



Sacred Heart Church  
Parish of The Sacred Heart, Flitwick  
Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council  
Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023

**PRESENT**

Myriam Rincon	Fr. Jerry Manomey
Hugh Davies	Peter Leatherhead
Siobhan Lees	Kath Greenwood
Aggie Keeble	Maureen Graham
	Eamonn Diver

**APOLOGIES**

Jim Aylward	Helen Burgess
John McNeil	Cassie Wood
Mick Fagan	

Agenda Item	Discussion/Decision	Action
1	Fr. Jerry opened the meeting with a prayer.	
2	Apologies – as above	
3	Minutes of January meeting approved and can go on website.	SL
4	<p>Focus Areas for PPC continues to be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide opportunities for parishioners of all ages to grow in holiness and enrich the quality of parish life.</li> <li>• Identify new ways to connect with young people</li> <li>• Raise the awareness of church activities with new parishioners.</li> <li>• Show that we are a caring church by being kind to each other in all that we do.</li> <li>• Create opportunities to grow number of people who do volunteering for the church.</li> <li>• Search out and respond to needs, hopes and ideas of parishioners.</li> </ul>	
5	<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parish Anniversary activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mass on 16<sup>th</sup> June, followed by a social event</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We welcomed Aggie Keeble to the meeting in her new role as Parish Secretary taking over from Suzanne who is retiring soon.</li> <li>Fr. Jerry mentioned that there is now a requirement for every parish to have in place a Safeguarding Committee and for a safeguarding audit to take place.</li> <li>Welcome pack to be moved to front of porch so it is more visible.</li> <li>First Holy Communion will take place on July 1<sup>st</sup>, Cassie Wood is working with the children to get them ready.</li> <li>Due to increased ongoing costs to run the church a suggestion was made that we launch an appeal to parishioners asking for funds. This is something that we will revisit later in the year.</li> <li>In an effort to reduce our utility bills solar panels might be an option, Hugh is going to investigate and report back to the committee.</li> <li>Social Media. To date there has been no response to our call out for a parishioner to step forward to handle social media for the church. It was agreed that we need to get some direction from the diocese regarding social media strategy before we start posting, pinning, and tweeting!</li> <li>Discussion over the existing Sacred Heart website took place and some members felt that the website needs an overhaul and to look more modern.</li> </ul>	<p>Fr. Jerry and Paula Bates to arrange a meeting to progress.</p> <p>AK</p> <p>CW/CG</p> <p>HD</p> <p>Ongoing awaiting feedback</p> <p>JMcN and SL to review and make proposals and budget request</p>
6	<p><b>Standing Items</b></p> <p>(i) <b>PAC - JMcN - No report</b></p> <p>(ii) <b>Health and Safety Report– HD</b>  No accidents/ incidents to report.  To meet current regulations emergency lighting has been installed in the kitchen, toilets, and corridor from the sacristy to the church.</p>	

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	<p>Similar will be installed in the Canon Denis room next week.</p> <p>The Diocese has sent out a detailed questionnaire on health and safety to be returned by the end of March. We can complete this in full and return by the deadline.</p> <p><b>(iii) Safeguarding – PB No report</b></p> <p><b>(iv) Children Liturgy Report – CG No report</b></p> <p><b>(v) Catechist Report. KG</b>          Sacred Heart, Flitwick Children's Liturgy March 2023          Children's Liturgy continues to take place during the 11am Mass.          The number of children attending fluctuates week by week. Although overall the attendance has increased. The largest number attending was 12 and the lowest number has been 2. Kath is also leading the youth group in the parish.</p> <p><b>(vi) SVP – MG</b>          SVP Conference Report, Sacred Heart Church, Flitwick  <b>MARCH 2023 CONFERENCE REPORT</b></p> <p>We are continuing to maintain contact with beneficiaries through visits to homes, telephone calls and transport to church etc, we are visiting Taymar and Ferndale Care Homes on a very regular basis.</p> <p>We have updated our Action Plan for 2023 and given Suzanne dates for the diary including Soup for Sudan Lunch and Mass for the Sick followed by Afternoon Tea.</p> <p>We made £250 donation to the SVP Kindness Appeal, £100 donation to Buckton Parish church supporting Ukraine children's gardening equipment. Also, a donation to Food Extra for Easter Eggs with a booklet with the story of Easter inside, has been given to Flitwick children who are getting help with food in the holidays. We have sponsored 10 children's schooling in India for a year with £150.</p> <p>BS has taken over as Twinnage Officer and AB is going to take over from AH in April as Secretary. I have attended a DCC meeting, and three members attended Women's World Day of Prayer at St Peter and Paul's C of E, Flitwick.</p> <p>This quarter our numbers have increased, and we welcome one full new member and two re-joining members.</p>	

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	<p>Diary Dates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 24 March and 20 October 9am -12mid day, Coffee Morning, Flitwick Village Hall.</li> <li>• Tuesday 18th April 12-1.30pm Soup for Sudan - supporting medical and training stations in Sudan.</li> <li>• Friday 23 June Mass for the Sick and Housebound followed by Afternoon Tea in Canon Denis Room.</li> </ul> <p>Maureen Graham SVP President</p> <p><b>(vii) Finance – HD</b></p> <p>Utility bills continue to be ‘eye watering’ but these are due to reduce in the next quarter.</p> <p>Offertory in the plate continues to vacillate. But the last few weeks have been poor: £236, £232, £247, £190, £175, £243, £198 with envelopes adding £60 - £80. (we used to get nearer £300) ( £350 with envelopes) The saving grace is that our standing orders are still good.</p> <p>The March CAFOD collection was £80 less than the October collection. All this suggests that people have less disposable income or less inclination to support the church.</p> <p>The question now is do we make another appeal at the Masses?</p> <p><b>(viii) Property Report - HD</b></p> <p>The Diocese has approved our request to carry out the following works:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revarnishing and repairing presbytery windows.</li> <li>• Revarnishing some windows and doors in the church</li> <li>• Replacing defective double-glazed units to the Canon Denis room.</li> <li>• Sundry other repairs</li> </ul> <p>We will also be seeking approval for a high level clean in the church plus carpet cleaning.</p> <p><b>(ix) Calendar of Events</b> New calendar sent out</p> <p><b>(x) Social Media</b> Still needs to be progressed</p> <p><b>(xi) CTA&amp;F – HB</b> King's Coronation - Churches Together - Coronation Craft event to be held on Sunday</p>	

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	<p>May 7<sup>th</sup> 2023 at Ampthill Great Park (12-4pm)            Make and decorate orbs and sceptres!</p> <p><b>(xii) Music – HD</b>            No update</p> <p><b>(xiii) Pilgrimages – HD</b>              Pilgrimage to France            We now have 25 people who have paid their final payment and are ready to be pilgrims.</p> <p><b>(xiv) Social Activities - JMcN</b>            No updates</p>	
7	<p><b>Next Meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The next meeting will take place on Tuesday May 16<sup>th</sup> 2023.</li> </ul>	
8	Meeting closed with a prayer led by Fr. Jerry	