

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

held on Wednesday, January 24th 2018 at St Cuthbert's Unity Hall.

Meeting commenced at 5.30 pm

Present: Anne Balson (AB)-Chair, Eileen Boyle (EB), Yvonne Coppin (YC), Hermie Davy (HD), Roxanna Drake (RD), Gregory Knowles (GK) @ 5.40pm, Philip Walsh (PW) @ 5.45pm, James Wierzbicki (JW), and Jo Geoghegan (JG)-Secretary.

1 Welcome and Opening Prayer

AB welcomed everybody to the meeting and led us with an opening prayer.

2 Apologies for Absence

Pat Featherstone (PF), Mary Gilmartin (MG), Christine Walker (CW)

Resignation: Mick Moriarty (MM).

3 Minutes of meeting September 13th 2017

Item omitted: YC was elected as Vice-chair otherwise it was agreed they were accepted as a true record.

4 Matters Arising

Music at St Cuthbert's

A vote of appreciation was recorded for Christine Walsh who plays at the church about once a month. After further discussion it was agreed to put a notice in the newsletter to see if there was anyone who could offer to play as well.

Grounds Maintenance

The hedge and lawns at FM were cut last autumn under parish maintenance funding. It was proposed that the hedge should be done once a year. All agreed. There is still need for action to be taken at SC and FM to maintain the grounds either by volunteers or by outside maintenance.

5 Reports from Groups

Children's Liturgy-CW

The liturgy takes place at the 10.30 a.m. Mass at First Martyrs' every Sunday. 2 former leaders have had to 'retire' due to other commitments so new leaders are required. A notice has been inserted in the Parish Newsletter. It was also noted that the need would be publicised in the primary school newsletter, by personal approach and by appeal in a note to the children at church. A DBS check is required.

St Cuthbert's Players-TH

A production of 'Oliver' will take place between 18th & 20th April. Rehearsals are going well. Tickets will be on sale in March.

Justice & Peace, Inn-Churches

The J & P group met last autumn on 2 occasions and agreed to join the INN-Churches Shelter scheme in the winter.

Messy Church takes place every half-term with success and the 'toilet-twinning' scheme has raised £60 which has been forwarded to the charity. The Food Bank continues to be well supported and the Green Tip is published every week in the newsletter. Carol Services took place in various local venues. Christian Unity Week was celebrated by a United Service at St Philip's Gillington. The Ark Charity Shop continues to flourish. The Inn Churches Winter Shelter which took place at FM from 18th-25th December was reported on in the Parish Newsletter. A full report was circulated to members prior to the meeting. A vote of thanks was made to a wide range of people young & old-those to organised it, who helped in anyway and the guests who were sheltered. During 2017 the after Mass coffee raised £358.68 for CAFOD and the same amount was offered for the update and maintenance of the hall kitchens. Friday lunches for CAFOD in 2017 at SC raised £797.20.

Church Flowers-YC

A small group arranges flowers for both churches. As they were unable to use the basement at FM before Christmas they had to produce arrangements which were slightly different but nevertheless enjoyable. A larger sum than usual was spent. This was offset by a welcome legacy of £80. It was agreed that the churches were beautiful for Christmas.

Troops-Clare Bussingham

The troops are going well with some spare places for Rainbows and Guides. Its community is changing with 32 girls from 10 different schools. Another leader is needed to replace Liz

Action

AB

CW

Firth. The programme for the term includes indoor and outdoor activities, a sleepover, visit to the pantomime and service to the community. The Troops would like to acknowledge the continuing support of Father Gregory and the Parish which is appreciated. It was decided to recognise the work of Liz Firth in the parish with young people. AB will make arrangements.

Property

There are a number of major issues with the fabric of both sites: asbestos at both sites and heating at SC. The heating cannot be fixed until the asbestos problem is resolved. The asbestos is not a huge issue but a residue problem after the major asbestos was removed in former times and is not a cause for worry. The decision to bar people from the affected areas is purely precautionary. The Diocese is involved and is getting estimates for the job and it will be remedied as soon as possible. The heating has been put on to heat as far as the boiler(s) will allow in their present state at SC. The Parish will have to pay for both jobs. It was agreed that a notice should go in the newsletter to update parishioners on the situation.

Finance

There is nothing further to report on finances from the meeting in September. As soon as there is PW will circulate a report. A new electronic system to report to the Diocese is up and running. YC will take over finances from July.

SVP

The Conference is still co-operating with 2 members from St Williams' who do not have a quorum for their own Conference. This is valuable for both parishes. As always the SVP would like new members. The support of the parish is greatly appreciated.

6 Chordiality Contribution

Chordiality has kindly made a donation to the parish and suggests that they would like the money to be spent on a specific project rather than go into general maintenance. Members were asked to think of ideas to put forward for consideration.

7 A.O.B.

Safeguarding

RD outlined the checks done so far as she works through the sections in the parish that need DSB checks to operate under safeguarding rules. As a parish we have to do all we can to create a safe environment for children and vulnerable adults. She works closely with the Diocese of Leeds; she receives training from them and updates their team. A number of group checks have been completed: SVP, Inn-Churches leaders, Messy Church, Guides and Rainbows, St Cuthbert's Players & Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist have started and is ongoing. It is important that individuals take the process seriously and provide the necessary references and required documents as soon as possible. Accuracy in form completion is vital!

RD

Weekend Masses

TH has asked if we should consider the number, timing and location of Masses in the parish.

Disabled Access at First Martyrs'-TH

Although he realises that this matter is with the Diocese for consideration, he would like it to be kept within in the public domain and maintain its profile with the Diocese.

Consultation-GK

- Traditionally Year 6 at our Primary have gone away for a residential visit during their last year at the school in the summer term. It has become increasingly difficult for this to happen with pressures on funding in the school system. The school has asked if the parish can help with this matter. GK is suggesting that the church premises could be used for free to hold a Quiz Night. It is hoped that parents would attend and hopefully come to one of our weekend Masses also. They would be most welcome.
- A charity event is being held at FM in March. Organisers have asked if they could 1. supply their own drinks and split the profit with the parish or 2. The parish sells drinks over the bar or 3. They bring wine and the parish sells other drinks over the bar.

GK**GK**

Update on hot water provision in WC at FM

There never has been a hw supply in the WCs at FM and it is likely to be a major job. The asbestos problem needs to be dealt with firstly, then the heating at SC. The hw issue will be under consideration after that.

8 Date & Place for the next Meeting

25th April 2018 at First Martyrs Church Hall

8th July 2018 at First Martyrs Church Hall

The meeting finished at 6.40 pm.