

Minutes of the Pastoral Parish Council Meeting of St Cuthbert and the First Martyrs of Rome

held on Sunday, July 10th 2016 in First Martyrs Hall.

1 Welcome and Opening Prayer

Tony Hanney (TH) welcomed everybody to the 8th Annual General Meeting of the Pastoral Parish Council and invited Fr Gregory to lead us in prayer

2 Members Present

40+ parishioners registered as being present at the meeting. List available from the minute secretary.

3 Apologies for Absence

Pat Featherstone, Liz Firth and David & Mollie Somerville.

4 Minutes of the Meeting of July 12th 2015

Tony Hanney (TH) outlined last year's minutes which were accepted as a true record.

Summary of main points:

- Possible Early Learning Centre at First Martyrs abandoned
- No major floods at St Cuthbert's since last year
- Farewell event for Father Eamonn
- Parish website is up and running
- Preparation for welcoming Gregory

5 Review of the last 12 months

Finance: Philip Walsh (PW)

Accounts have been completed by Dick Stamp (DS) copies of which were distributed to the meeting. The deficit has improved and is now reduced to £5774.65. Repairs and maintenance costs were lower in the last 12 months.

Thanks were expressed to PW & DS for the preparation of these accounts.

Property: James Wierzbicki (JW)

At present there are no major issues; there was a flash flood at St Cuthbert's last September following a cloud burst but that was quickly cleared up. The banister at the side of FM church has been repaired/replaced. Thanks were expressed to JW.

Gregory (GK) reported that this group was now up and running with the minutes available on the website and in the church porches. The accounts have been audited by the Diocese and they advised the setting up of this group. A summary of major and minor issues has been sent to the diocese. The painting of the staircase area from the back of FM church to the hall was raised and Gregory said that this could be added to the list. There may be a damp problem in that area although the guttering has now been cleared and there should be no more internal damage.

Youth: Liz Firth (LF)

The Guides, Brownies and Rainbows continue to flourish and have up to 50 girls, young people and adults involved. They meet weekly at St Cuthbert's Unity Hall and enjoy the use of Gregory's garden in the summer. Involvement in national events including the Queen's 90th birthday, sleepovers, the annual water fight plus many other activities including a fireworks display have been enjoyed. The group has a diverse make up; as well as from our parish girls attend from a wider community and the sharing of customs and traditions is good as well as meeting young people from other schools. Our team of 4 adult leaders plus support from our own young people enjoy time with the girls, seeing their confidence develop as they learn new skills and have fun together. As ever thank you to the parish for its support!

Messy Church

Messy Church was begun last summer after discussions in the Justice and Peace Group. Messy Church offers 2 hours of activities and games on a Biblical theme for children and families ending with a meal. The group are keen to reach out into the wider community to families who are not associated with the parish especially those from Eastern Europe. 2 sessions a term are held which are free to attend; summer activities are currently being planned. The venture is supported by volunteers from the parish and financially by proceeds from the Quiz Night and the BBQ. Extra volunteers would be more than welcomed; they do everything from sitting and chatting, prepare food or clearing up afterwards. Anything!! We have received positive feedback and lovely friendships are developing. Thank you to all who have supported this new venture.

S.V.P: Philip Walsh (PW)

The S.V.P. has received significant financial support this year which has been very much appreciated but as always need new members and importantly some rejuvenation! The Twinnage event raised £450 which was sent to the S.V.P. twinnage department for works in the Sudan. Mini-Vinies have been set up in schools; PW reported on a successful visit to St Columba's Primary School.

St Cuthbert's Players (TH)

The panto, albeit a late panto, was a great success and a donation was given to the parish. A show based on the life of Margaret McMillan, written by TH will be presented in late November/early December.

Social: Mick Moriarty (MM)

Mick reported that although new to the PPC, he has enjoyed harassing parishioners by selling tickets at the weekend masses!! He reported on the following social activities:

- Quiz Night-a huge success bringing out a spirit of competitiveness, raised money for Messy Church
- Murder Mystery Night-an enjoyable event involving suspects from St Cuthbert's Players. There can't be many parishes who can boast a master criminal (Moriarty) and a master sleuth (Sherlock) in their numbers! In the event it was the master sleuth (Trevor Sherlock) who identified 'whodunit' on this occasion.
- SVP Twinnage Evening-a presentation was informative and well received. Money raised went to help this worthy cause. Thank you to everyone who supports the S.V.P and their members for their pastoral work in the parish and overseas.
- The Race Night-horse careered around the track with the race winners in doubt until the final stride. Fortunes were won and lost but the smiles at the end of the evening suggested that everyone went home happy.
- The BBQ was enjoyed on a lovely sunny day. Muscular members of the parish erected the marquees and MasterChef contenders produced delicious burgers, sausages and chicken. A variety of salads complemented the range of barbecued food. A winning combination of good food, good company and alcohol! Another most enjoyable event.

All the events were well attended but none could go ahead without the willing help provided our volunteers-bar staff, cooks, chefs, race commentators, ticket sellers, tea & coffee makers, food buyers, tote officers, prize donators, marquee builders and room organisers. On each occasion food was available as part of the ticket price; it was varied and delicious. Thank you to each and every one of them.

Finally some questions were posed to be considered during the next year.

1. Involving more parishioners in events and be more inclusive?
2. Produce and publish a calendar of events?
3. How often should events take place?
4. How to involve younger parishioners to be more involved in the parish community; they are our future!

