

PAC Meeting minutes

Monday 11th July 2022

Those present: Fr John, Alan Lamberton, Stephen Badcock (chair), Elizabeth Utting, Sylvia McCallum, David Richardson, Doug Birchall (minutes).

Apologies: Jenny Birchall, Barbara Lamberton.

The meeting began at 7:30 pm.

The minutes of the previous meeting were not to hand. It was generally agreed that nothing had arisen in the meantime that required urgent discussion which was not addressed in today's agenda.

Finance

David reported that, as of last Friday, there was a balance of about £7000 in the Parish bank account. There was good news, in that we had already paid £6000 towards Parish half-yearly dues, so we were up to date there; not such good news was that, due to rising energy costs, (which last year were some £11,000), the next bill was certain to be higher, but we are currently up to date on payments.

Stephen commented that the Stewardship Campaign had been a success; some 44 parishioners now gave their weekly collection money by standing order, which was a welcome development at this time.

Mother & Toddler Group

Stephen reported that thanks are due to Krisztie, who had first suggested setting this up, and had worked hard at doing so. There were 9 families involved at first; numbers have reduced since, but

Krisztie is not disappointed. The group is now on a break for the Summer and will resume in September. Stephen said he was delighted that the group was now up and running; it was good for the Parish to have this facility, and it made a good use of the Parish Hall. He added that the Group would probably need at least one other adult helper on a regular basis, possibly attending on a rota basis.

Energy costs

This is a problem which the Parish must address, as we all must in our home situations.

a) LED lighting

This would be a cheaper option in the long term for both the Hall and the Church. Alan said that we could convert the system ourselves, but we do not have the expertise to install a system which would comply with insurance requirements. Stephen said he knew of a company who have converted the systems for several Catholic schools, and we could get an estimate from them. The cost, covering installation and maintenance would be paid monthly over 7 years. David said he had a breakdown of the costs, and thought that if the company had already done several Catholic schools, they should be reliable and suitable. Stephen agreed to have discussions with the company and find out some details of what they could offer.

b) Solar panels

Alan reported that we had had one Energy Assessment done, and we were currently awaiting quotes from three companies. Preliminary assessments were that installing solar panels on the Church roof was not ideal, and they would be better sited on

other nearby buildings. Installation costs will largely be met by a donation which the Parish has received in the past.

c) New PA system in the Church

The present system needs replacing. We have had a quote of £5000 for a new system; discussions about this are ongoing.

Fr John's comments

Fr John said he wanted to set up a weekly Walking Group in the Parish, which he felt would encourage people to be more involved, give an opportunity for people to take exercise and promote contacts between parishioners.

Benjamin, who had been assisting Fr John earlier in the year, had been absent more recently due to ill-health; his place is to be taken by another man who is training to be a Permanent Deacon. The meeting resolved to send Benjamin a message with the Parish's best wishes.

There have been rumours circulating That Fr John is about to retire, possibly because Bishop Alan is about to do so. Fr John wishes it to be known that he himself has no plans to retire for the time being.

The meeting closed at 8:40 pm.

Douglas Birchall

Minutes Secretary