

St Aidan's Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of **AGM** held on Sunday 23rd April 2017

1. **Apologies:** Julia Dixon, Jim Cardy, Andy Connellan, Sheila Cruikshank, Craig Hewitt, David Taberner, Clare Williams, Jim Cardy and Jan Rawlinson

2. **Welcome** – Jane Rogers welcomed everyone to the AGM of St Aidan's Parish Pastoral Council. The meeting was well attended with around 40 parishioners present.

3. **Annual Report 2016-2017**

Jane Rogers, as Chair of the PPC, distributed copies and presented her report on the work carried out by the PPC over the past year. In addition to the report, which is copied below, Jane highlighted the following:

- Thank you to the many parish workers we have here at St Aidan's. It is often commented on how fortunate St Aidan's is to have so many active organisations and people willing to help – 'from toilet menders to wire tackers!'
- Thank you to Fr Pat for his on-going support and to Fr Joe for his help particularly with The Youth Effect.
- Special thanks to our Deacon, Jim Cardy, who attended every meeting and does so much for St Aidan's.
- Thank you to PPC Secretary, Roy Mason, for taking minutes and keeping members informed.
- Our programme continues to work well and 40 children were confirmed and received reconciliation last year. Thank you to school for their invaluable support and allowing us to use the school building.
- Fr Pat has reintroduced a blessing for Eucharistic Ministers, at the altar at the end of Mass. They are then sent out with communion for those not able to attend Mass.
- The Youth Effect is a wonderful addition to our parish and Jane congratulated their PPC rep Charlie, the leaders and all members. The leaders pointed out that the members are working towards their 'Faith in Action Award'.
- Our website at www.staidanwinstanley.org.uk is working well thanks to Joan Stevenson. Joan welcomed the support being offered by Dorothy Walsh in the future.

Jane was thanked for her excellent report and comments were made about the large amount of work carried out by the PPC.

4. **Appointment of new members**

Thank you to Pat Atkinson, Joan Stevenson and Clare Williams as their term of office has come to an end and to David Taberner at the end of his year representing St Aidan's.

As there were an equal number of nominations as places available, a vote was not required and Jane was delighted to welcome our new PPC members: Liz Clark, Vicky Heyes, Andrew Kay (School rep) and Joan Stevenson for a further term of office.

5. **PPC Constitution**

Jane explained that a proposed constitution had been presented to the parish and some comments had been taken on-board before the AGM. There was no further comment and so we will be able to accept our new constitution at the next PPC meeting.

6. **AOB**

As there were no further matters to discuss, Jane thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting

The first meeting of the new PPC will be held in the presbytery at 7.30pm on Sunday 7th May 2017.

St. Aidan's Parish Pastoral Council

Annual Report 2016 - 2017

Chair	Jane Rogers (who presented the report)
Vice Chair	Deacon Jim Cardy
Secretary	Roy Mason
Clergy	Canon MacNally and Fr Kendall
Members	Pat Atkinson, Sheila Cruikshank, Joan Stevenson, Pat Boyle, Craig Hewitt, Julia Dixon, Clare Williams, Jane Keating, Andy Connellan, Charlie Heyes, David Taberner

1. Thank you

Thanks must be given to :

- all the members of this Parish Council for their dedication and their hard work. It has been a privilege to work with them. A special thanks goes to the members who are retiring from the council this year Clare Williams, Pat Atkinson David Taberner and Joan Stevenson
- Canon MacNally for his support over the past year
- Fr Joe for the assistance he gave to this council, the parish and to Canon MacNally.
- our Deacon Jim who has attended all the meetings helping the council with information and advice even though he is always so busy supporting St. Aidan's
- all the parish groups who have enriched the community this year.

2. Liturgy

- The trip to the Cathedral for the Year of Mercy went well.
- Lent and Easter 2016 went well – many thanks to Jim Dumican who sorted the fire for years but has now retired – Mr and Mrs Mather have offered to do this in 2017
- Many thanks to Peter Mather for purchasing the decorations for the Christmas tree – stars for those who received Confirmation, first communion and Reconciliation, butterflies for those who have died, bells for those who have been married, angels for those who have been baptised, to Roy for producing the cards, to Jim who addressed all the envelopes to send invitations to all the families and volunteers from the parish council who delivered as many as they could.
- The Carol Service was at 8.00pm again this year followed by the First Mass of Christmas at 8.30pm. Thanks go to the music group who organised all the carols and to all who had a part in making such a beautiful service.
- Sacramental preparation went well and 40 children were confirmed and made their First Communion in 2016. Thank you to the school for allowing us to hold the meetings there.
- There are 43 children making their first holy communion this year, 2017, and the preparation is going well. Two masses will be held on May 6th.
- Canon MacNally had a meeting with the Eucharistic Ministers and asked if they would come up to the altar before the end of mass to receive communion for the sick. This has worked well as the Eucharistic Ministers are blessed and sent on their way to give communion to parishioners who may not be able to come to church.
- New books for children's liturgy have been purchased
- The 'Diploma of affiliation to Guild of St. Stephen' is now on the wall in the sacristy
- The retreat, which Canon MacNally organised, for Eucharistic Ministers from St. Aidan's and St. Jude's went very well and was particularly well attended by St. Aidan's .
- Bishop Tom came to visit the school and celebrate mass with us in January 2017
- Morning prayer was started each weekday morning at the beginning of lent.

