

The Friends of St Aidan's

Minutes of meeting held on Sunday 3rd December 2017

Present: Liz Clark, Pat Boyle, Jim Cardy, Jane Keating, Andrew Kay, Roy Mason, Andy Connellan, Sheila Cruikshank, Julia Dixon and Craig Hewitt

1. **Prayers** led by Jim
2. **Welcome to St Jude's representatives:** Various members had extended invitations but unfortunately none were able to attend – see item 7.3 below.
3. **Apologies:** Joan Stevenson, Fr Causey, Charlie Heyes, Vicky Heyes and Jane Rogers
4. **Adoption of agenda** – Parishioners had asked for various items to be discussed which resulted in one extra item with the rest to be discussed within other agenda items. There were no AOB items.
5. **Minutes of last meeting** - 5th November 2017
All were in agreement that the minutes be signed by Jim as a true record.

6. MATTERS ARISING (not elsewhere):	ACTION
6.1 Red Boxes: the information put forward at our last meeting was incorrect and the Red Boxes will continue to be collected as normal.	-
7. Parish Changes: 7.1 Mass and Service times: Pat said that a few people had commented on the reduction of weekly services at St Aidan's when Eucharistic Ministers were happy to lead services. Is it best to make use of the building when possible? Jim said that he supported the new arrangements and that, although others may wish to lead Eucharist on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, he did not want to. Perhaps, as one parish with two building, we should not have services which might fragment the congregation. Fr Causey has asked the music group to play four hymns and perhaps the Gloria and Gospel Acclamation and not other parts of the mass which we usually sung. Many aspects of the service should be sung and it would be sad to lose skills which have built up over many years. All felt that we were fortunate to have the music group and that there should be enough time for the usual pattern. After a long discussion it was agreed that we have to do as Fr Causey wants and see how things develop over the next few months.	-
7.2 Admin: Fr Causey will be speaking to Eileen shortly about the changes to typing the newsletter. The appointment of a new secretary has not been made yet.	Fr Causey
7.3 Council: Unfortunately, our contacts from St Jude's could not attend. It was agreed that the idea of a new Parish Pastoral Council for 'St Jude and St Aidan' would be best presented to the whole congregation at St Jude's as a 'new venture for our new parish'. Roy said he would address St Jude's congregation if Fr Causey was happy with this. It was felt that as 'Friends of St Aidan's' it would be difficult to have meaningful discussions as many issues needed to have whole parish input.	Fr Causey & Roy
7.4 Website: The Archdiocese is sorting a new domain name and Liz asked members to check that the details on our current website are correct.	LC & JS
7.5 Information Booklet – nothing to report	
8. Liturgy: 8.1 Sacramental Programmes: A meeting with catechists from St Jude's and St Aidan's was held. The new programme starts in January with First Holy Communions in May. There is a form for parents to enrol their children and attendance at Mass will be monitored. Only those attending at least 5 out of 7 will be able to take their First Holy Communion in May 2018.	-
8.2 Advent and Christmas: Jane and Jim have put together some reflections for the Christmas Eve Carol Service at 8.00pm and Roy will put these together with a Service Booklet for the 'First Mass of Christmas' at 8.30pm. The music group will put the music together as in previous years. Advent reflections are to go ahead as planned although we are unsure as to whether or not school will attend with the UCM. Andy K asked if it would be ok the Nativity figures to be put out as part of The Youth Effects' reflection. Jim said that this should be ok but that he would check. Christmas services dates were checked for the card invite regarding the tree with symbols which Peter Mather is organising. There was no further information available regarding Fr Causey's plan for a New Year's Eve Holy Hour followed by Midnight Mass.	Roy Jim Fr Causey

<p>A letter from Peter Mather regarding no Christmas Day service at St Aidan's was read out with the main points being: <i>in 47 years of this Church there has always been a Christmas Day Mass; with such a large school population in the parish it allows young families in this area a chance to go to mass; it says that Christ can be removed from Christmas Day because the local church is closed; this is not evangelisation on this important feast; it is also not good for the needed unity of the new Parish of St Jude and St Aidan as it says we come second.</i> Members said that they had had similar concerns expressed to them by other parishioners. There was much sympathy with the views expressed and after much discussion it was agreed that our parish does have a Christmas Day Service and it will be in St Jude's building. St Aidan's Altar Servers could assist. We should look to make the service accessible to St Aidan's congregation and we could advertise that lifts could be given if needed. It was also agreed that whenever future decisions are made, that might cause upset or controversy, we should look for positive solutions and present these alongside the reasons for the decision.</p>	Liz
<p>9. Wigan Pastoral Area changes: Jane R has sent a letter to the Dean requesting feedback from the deanery questionnaire but we have not received a reply yet.</p>	-
<p>10. Church building issues: 10.1 Presbytery Update: There is still some work needed to the flat door lock, the porch door/letter box and there is a leak. Grab rails have been fitted near the new steps and a portable ramp has been purchased and seems to work well. Roy has asked about door finger guards being fitted but has not had an answer yet. 10.2 Any other building issues? It was agreed that it would be a good idea for a 'building committee' to be set up for all the parish buildings. It could proactively look at the building needs, access and any health and safety issues. This could reduce workload and pressure on clergy and further utilise parishioners' skills.</p>	Fr Causey
<p>11. Parish Finances: Nothing to discuss.</p>	-
<p>12. Reports from Parish Groups: 12.1 The Youth Effect: Parishioners were full of praise for the Youth Effect's contributions to the Christ the King Mass and Fr Pat was particularly impressed by how the young people spoke. Andy K said that St Aidan's has been asked to host a 'Praise and Worship' service for Animate on Tuesday 6th February and Jim said that he would check that church would be available. Charlie and Cora have been offered places on the Archdiocesan trip to Lourdes. They will be fundraising and have offered to feedback to the parish. We agreed to support them.</p>	Jim
<p>13. ITEMS REQUESTED BY PARISHIONERS</p>	ACTION
<p>13.1 The Brick – clothes: A parishioner has asked if, alongside our food collection for The Brick, could there be a collection for warm coats etc. It was agreed that we would try and facilitate this although, with there being little storage space, they would need to be passed on quickly.</p>	-
<p>14. Any Other Business:</p>	ACTION
<p>There were no items of AOB.</p>	-

15. Date of next Meeting: Sunday 7th January 2018 @ 7.30pm **Prayers to be led by:** Julia

Dates for the diary:

PPC meetings: Sundays at 7.30pm: 7th January 2018; 4th February; 4th March

Advent Reflections: Peter Mather Mon 4th Dec; UCM Tues 12th Dec (TBC); The Youth Effect Fri 22nd December

Christmas Eve: Carols at 8.00pm, Mass at 8.30pm followed by mince pies in the club.

New Year's Eve: Holy Hour 11.00pm followed by Midnight Mass TBC

'Praise and Worship' service for Animate on Tuesday 6th February 2018

UCM Mass at St Aidan's 7th March 2018