

Minutes of the AGM

Annual General Meeting held at Chirk on Nov. 15th, 2017

Present: Fr Anthony, Hanora Bircham (Chair), Sue Barnett, Muriel Silverstone, David Connolly, Veda Williams, Christine Jones, Geraldine Gilbert, Helen Wiesinger, Raymond Lowe, Colin Gibbs, Mike Jones, Maria Pizzoni, Emma Williams, Anne Lloyd, Barbara Wilcock.

1. **Opening Prayers, Welcome:** In the absence of Mr. Geoff, Fr. Anthony asked Mrs. Hanora Bircham to moderate the meeting. The evening Vespers for the day was used for the opening prayers.

2. **Apologies**

Geoff Bullen, Halina Burgess, Louise Gallagher.

Apologies were also extended to the fact that the venue had to return to Chirk because Ruabon hall was not booked on time and hence not available.

3. **Matters Arising** from the previous meeting of 25th Nov. 2016. Point 6 (g) should be amended to read £5 per head and not £6.

4. **Confirmation of Officers**

Fr. Anthony was happy if all current PAC members will remain, unless there are special reasons for any change.

It was recommended that there should be a continuity and hence, not all should be changed when the time arrives.

5. **Names of the Sick in the Bulletin**

It was unanimously agreed that the names of the sick in the community should be in the Bulletins instead of being read out in the Bidding prayers.

6. **Notice Board Use**

There are some sensitive matters that should not be placed on the notice boards of the three communities. The Parish Priest should be informed before any notice is placed on the Board.

7. **Advent Confessions in Chirk Dec. 14th**

There will be external Priests to help during the Advent confessions on that day. The issue of Children Confession was raised and discussed.

**** Action Point** (Maria Pizzoni, Christine Jones & Muriel Silverstone to organise the children and inform the Priest).

Joint Carols – Ruabon December 23rd

The joint council agreed that a joint carol afternoon would be held on Saturday, December 23rd, 2017 at 3pm. All are invited to attend. Helen Wiesinger volunteered to walk the donkey to the various buildings to depict the journey of Mary and Joseph.

Christmas Eve – Masses

The advent calendar has been distributed to help Parishioners know ahead of time where and when the Masses will be celebrated.

8. Sunday Announcements & Bulletins

It was agreed that one person in each community should help to summarise one or two announcements in the Bulletin just before the final blessing of the Mass.

Fr. Anthony re-emphasised the need for notices to be sent to the Office by Thursday evening to ensure they are included in the Sunday bulletin.

9. Morning and Evening Prayers

Bishop Peter was particularly happy with the Pastoral Visitation to the Parish. The Vespers in Llangollen was of interest to him. He advised that such prayers should be extended to other communities. The meeting was not so enthusiastic about having the Vespers every day. Occasional Morning or evening prayers would be acceptable.

10. Children's Christmas Party

It was agreed that a Christmas Party for children/Youth be held on Saturday, January 6th in Ruabon Church Hall.

11. House Mass for the Sick / House-bound

The meeting welcomed the idea of House Mass for the Sick and House-bound. Proper arrangement should be made ahead of time to ascertain the number of people to attend each Mass.

12. **Sick Calls = House Phone / Mobile Phone**

The need to contact the Priest when someone is sick was stressed. If there is nobody available to take the Phone, please, leave a message on the Machine or call the Priest on his Mobile number. The two numbers are in the Bulletin.

13. **MSP Day – February 3rd 2018**

St. Richard Gwyn Parish will be hosting the next MSP Day. The feast will be celebrated in St. Mary's Church Ruabon on Saturday, February 3rd 2018 at 11.00 a.m. There will be eating and drinking in the Parish Hall after the Mass. All the MSP Priests and other invited Priests will be attending the feast. All the three communities are expected to attend.

14. **Any other Business**

November 22nd is being marked as RED Wednesday –Aid to the Church have requested that everyone to wear red to highlight the persecution of Christians throughout the world. It has also been recommended that if possible one can attend an additional mass on that day.

A new Catholic Bible Study course "The BIG Picture ", similar to that of the Alpha course is now available. This is a 12 week course. cost of +/- £15. The course is at a level that most can access and follow.

The need to have married Priests was raised by one of the members. This was discussed at length. Fr. Anthony promised to channel it to the Bishop.

The possibility of having a Christmas package for the Syrian refugee family was discussed. The family is yet to arrive in Llangollen, hence we have to wait for their arrival.

The Bingo held on Thursday October 26th was very successful. Many thanks to those who donated prizes. The remaining items will be sold at the Llangollen Christmas stall. Another Bingo was will be planned for next year.

15. The meeting closed with a prayer and scripture reading at 20:45