

The Friends of St Aidan's

Minutes of meeting held on Sunday 4th February 2018

Present: Liz Clark, Jane Rogers, Jane Keating, Roy Mason, Vicky Heyes, Pat Boyle, Charlie Heyes and Craig Hewitt.

Guest: Tony Norris from St Jude's

1. **Prayers** led by Jane Rogers
2. **Apologies:** Jim Cardy, Fr Causey, Andy Connellan, Andrew Kay, Joan Stevenson and Sheila Cruikshank.
3. **Adoption of agenda** – There were four items raised by Parishioners and two items of AOB.
4. **Minutes of last meeting** - 7th January 2018
Craig proposed and Jane R seconded and all were in agreement that the minutes be signed by Jane as a true record.

5. MATTERS ARISING (not elsewhere):	ACTIONS
Jane reported that Flowers were given to Eileen Heyes and Roy confirmed that compliments slips were completed.	-
<p>6. Parish Changes:</p> <p>6.1 Admin: Liz Dodds has started in her secretarial role and whole parish bulletins are now being produced. The mass times on today's bulletin appear to be from last week and it was presumed that this was just an error. All felt that it was good to have one bulletin for the whole parish. It was suggested that, to further encourage one parish, it might be good to have all items listed on block with the venue highlighted rather than on two separate sides. Roy suggested that the sick list could be as a separate 'prayer card' and then the bulletin might fit on one side of A4. Vicky suggested that the parish Facebook address be advertised on the bulletin. A whole parish website could promote the wide range of activities, support and groups available across our parish. Tony said that he had asked a few at St Jude's about the UCM and they said that they didn't know what 'UCM' stood for. Pat said she would mention to Geraldine about enquiring whether she could speak about UCM at St Jude's and extend a warm welcome.</p> <p>6.2 Council: All felt that our PPC has been an excellent example of collaborative ministry, providing support for the clergy and whole parish community. Jane R agreed to speak to Father Causey to see if a small group could meet with him to discuss how we might best move forward.</p>	- - - Pat Jane R
<p>7. Liturgy:</p> <p>7.1 Sacramental Programmes: Jane R reported that the first Holy Communion programme was working well in church and that many, who would normally have attended classes at St Aidan's, had attended sessions at St Jude's. 43 children had their first Reconciliation at St Cuthbert's indicating that the numbers involved were much higher than initially thought. First Holy Communion classes restart at the beginning of March culminating in the First Holy Communion Mass on 19th May at St Jude's. Baptism Clare Callaghan has been receiving an increased number of requests from parents from outside our parish. This is a sign that our programme is popular and working well and Clare and her team are to be congratulated. Unfortunately, some parents have been quite offensive and so clarification is needed for parents regarding acceptance onto the programme. Jane R said she would speak to Fr Causey about this.</p> <p>7.2 Lent and Easter preparations: We await clarification as to what is happening this year to see if there are any areas of support needed.</p>	- Jane R -
8. Church building issues: Nothing to report. We repeated our offer of help and support to reduce individual workload.	-
<p>9. Reports from Parish Groups:</p> <p>9.1 The Youth Effect: The Animate service, 'Life & Soul+' will be at St Aidan's this coming Tuesday, 6th Feb. Fund raising is being organised to support Charlie and Cora's trip to Lourdes.</p> <p>9.2 UCM: The UCM bi-monthly mass will be held at St Aidan's on 7th March and there will be refreshments afterwards in the Social Centre. The Archdiocesan UCM Chaplain, Fr David Potter, will lead the service and our music group will support the singing. Roy will produce the Mass booklet and ask school to copy it using the church account.</p> <p>9.3 Cafod: The 23rd February is 'Family Fast Day' and Peter Mather will speak about this at St Aidan's. A speaker for St Jude's is needed and Vicky said she would be happy to do it if needed.</p>	- - -

10. ITEMS REQUESTED BY PARISHIONERS	ACTION
<p>10.1 Hymn Books: We have been asked if the hymn books could be kept at the end of benches as they are in many churches. This would clear some space in the foyer and mean that people not knowing to collect a hymn book would have one available, for example, at funerals. It was felt that books on benches might take up too much space particularly when church is full. Giving the books out also provides a good opportunity for welcome. Perhaps the books could be on the benches on week days so that they are available for funerals but given out at the back for Sunday Mass?</p>	-
<p>10.2 Use of benches: Concern has again be raised that there are children on the floor at the back of church which is not the best place as passageways are blocked and people at the back are not be able to hear the mass. We need to encourage everyone to sit on the benches. It is recognised that some people are reluctant to go to the front or to seek out spaces. It was therefore suggested that, when it looks like church is getting full, someone stands at the front and encourages people to move forward and make space. This would be a good sign of welcome and assist parents in enabling their children to be part of the mass.</p>	-
<p>10.3 Sung Masses: Some parishioners have asked if we could have a full sung mass once a month. We felt that this would be a good idea for Father to consider.</p>	-
<p>10.4 Altar Servers: The rota does not appear to be working well and it was felt that, with 11 servers, they should be able to sort it between themselves. It was also agreed that we should encourage the more senior servers to assist in training the next generation so that they might carry out their duties with confidence.</p>	-

11. Any Other Business:	ACTION
<p>11.1 Mothering Sunday: Can we fund the flowers for the children to give to their mums?</p>	-
<p>11.2 Fair Trade Coffee Morning: Friday 2nd March – 9.30am to noon.</p>	-

12. **Date of next Meeting:** Provisional date - Sunday 4th March 2018 @ 7.30pm – to be confirmed.

Dates for the diary:

- 'Life & Soul+' service for Animate on Tuesday 6th February 2018
- Cafod Family Fast Day – Friday 23rd February
- Fair Trade Coffee Morning on Friday 2nd March – 9.30am to noon.
- Next meeting: Sunday 4th March - TBC
- UCM Mass at St Aidan's on 7th March
- First Holy Communion Mass – Saturday 19th May at St Jude's