

## St. Felix Parish Advisory Council Meeting minutes

AGM held at St. Felix Parish Hall at 2:30pm on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

Those present: Stephen Badcock (Chair), Douglas Birchall (Minutes), David Richardson (Treasurer), Fr John Barnes (Parish Priest), Angela Ashby, Sylvia McCallum, George Babbington, Rosemary Baldwin, Tony Pittaccio, Tony Lazell, Elizabeth Utting, Anne Poole, Haley Dossor, Brian & Monica MacDonald, Alan & Barbara Lamberton.

Apologies: Jenny Birchall.

Minutes of previous meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022: these were approved as a true record.

**Review of Parish finances:** This was given by David Richardson. David said that he was now being assisted by DONA Stephen Badcock. He said that the Offertory income had increased, and generally the Parish financial situation was healthy. Not included was the income from the recently-installed DONA System 9 (which was shown on the Budget Sheet), and there had also been a bequest to the Parish amounting to £44,000. Some bills had been late arriving, so these had been transferred to the current year. David added that the Church building now had Grade II Listed Status, and this would have an effect on any future budgets and plans for any alterations to the fabric of the Church building.

Stephen then added some points about the DONA system. There were now about 50 using it for their regular weekly offerings, and the number is gradually increasing. It is

important that people are aware that the system is secure, and that their personal information cannot be accessed. The DONA system includes offerings to the Parish Priest at Christmas and Easter. A DONA system is installed at the Cathedral in Norwich, and also several parishes throughout the Diocese, and the Diocese wishes all parishes to have the system available for their parishioners who wish to use it. There is a £15 monthly charge (which our Treasurer can reclaim), and a small charge for each usage of the system.

#### Updates on other recent projects

The updating of the lighting and heating systems in the Parish Hall are now completed.

The sound system in the Church has now been upgraded.

The work on the fence surrounding the church grounds is about half-done; work on the back fence still outstanding, but Wilf Abelard and Stephen Badcock have this in hand.

Parish Structural Survey: Stephen recently attended a seminar which the Diocese held on this subject. It was impressed on those attending that we need to ensure that our Stewardship is at the proper level; also, any projects costing over £5000 need Ecclesiastical Planning Permission. We should also note that the Diocese wishes us to reduce our Carbon Footprint.

Dennis McGeachie and others are undertaking a survey of what is needed for our Quinquennial Review; they have a list given by the Diocese of matters to be looked at.

In the way of

#### St. Felix Church Windows

Fr John then gave a presentation, illustrated by computer imagery, explaining what was required in the way of repairs and maintenance to the main windows in the Church. These are made up of diamond-shaped glass panes held in place by a lead framework. After about a hundred years the lead becomes

weaker and needs replacing, and there is clear evidence that this has happened to at least some of the windows, which are bowed outwards. Fr John and Haley made a visit to the firm who conducted the type of work required at the Cathedral, and spoke to their employee Mr Devlin. He said there were two options: one was to replace the present panes with green frosted glass, or alternatively to replace them with transparent glass. There was no great difference in cost (green glass c.£7000, clear glass c.£8000,) and clear glass would admit more light. The project would be funded partly from existing parish finances, and also partly by inviting parishioners to sponsor one or more panes e.g. in memory of deceased loved ones.

After a general discussion as to the two options, it was generally agreed that the work on the windows was needed doing as a priority, and the better option was installing the transparent glass.

#### Social & Fundraising matters

Mass for the Sick will now be held on 23 May; this was arranged for a date when Fr John now has a meeting.

Mothers & Toddlers group: a suitable date to recommence meetings would be Monday 31<sup>st</sup> July.

#### Statue of St. Felix

The Bishop has asked Fr John to arrange for this to be re-located inside the Church. Fr John undertook to arrange this.

#### Crucifix in the Parish Hall

There was a discussion as to whether its present location was the most appropriate place: the

conclusion was that the majority of parishioners felt that it was good where it was at present (in a corner of the Hall).

The meeting closed at 4:40 pm.



Douglas Birchall

Minutes Secretary