3. Maintenance

- The loop system is now working properly the lectern microphone is working properly and the sound system can be turned on and off as there is no longer any delay.
- New security lights have been fitted and are working well.
- The loose wire around the altar has been fixed
- Two lighter vacuum cleaners have been purchased.
- The new toilet waste pipe was sorted – the hole around the waste pipe was covered.
- The row of flags at the front of church were removed and replaced with tarmac as they had become a hazard.
- A new light now shines down on the lectern to help readers see the readings.

4. Youth Effect

- Thank you to Charlie who comes to every meeting to give a report about this group
- There are 6 – 10 members
- The group raised money for the charity 'Autism Awareness' Niamh Williams spoke very well after Mass and as always there was a great reaction from the parish who donated £170
- The youth effect have looked at subjects such as refugee awareness, a baby shower, cancer and how it affects families and preparation for the Race for Life
- They were responsible for one of the sessions during the Holy Hours for Advent and Lent
- They organised and took part in a wonderful Christ the King service

5. Parishioners' requests

- The Parish Council discussed the use of Incense which can be irritating for parishioners with asthma. After much discussion and actually trying to find some anti allergenic incense, it was decided that incense is used at particular services and if it is to be used at any other times that parishioners would be notified.
- The Parish council decided, after much discussion, that the scouts will be allowed to use the church garden especially during the spring and summer months to achieve badges and keep it neat and tidy. The gardener will continue to work on the garden during the weeks that the scouts are not using it.
- A portable sign was purchased to be put out into the upper car park whenever there is a funeral – it asks for people not to park there so that the hearse can access this car park.

6. Other

- Our website has been updated. There is a link on the school website and the website address has been added to the heading on the newsletter. Thanks to Roy the website is easily found when looking in Google and a photograph of the church comes up on a map to show where the church is. Thanks to Joan for all her hard work keeping the website up to date.
- The Notice board had a revamp and thanks to Roy Mason everyone can see who the members of the Parish Council are. It has had favourable comments from visitors.
- Another Pilgrimage to Northumberland has been arranged as the last one was such a success– many thanks to Sally O'Neill for organising this.
- Many thanks to Pat Boyle and Peter Mather for organising the Cafod Climate Change meeting. The school made some lovely posters to put up and it was well attended by various groups. Fr. Mike and Jed Edwards spoke at the meeting and Paul Kenny, Yvonne Farague's husband attended. Pat asked for the petition to be signed and Yvonne Farague sent letters to all who signed it.
- Connect to Brazil – the government have now purchased the building that they have been using so they are no longer at risk of eviction. The £3,500,000 raised will now be matched by the government.
- Laughter in Africa - James Tyrell was given various amounts of money raised by the congregation by filling a Smarties' tube with 20p pieces, the UCM also donated £85. James works in Sierra Leone with homeless boys and girls and passed on his thanks to St. Aidan's. He came and gave a talk about his work at a UCM meeting.
- £100 donation was sent to Nugent care
- It was SPUC 50th Anniversary and the response from the parish was excellent, Jane Keating sent lots of postcards to the House of Commons.
- Fair Trade coffee morning was very successful and £270 was raised and sent to the Trade Craft Exchange – 2016. It was also well attended this year 2017 and Yvonne Farague and her husband attended. It is always nice to see the school council there supporting this event
- Survive Miva came in January and again the response from the parish was great.
- The parish continues to support the Brick
- A draft constitution for the parish council has been written – this was distributed before mass and any comments or suggestions are welcomed.

It was Canon MacNally's 80th birthday and the parish raised an astounding £700 which was presented to him on his birthday at St. Jude's along with a beautiful picture of the Celtic cross that is on our banner.

Fr. Joe left us early this year and we said Goodbye at the last Sunday Mass he celebrated. The Youth Effect presented him with a hamper of goodies. The parish presented a cheque of £300 and a picture of our Celtic cross to remind him of his time at St. Aidan's. We wish him lots of luck at his new parish and thanked him for all the help and support he has given to us, St. Jude's and to Canon MacNally.