

OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH, CROOK

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 21st November 2023

Opening prayer: Fr Nick opened the meeting with a prayer.

Present: Fr Nick, Sr Paschaline, Anne Berry (secretary) Eugene Brady, Ann Callan, Peter Fleming (chair), Duncan Reed, Anne Smith, Anne Timothy.

Apologies: Brian Rinaldi.

Minutes held on 12th September 2023: Agreed as a true account of proceedings.

Matters arising

- It was noted the tree survey quote had been obtained and the work carries out.
- A volunteer has come forward to update/amend the parish website to include such things as the new constitution and graveyard plans and regulations.
- Pointing to the footpath /drive leading to the church is still awaiting completion.

Christmas Mass times

After some discussion, it was agreed that Mass times over the Christmas period will be as follows.

Saturday 23rd Dec	Wolsingham	5.30pm
Sunday 24th Dec	Tow Law	9.00am
Sunday 24th Dec	Crook Vigil Mass	4.00pm
Sunday 24th Dec	Wolsingham Vigil Mass	6.30pm
Christmas Day	Tow Law	9.00am
Christmas Day	Crook	10.30am
Tuesday 26th Dec	Crook	12 noon
Wednesday 27th Dec	NO SERVICE	
Thursday 28th Dec	Tow Law	12 noon
Friday 29th Dec	Crook	12 noon

Finance

- Because of rising costs, £5,000 has been transferred from the deposit account to the current account.
- Utilities: Gas prices have risen by 60%. The amount payable will change in April and is fixed for two years. There is no bills received yet for electricity as there have been continuing problems with new supplier.
- The finance report given by Ann Callan for the period of 7 months up to 31st October 2023 was accepted.

Fire regulations

The diocese has appointed a contractor to carry out a fire inspection of all parishes. Some interim measures we could take are:

- Install fire exit signs
- Have occasional fire drills at the end of Mass
- Make sure that welcomers have access to a plan of the church and are given instructions on how to evacuate the church quickly and safely, as well as being told the location of fire extinguishers
- Votive candles should be extinguished at the end of Mass.
- Further assessments to be carried out on other precautions prior to the visit from the diocesan contractor.
- A notice should be put in the bulletin to make parishioners aware of the measures being put forward and to ask for a volunteer to take on the role of fire officer.
- St Cuthbert's Centre will carry out its own risk assessment.

Partnership

- Fr Jim Angus has now been inducted as Parish priest at Willington.
- There was a general feeling of disappointment that the partnership has not been working as well as was first anticipated. There was some discussion about how parish activities could be circulated among others in the partnership. Fr Nick agreed to bring up the matter at the next meeting of parish priests.

Churches Together in Crook

- The Christmas Journey for Year 2 pupils in all our primary schools will take place at St Andrew's from Tuesday 21st November – Friday 22nd.

- Lunch Club: this takes place every second Tuesday of the month at St Andrew's. The average number of participants is 22. The Christmas Lunch is on the 12th December and by invitation only. The cost is £10, payable in advance, with discretionary financial dispensation.
- Advent Services of Reflection: These will be held at St Catherine's on 7th, 14th and 21 December at 7.00pm.
- Christmas Party: It has been proposed that there will be a party for children receiving free school meals on Saturday 16th December at St Catherine's, being largely funded by the CTiC Children's Club.
(NB Since the meeting the party has had to be cancelled).
- During the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18th - 25th January 2024, St Cuthbert's will be hosting the first service at the Centre on 18th January, followed by a soup lunch

Justice and Peace

- Derwentside IRC – about 30 people continue to support the monthly vigil, including three or four from our group. There has been a request for used mobile phones. Rather worryingly, there has been an announcement that the women are due to be sent somewhere else, location unknown. The IRC will then be used to house men.
- Two Syrian families continue to meet the group on alternate Mondays at St Andrew's. They recently enjoyed a walk around Low Barnes. It was suggested that the next walk should be around Crook.
- The Peace Vigil continues at 7.00pm every Thursday at St Cuthbert's.
- There is a notice in the bulletin from CAFOD explaining how to contribute to help victims in Gaza.

Buildings maintenance

- Rising damp in the kitchen and dining room: The diocesan buildings inspector has stated that the walls should be stripped of wallpaper, covered with a lime solution mortar then painted.
- The fan in the kitchen needs repairing to prevent condensation. We are awaiting quotes.
- Tiles on the church gulley between the roof flashing need to be dealt with. Quotes will be required.
- A warm appreciation was given to Ann C for all the work she does.

Christ the King family Mass

Children from St Cuthbert's and their families will be leading the celebration for the Feast of Christ the King on Sunday 26th November.

Appointment of school governors

There is still a vacancy for a foundation governor on the board at St Cuthbert's School. The task of governor is far less onerous than before and online training courses are available. Another notice for a volunteer will be put in the bulletin.

Any other business

There will be a penitential service at 10.30 Mass on Sunday 17th December.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 30th January 2024.