Sacred Heart Church

Minutes of Annual General Meeting
09 July 2024

**PRESENT**

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| Fr. Jerry Manomey | Paula Bates |
| Myriam Rincorn, Chair | Margaret Ludlow |
| Siobhan Lees, PPC Secretary | Ann O'Brien |
| Aggie Keeble, Parish Secretary | Suzanne Yates |
| Hugh Davies | |

**APOLOGIES**

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| Kath Greenwood | Maureen Graham |
| Peter Leatherland | Cassie Wood |

1. MR welcomed all those in attendance

2. Fr. Jerry opened the meeting with a prayer.

3. We all introduced ourselves

4. Positions confirmed.
    - Those PPC members in attendance confirmed their positions.
    - Kath Greenwood, Peter Leatherland and Maureen Graham confirmed her position via email
    - Siobhan Lees has notified M.Ricorn of her intention to step down from the role of PPC secretary
    - We welcomed Margaret Ludlow to the PPC. Margaret's role will be to liaise with the PAC on behalf of Sacred Heart, Flitwick.

5. Minutes of the AGM from last year on 5 September 2023 were tabled and approved.

6. AGM Report issued and key highlights included:
    - A thank you from Fr. Jerry to all the volunteers who support the effective running and caring of the church. He also expressed his gratitude for everyone involved in helping to prepare young people to receive both the sacrament of communion and confirmation.
    - MR and Fr. Jerry thanked all who put the PPC Annual Report together.
    - The generosity of parishioners was acknowledged as it has enabled us to purchase new Stations of the Cross, these will be blessed and installed in September
    - The theme for Jubilee 2025 is 'Pilgrims of Hope' and it will be a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of COVID-19 pandemic, and the climate crisis. Jubilee prayer (The Our Father) to be made available in the church.
    - Financial Report – issued at AGM

7. Role of PPC
    - Fr. Jerry discussed the role of the PPC.
        - To be more missionary orientated, how do we encourage people to come to Mass and how do we engage with young people?
        - Joining up all the groups who are working in the field, not just reporting on what they are doing, how can we help them to collaborate better?
        - A book entitled '*The Pastoral Conversation of the Parish Community'* provides useful information in helping us understand that the mission work of the parish is not just the responsibility of the hierarchy but the whole community.
        - Invite Parishioners to attend the PPC as observers so they can get an insight into Parish Life and get more involved.
    - In addition
        - Create a post box on the noticeboard or a specific email address so Parishioners can ask a question of the PPC or if they have a suggestion that would like to put forward.
        - Possibility of a revolving PPC secretary role, so each time there is a meeting a different committee member completes the minutes.

8. Key Points discussed
    a. **New Lectern**. Purchase of which will solely be used for the word of God and not for general notices, announcements etc.
    b. **Baptisms.** These are not being paid for, need to look ways to encourage donations.
    c. **First Holy Communion.** May be possible for the children to do collections during the First Holy Communion Mass.
    d. **Safeguarding**. Our database of DBS checked parishioners needs to be cleaned and renewals updated.
    e. **Accessible Car Parking Spaces**. Individual requests for will be dealt with on an individual basis vis the Parish Secretary. Currently we have sufficient spaces as a percentage of total spaces available.
    f. **Live Streaming.** We need to let people know when the Mass is being live streamed and that they may be within camera range.
    g. **Bereavement Support.** We need to identify ways that the church can support those who have lost loved ones. We need to take direction from the Diocese to understand what we could potentially offer to parishioners at a difficult time both spiritually and pastorally.
    h. **Marriage Breakdown.** We need to identify ways that the church can support couples who are going through a difficult time in their marriage.
    i. **New Saint - Carlo Acutis.** He is a great role model to inspire young people and a suggestion was made for us encourage the youth of the parish to learn more about him and to possibly create an exhibition in his honour.

9. Plans for the Year Ahead – our six focus areas.

    - Provide opportunities for parishioners of all ages to grow in holiness and enrich the quality of parish life.
    - Identify new ways to connect with young people.
    - Raise the awareness of church activities with new parishioners.
    - Demonstrate that we are a caring church by being kind to each other is all that we do.

- Create opportunities to grow the number of people who volunteer for the church.
- Search out and respond to the needs, hopes and ideas of parishioners. All of which are linked to the issues considered in the Synod.

10. Fr. Jerry concluded the AGM with a prayer.