

Our Lady Immaculate and St Cuthbert's Pastoral Parish Council

Wednesday 16th January 2019

Minutes

Present Fr. John; Duncan Reed; Ann Callan; Maria Crawford; Eugene Brady;
MariaLuisa Massagli-Gallagher; Anne Berry; Anne Smith; Sister Paschaline; Roger Kelly,
Secretary

Apologies: Susan Hall, Sister Mary Jane

- 1 The following officers were moved seconded and elected – Chair: MariaLuisa Massagli-Gallagher; Secretary: Roger Kelly; Treasurer: Ann Callan
- 2 **Vacancies and co-options** – Agreed to co-opt Eugene Brady and to seek two further co-options
- 3 **Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising**
 - a. Noted that there was no further progress to report on the land issues
 - b. Cemetery Paths to be started in the next couple of months – weather dependant
 - c. Manhole cover at the top of the Sacristy steps to be replaced
 - d. Sister Paschaline still trying to make contact with schools and young people.
- 4 **Finance Report**
 - a. Ann Callan delivered report on current position pointing out the additional support St Cuthbert's Centre gave to the parish buildings and repairs. Expenditure on the church and house had increased in the last two years because there was a backlog of essential things needed to be done – there was more to do but good progress is being made. Noted that the report showed a trend of reduction in weekly collections. Noted also that it was 11 years since the parish was last presented with an appeal for funds. **Agreed** that AC/DR/AS and EB should look at text of a presentation to the parish.
- 5 **Building issues**
 - a. Reordering the back of church and redecoration- noted that the Diocese (Historic Churches Committee) required a full resubmission of the plans to reorder which would delay the matter until the summer/autumn. **Agreed** to go through the process. In terms of decoration Fr. John recommended St Mary's Hexham as a good example of redecorated Pugin Church.
 - b. Handrails for altar steps. **Agreed** to get quotes for the provision of handrails for the altar steps

6 **Partnership issues** – noted that a forthcoming meeting was imminent. A number of events were planned including a Craft Club, bringing people together. Lourdes meeting to take place following week. **Agreed** to schedule the Karen Kilby talk for the Spring and make it a Partnership event

7 **Justice and Peace and Churches Together Report**

Report attached. Noted the excellent work carried out by CTiC and JP. Holiday Club particularly important in the town. The Council welcomed the much needed new initiative with the Luncheon Club thanked and congratulated the group on behalf of the parish.

8 **Evangelisation Issues**

Work continues – the Christmas gift was much appreciated as was the letter/card to all bereaved families with positive feedback from recipients.

9 **Liturgical Issues**

- a. Review of Advent and Christmas – positive response. Christmas Mass good numbers – lovely Mass. Church looked beautiful. Noted that the Partnership Penitential service was well attended by not huge numbers for confession.
- b. First Communion – Tow Law and Crook – five first communicants. Wolsingham separate service
- c. Lent – Friday Stations with some additional preparation to make the service less rushed. **Agreed** to have a meeting after Mass to discuss making the reflections more meaningful and perhaps better attended. Also **Agreed** to trial having rosary during **Lent** before Sunday Mass on 10th 17th 24th and 31st March – at the request of a parishioner.

10 **Any other Business**

- a. Garden Fete meeting in February
- b. To think about and encourage fundraising events with the new building works and maintenance costs of the church.
- c. New readers and Special Ministers required
- d. 27th February Special meeting with the Acting Head teacher to discuss school and parish working together
- e. Next meeting 3rd April 7.00.p.m.