

AMENDED DRAFT 1 25 November (approved by Fr Antony on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017)

Minutes of the 2016 Parish Advisory Council AGM held on 23 November 2016 at Sacred Heart Community Rooms, Chirk.

**1. Welcome** and Opening prayer Geoff welcomed those who attended and Fr Anthony opened the meeting with prayer.

**2. Minutes of the 2015 AGM** and Matters Arising. The minutes were amended at point 5 and 6 to correct the misspelling of Maria *and* Celia's surnames. Muriel Silverstone then proposed and Halina Burgess seconded that the minutes be formally signed as a true record.

2a. Matters Arising

Chairman Geoff Sullen apologised about the venue for the meeting. it should have been held at Ruabon as stated in 2015 minutes at point 4a. The AGM will be rotated in future.

The suggestion for a more up-beat service, at point 4c, had not happened. Helen Wiesinger said David Tarbrook was trying to organize activities for the youth with Christine Humphreys. Last item at point 4 — Celia had accessed the Charity Commission as suggested but could not find out what she wanted to know as many items were lumped together, making analysis impossible.

4b) An evening mass had been tried but attendance was very disappointing.

Halina agreed to produce copies of PAC and AGM minutes for distribution to parishioners in response to a comment that minutes were not easily available.

**3. Llangollen request for a Sunday Mass at 11am on first Sunday of each month. They wanted an exchange between themselves and Ruabon.**

in a lengthy discussion on this matter, the following are among the salient comments made. Parishioners in Llangollen and Ruabon had been asked their opinion of the possible once monthly change in mass times. Of those who responded in Ruabon, 9 were in favour and 3 against. In Llangollen the response was 14 and 2 respectively. Christine Jones from Ruabon said she would be happy with the change so long as it did not interfere adversely with the children's liturgy. Another view thought that the vigil mass in Ruabon would need to be at 5pm not 6pm in order to get the young children to attend. Muriel Silverstone from Llangollen felt that despite their best efforts, the children's liturgy didn't really work well at the vigil mass. Maria Pizzoni felt that some elderly Ruabon parishioners might find it difficult to go to the vigil mass.

Geraldine Gilbert pointed out that the Constitution which set out the terms on which the St Mary's church was shared would need to be amended in order to vary mass times. This proposal for change would have to be put before our respective Bishops to gain their approval.

Fr Anthony stressed that to go further with this proposal it would first have to be raised with the Joint Church Council at Ruabon to get their view on the matter. What they say will largely depend on how we present it to them. At the next Joint Council Meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> November Fr Anthony will discuss it with them and they will work on it gradually.

Maria Pizzoni pointed out the two main selling points that could be discussed in negotiations are (a) that when the RC community celebrated the vigil mass, the Anglican Community would have time for an extended coffee morning after their service, and that car parking would be easier.

#### 4. **Comments from Parishioners**

(a) Halina asked that next year the Chirk Community prize draw be held one week earlier to allow for distribution of the prizes. Many tickets are sold to people outside the parish community.

(b) Ruabon Community members reported that it was very cold in the church on Sunday last for the Youth Mass which made it uncomfortable, especially for the musicians. This is often the case. The issue will be raised at the next Joint Council meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> November. The Ruabon Community also requested that a copy of the minutes of Joint Council Meetings be made available to the PAC so that they are aware of issues discussed which affect our parishioners. Michael Jones agreed to ensure these minutes were made available to the PAC members.

The view was also expressed by some parishioners (not all) that the RC community at Ruabon are treated as second class citizens. Helen Wiesinger felt some Anglican members had been very condescending in their dealings with her. Fr Anthony stressed that this should not be the case and if we had any issues/problems he should be informed so that they can be dealt with.

**5. Confirmation of Officers for 2016/17** Chairman Geoff Bullen pointed out that all members still had at least one year of their three year term of office to run. All PAC members agreed to serve for a further year.

#### 6. **AOB**

**(a)**At Fr Anthony's request, Nora Bircham read out a **card sent by Fr Moses** in which he thanked us for taking care of him, for our faith and love and for the additional gift of £90 which we had sent him.

**(b)Website** Fr Anthony wants to encourage our young people to visit our website. He asked to work with David Connolly, our web organiser, to develop it to show the activities taking place in the parish. Geoff suggested we invite one of our young people to contribute to the website.

**(c)**Fr Anthony reported that it was costing the parish £67 a month to subscribe to 'The Universe'. Readership of it was very little so we may need to cancel it next year.

**(d)**Members present confirmed that the '**Sunday Plus**' **Bulletin** was widely read and valued in the Parish and should not be discontinued.

**(e)**Fr Anthony pointed out that on **Monday the priest is not available**. In the event of serious illness requiring a priest, he can be contacted on his mobile number which is on the front of the weekly bulletin.

**(f)** PAC members confirmed that arrangements for the celebration of Fr Anthony's Inauguration on 2<sup>nd</sup> December were in hand. The ladies are preparing the food, the men were requested to bring wine. Helpers are to meet at Ruabon Church at 3.30 pm. on the day. Our Chairman will write a short speech about Fr Anthony's time with us so far. Fr Anthony will ensure that the heating is put on in good time. PAC members at the three communities were asked to invite our friends from the other religious denominations in our area.

- (g)** Fr Anthony confirmed that services over the Christmas period would be the same as last year.  
Christingle Service 11 December 3pm Ruabon St Mary's: Reconciliation and Exposition of Blessed Sacrament Friday 16th Dec at 7 pm at Llangollen; Christmas Eve Ruabon 7pm; Christmas Day Chirk 9 am and Llangollen 11 am; Sat 7<sup>th</sup> Jan Mass 6 pm LLan; Sun 8<sup>th</sup> Jan Mass 9 am Chirk and 11 am Ruabon; Epiphany Lunch for Seniors 9<sup>th</sup> Jan at Hand Hotel, Llangollen 12.30 for 1 pm. cost £6 subsidised.
- (h)** Helen Wiesinger thanked all those who had helped to make the **Youth Mass** such a success. The Bishop was very happy with it. Fr Anthony thanked everyone for all the help and work they had done.
- (i) (0 Interim Financial Report** Geoff reported that **in the current year so far the parish had a surplus of funds of £2,804** compared with a deficit for 2015 of £4,153.
- (j)** The Curial Office had sent a letter alerting parishes to an energy supplier which he asked parishioners to look at on [www.churchmarketplace.org.uk](http://www.churchmarketplace.org.uk). Celia Hayward reported that her husband, who is on our parish Finance Committee, had already set this up for Llangollen.
- (k)** Fr Anthony said that he would now be keeping a central record at his office of documents which relate to the testing of all equipment in the three communities. Geoff Bullen will pass on details for Chirk to Halina Burgess.
7. Fr Anthony closed the meeting with prayer at 8.45 pm.