILD PROTECTION/ SAFE GUARDING

FP has approached 3 people without success. FP asked us all to think of people, who are computer literate, to approach. We have changed the title to Safeguarding as it includes vulnerable adults.

Question – should there be safeguard training where appropriate for existing members?

7. JUSTICE AND PEACE

There hasn't been a meeting since last month. The simple soup lunch went well, though not many attending, those that came gave generously. As we have had appeals recently we are not going to do an appeal for CAFOD's crisis appeal but FP asked that a note goes in the newsletter to point out that CAFOD is part of the DEC so you can decide which to donate to if you want to donate. **Action: CC/RH**

8. LPA/ DEANERY

8.1 JB submitted a copy of the last minutes, see attached. The day of Recollection went well, good attendance from Christ Church. The lunch provided was discussed as some thought it was too 'lavish' for Lent. The idea of a shared lunch, rather than people bringing their lunch, was deemed beneficial as people stayed for the last session and could mingle. Although there was some agreement the lunch could be simpler some commented that to pass this on to the caterers, who are parishioners, may not be appropriate as it may be a way of them treating us.

8.2 The service of Reconciliation – only about 25 turned up and Fr. John is considering whether it is worth it for the 3 parishes.

8.3 Parish Directory -CM is phoning around to check current activities etc. to update it.

9. MAINTENANCE

9.1 Top Soil – soil was delivered, the quality is in dispute as appears not to be top soil as it is sandy soil used for under lawns, not yet paid. However, the plants appear to be thriving and the area looks better.

9.2 Spring clean phase 1 – we had a good response from 18 volunteers on the day and had a successful clear out and clean up in the hall, and in church the boiler room, choir loft, under the stairs and the 2 rooms previously used as a confessional. The brazier used at the Easter vigil was brought down from the boiler room to the room holding the Easter garden etc. PK took some things we 'cleared out' to a charity shop. A request for a hand held 'hoover' for the stairs was approved as a safety measure to save carrying/balancing a heavy machine. **Action: Cleaning team**

9.3 Date for phase 2 to be decided. We need to survey the cellar in advance. **Action: FP/PK/RH**

9.4 Rope for stairs to choir loft – PK reported he had looked for one but they were very expensive so will look elsewhere. **Action: PK to cost and fit alternative roping**

9.5 Church heater leak. The leak at the rear of the side aisle has been fixed.

9.6 Electrics upgrade. The Diocese arranged for the plastic cover on the fuse box to be changed to a metal one because of the danger of fire.

10. PARISH HALL

10.1 Water heater – we may have to get a new one but need to look at what we need and what is available. Meanwhile kettles are available but they take up room and sockets. **Action: FP/CB**

10.2 Plumbing in gent's toilet – a new filling system for the urinal has been suggested. Currently the smell has gone but it is using a lot of water due to the flush frequency. **Action: Andrew Lavell (Plumber)**

10.3 Store cupboards – still do not know who used cupboards 4 & 5 which are locked. **Action: RH**

10.4 Ramp into the hall – it needs replacing as it is not safe at present. Suggested it is removed and we look for a removable ramp that can be used when needed. **Action: FP & PK**

11. ECUMENISM

11.1 Women's World Day of Prayer went well. A.T. involved Karen, Angie and Helena, who catered for last year's event held at CCHG, and they promoted it so there was a good turn out from CCHG.

DH submitted a copy of the last minutes, see attached. Suggest we advertise the Taize Evening, on Palm Sunday, in the newsletter. **Action: CC/RH**

12. SOCIALS

12.1 Loneliness in the over 50s – we received a phone call from an organisation offering money to groups who cater for the over 50s – should we have something?

13.FUND RAISING

13.1 Gift Aid Co-ordinator - Jane Handley has now taken over from Gerry Dwan. The treasurer, Eileen, is having an operation so will be out of action for some time, Mike Handley will be covering; we do not know if Eileen will want to return.

13.2 Comboni Sisters appeal raised £857.95. Sister Natalia received a good response and has sent a thank you letter.

13.3 Cheadle Infants School buildings fund shortfall – donations from parents left a short fall so were asking the LPA to cover. FP discussed with Fathers John & Chris and it was agreed that Fr John would write a request, to the Vicar General, that £2000.00 be taken from each of the 3 churches central fund. Carol Lawrence emailed that the money is to be transferred.

13.4 Parish Draw March – 1st Prize No. 30 Angela Bell
 2nd Prize No 56 Marie Lohan

14. Any other notified business/correspondence:

Our insurers will be going around with Alan, our health & safety officer; FP hopes Alan will have done a check beforehand.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 2nd May at 7pm in Meeting Room

The meeting ended with a prayer