Coffee Morning and Kitchen

This has been reported on at each of the PPC meetings. Funds raised from after weekend Mass coffee and CAFOD lunches at St Cuthbert's in Lent, Advent and First Fridays have refurbished the kitchen floor at FM (£350 donation), provided for the soon-to-be-provided cooker at FM and a donation of £350 was sent to CAFOD. Teams work on a rota to provide refreshments which are most appreciated. The parish is a Fairtrade Parish and this means that where possible basic goods used have the Fairtrade label.

U.C.M: Mary Gilmartin (MG)

The Foundation within the parish has 4 members who meet to talk and involve themselves in parish activities. It would be good to have more and younger new members. There are no regular meetings but representatives attend diocesan meetings. Next week there will be a book sale for the Sylvia Wright Trust. Recently they attended the UCM Pilgrimage to Walsingham.

Children's Liturgy (CW)

This takes place each Sunday during term-time at the 10.30 Mass. There are currently 9 leaders who work on a rota every 5/6 weeks; we would like more! No previous experience is needed. A Disclosure Barring Service Certificate is required. We follow the liturgy of the day and Gospel from the Kevin Mayhew Children's Liturgy book. The age of the children attending has become much younger and numbers can vary from week to week. The children listen to the Gospel and we encourage them to talk about it with experiences from their own lives. They draw appropriate pictures which are then pinned on the board. The children are always willing to do the Offertory Procession and to tell the parish what they have been learning about during their session.

Justice & Peace

The following have been organised by the group:

- Laudate Si-Pope Francis' apostolic Exhortation discussion group
- Visit from the Diocesan's Justice and Peace Group discussing housing, food poverty & refugees
- Environmental Issues talk by John Anderson
- Food Bank
- Messy Church

Members have attended a national Conference at Leeds Trinity-A Church for the Poor, Climate Change Conference in Paris and the national Justice and Peace Conference at Swanwick Derbyshire.

Flower Team: Yvonne Coppin (YC)

A small group of 11 works to arrange flowers in both churches for weekly services and for other events in the parish. The group will do flower arrangements for special occasions such as anniversaries for a small fee. The activity is quite time-consuming but enjoyable: buying flowers, preparation, arranging and maintenance by regular watering. Mostly self-funded, the special collections at Christmas and Easter provide the main income. New arrangers, men included, are always welcome! A clear-up by volunteers of the cellar at FM has made the teams' work easier and thanks were expressed to them. Thanks were also expressed to YC and all the team for making the churches beautiful.

Chair's Summary: Tony Hanney

Tony reported with a snapshot of activities not mentioned elsewhere:

- as well as the Advent and Lenten Discussion courses there is a current course taking place at FM on Tuesday evenings after evening Mass
- Churches Together-there was a Christian Unity Service held at Haworth Road Methodist Church, Holy Week breakfasts at each of the churches culminating on Good Friday, Dawn on Heaton Hill on Easter Day and Pentecost on the Park.
- Parish Pilgrimage to York in August-organised by TH-which was a great day out
- Heritage Day at St Cuthbert's in September 2015 and a visit by a University of the 3rd age group
- Gregory reported that in the parish there have been 23 First Holy Communicants, 11 Confirmations and 3 weddings.
- November Fayre-enjoyable and raising much needed funds-£960.28
- Chordiality as well as entertaining us wonderfully gave us an appreciated donation
- Bradford Girls' Choir have entertained us and will do at Ignis (Cunliffe Road) site of SBSJ this afternoon
- Easter Eggs were donated for distribution to families by the Salvation Army
- Sarah Cartin is the parish's new Safeguarding representative
- Food hygiene is always respected and new First Aid Boxes have been provided.
- Many work in The Ark charity shop on Heights Lane and donations of good are always welcome.
- It was noted that one of our local PSCOs Charlene Henegan has been appointed 'PSCO of the Year' by West Yorkshire Police. We appreciate her involvement in our parish community. Our congratulations were noted in the parish newsletter.

- Recently there has been a collection of children's clothes for the Children of Chernobyl initiative where children from Chernobyl come for a holiday break to stay with local families.

Coming up:

- 2016 Pilgrimage to Durham on 2nd August
- St Cuthbert's Church 125th Anniversary will be combined with the Heritage Day weekend. An evening social is planned-act are welcome, put your names forward please!

All in all we can say we are a very active parish!

6 Pastoral Parish Council for 2016-17.

Tony Hanney has completed his designated 3-year term as Chair of the Council and will stand down from the Council along with Patrick Geoghegan, Jennifer Clark, Catherine Taylor and Paul Cryer who have given their services since the Council was formed in 2008. Mary Gilmartin, also a long-standing member will step down when Pat Featherstone is able to take her place. Eileen Boyle, Yvonne Coppin and Anne Balson are due to stand down but are available for re-election if needed. There is a need for new members from the parish to bring new ideas and enthusiasm for next year. The parish was asked for volunteers or suggestions for people who might stand. 10 members will remain on the Council; there is need for 5 new members for next year.

At the Council's last meeting in May Anne Balson offered to put herself forward to stand as Chair for the next 3 years. This was put to the meeting and she was elected unanimously with a round of applause!

The members stepping down have given many hours of service to the parish through the Council and a vote of thanks must be given to them and to Tony for his stewardship over the last three years.

7 Date of the next meeting

To be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 12.55pm with a thank you to those attending.