

Minutes of the Parish Advisory Council

Meeting held at Sacred Heart Chirk, at 19:00 pm on 06th September 2017.

Present: PAC: Fr Anthony, Geoff, Veda, Geraldine, David, Helen
Visitors: Chris R (Treasurer); Raymond (from Chirk)

1. Fr Anthony opened the meeting with a prayer

2. Apologies: Sue Barnett, Muriel Silverstone, Hanora Bircham, Christine Jones and Brian Eadon.

3. Minutes of the meeting of 10th May 2017 were approved.

4. Matters Arising:

Diocesan Levy 2017/2018 - *Chris*

The current position of the financial status was explained and that there was a need to generate more income for the three parishes. The diocesan levy is not a new expense and has always been a payment due from the parish.

This current financial year ending April 2018 will see a levy contribution of a little over £9,000 due, this is an increase on the last financial year 16/17.

Overall income for the last financial year 16/17 was a little over £51,000 – 00, which was slightly lower than the previous year.

Spending in the year 16/17 was £64,000 - this was higher than the last year due to exceptional spending on converting the 3rd floor of the Ruabon Presbytery, into a basic private flat for the resident priest, Fr. Moses and now Fr. Anthony. This was a once off spend and in the year 15/16 there was a small surplus that was put towards this spend.

The Ruabon Church has set costs and as it is part of the shared Anglican accounts it relieves some pressure on the annual upkeep of the churches.

Overall giving is down and we will need to increase giving. Previously giving was stricter with each family committed to giving a certain amount. Even though people are currently giving as much as they can, but due to some parishioners not attending weekly masses the amount of giving has dropped.

It is advisable to encourage as many parishioners to set up standing orders so that their giving can be more constant, as even if they are not at mass, the church still requires upkeep.

Gift Aid and Standing Order Forms should be made available in all churches. **(Action point – PAC members)**

Chris concluded and left the meeting

“Time well spent”

The club has taken off remarkably well and is being well attended. We have received a grant of £1,500 from the Wrexham County Borough Council (There was a max allowance of £2,000). Geoff submitted an article into the Wrexham Leader after the first meeting; but is not aware if the article was published.

The next meeting of the club will be September 15th 2017.

“Twinning with a parish in Africa”

Fr. Anthony presented Geoff with a letter received from Fr. Herbert of the Nawgu Parish in Nigeria and the letter was read to the PAC in which Fr. Herbert shared his wish to Twin with our parish and he expressed his further wish to share ideas.

A copy of the letter will be made available for each parish (**Action Point – Geoff to make copies**)

It was agreed by the PAC members that twinning with the Nawgu parish would be a wonderful idea and that Geoff would correspond with Fr. Herbert.

A note should be put in the bulletin requesting the parish members to add anything of interest they feel that we should share with the Nawgu parish as well as a few drawings from the children’s liturgy groups and photos of each of the congregations of each of the parishes. (**Action Points**)

“Bishops Visit”

Visit 21 October 2017 - Llangollen

Visit 22 October 2017 - Chirk and thereafter Ruabon

Drinks and food should be made available in Llangollen and in Ruabon for the Bishop to visit with the parishioners.

Veda – will arrange with Muriel to arrange food and drinks.

Muriel to say a little speech/thank you from the Llangollen parish (**Action Points**)

Geoff Bullen – to say a little speech/thank you from the Chirk and Ruabon parishioners

Helen & Geraldine – to arrange eats and drinks (to ask Chris, Hanora and Sue for assistance) (**Action Points**)

Fr. Anthony has asked the Anglican Vicar Kate to attend as well as some of the Anglican brothers and sisters are going to be attending.

“Children’s Liturgy”

Fr. Anthony enquired about the reaction of the congregation when the children are called up to the alter to say the “Our Father”. Everyone agreed that the congregation seem to love the idea, and the children seemed so very excited to join in the prayer.

“Gratitude from Fr. Francis”

Fr. Francis extended his thanks to everyone who ferried him around from church to church and taking him to the supermarket. He said he had a wonderful time with us all in Wales and this was his first vacation in many years where he was able to properly relax.

“Acrefair Bingo”

Veda reported that Muriel had spoken to Mike from the Druids and he recommended that a Thursday night (to be advised) in October was an excellent night and that the required date should be booked as soon as possible to ensure availability. We will need to wait for Muriel to get back from holiday to confirm the booking and the date. (**Action point**)

Request to be input into the newsletter to request prizes for the evening. (**Action Point**)

An invite should be sent to as many people as possible, including the Anglican community so that attendance is maximised.

“AGM”

The date for the AGM was agreed:

Date: Wednesday 15 November 2017

Time: 19:00

Venue: Ruabon Church Hall.

Helen to check hall availability and to make the necessary arrangements (**Action Point**)

The date of the next PAC meeting will be set at the AGM.

“Future Events”

10 Dec 2017 - Christingle together with the Anglican community

23 Dec 2017 - Dramatic recreation of the birth of Jesus (Youth drama)

Veda recommended that due to the time of year that there will be no arranged Christmas luncheon, but rather focus on the next luncheon being the Epiphany. Everyone agreed.

March 2018 - Feast of Mary

The Anglican community are excited to share in this celebration with us

“AOB”

Gail from the Llangollen parish has been approached by Dave of Celtic Fire Security to take over the servicing of the fire extinguishers and the fire alarms.

On checking the current contracts in place for those currently servicing the equipment, it would be advantageous for the parishes to obtain a quote to service all three parishes.

Fr. Anthony thanked Raymond for attending the meeting and for his input.

10. Closing prayer

Fr. Anthony closed the meeting with a prayer at 8:15 pm.