

**ST GEORGE'S PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
21<sup>st</sup> November 2021 at 7.00pm.**

**Apologies:** were received from Shawn Clarke, David Townsend, Lucille Shute and Annabelle Delgado.

The meeting was attended by 15 parishioners and 9 members of the Parish Council.

**Father Brett opened the meeting with a prayer.**

**Welcome by Chair of Pastoral Council and Report**

Frank McEvoy welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined membership of the PPC. He pointed out that there are 2 vacancies at present on the PPC and elections will take place in the new year. It was noted that Fr Brett had suggested that a spiritual representative be included on the Council and in this respect, 20 signatures had been received for the Parish MC to be made a permanent member. It was agreed by the meeting and the Constitution will be amended accordingly.

Frank briefly outlined areas of his annual report which had been circulated to the meeting.

**Premises/Health & Safety update**

A brief update had been included in the annual report but David asked that if parishioners notice any issues relating to Premises or Health & Safety, they should be reported either to him directly or to Sharon in the office.

Works undertaken during lockdown include: refurbishment of hall, lead water supply to presbytery replaced, new gates installed at St. Gregory's with security lock. Other works to be carried out include: new more economical lighting to St. George's church, new guttering to side of church, trees to be trimmed at St. Gregory's, flooring to be replaced in hall toilets and kitchen, a handrail to be fitted to hall side door, water butts for the gardeners and hall guttering. The boiler in the presbytery will be replaced soon.

Health & Safety: Covid precautions have been followed and modified as needed. David thanks the Stewards who have done a fantastic job at every Mass as their work is much appreciated. Sunday Mass at St Gregory's is not viable at the present time but it is hoped that Tuesday Mass with fewer numbers can resume shortly.

Frank extended thanks to David who has continued to work very hard during lockdown with all these issues.

**Justice and Peace update**

A brief update had been included in the annual report although Brian said that meetings in the present situation have not been taking place. A draft plan had been drawn up to launch Live Simply and for the parish to register to work towards this aim. He said that everybody can be involved. Frank thanked Brian and Sharon for keeping us aware of what is going on and promoting these issues in the newsletter.

**Steward of the Gospel update**

A brief update had been included in the annual report and in the absence of Lucille, Frank reported that the Synodal consultation will begin soon to consider ideas from parishioners of how they see the Church of the Future to better our parish community. All anonymous ideas/comments will be fed through Lucille and will go forward to the Bishop. A brief discussion followed.

### **Report by Head Teacher**

In the absence of Annabelle, Frank thanked all the staff who had continued to do a fantastic job through lockdown either in school or with on-line teaching, to maintain and build the community spirit.

### **Report by Parish Treasurer.**

Peter briefly explained the Finance report and balance sheet which had been circulated to the meeting, and are attached to these minutes.

- Hall rental income increasing now as Clubs return
- Gift Aid increased
- Two very generous donations totalling £12,000 had been received, which is included in the total surplus but which has been ring-fenced for projects mentioned above.
- It was noted that there is still a deficit of £1,600 to be paid for the new organ but it was estimated that this would be cleared by April 2023.
- It was noted that some parishioners could be donating to 2<sup>nd</sup> collections either directly to the organisation or on-line payments.

Frank thanked Peter for all his hard work which is very much appreciated.

### **Parish Website**

Frank reported that he has been writing a new easier to navigate website which he is hoping to launch in December.

### **Facebook and Instagram**

Frank reported that these are well used, especially with the Virtual Christmas Draw being publicised. Thanks to Laura, Suzanne, Brian, Shawn and Sharon for all their help in this respect.

### **Safeguarding**

It was noted that any concerns or issues should be raised directly with Sharon who is the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

### **Births, Marriages, Deaths and Mass Attendance**

These figures were included in the annual report and were briefly discussed. It was noted that before Covid regulations, the average Mass attendance was about 350.

### **Report by Father Brett**

Fr Brett said how great it is to see everyone again as the parish begins to re-emerge and briefly outlined the very difficult time he experienced during lockdown when churches were closed but he continued with his very lonely liturgical duties.

Sacramental programmes are beginning again for Baptism, First Holy Communion, Confirmation and RCIA. He is very keen for the Live Simply project to develop with Priya and Gabriella leading the Youth Justice and Peace group with social justice issues for young people, which will be combined with the Confirmation programme. Suzanne reported that she had attended a recent Catechists training session with Jane.

### **Open Forum**

- It was noted that coffee mornings and parish social gatherings could maybe restart in the new year but David said that the situation continues to be closely monitored.

- Brian said that he has been very impressed by the parish support for the SVP collections.
- Jacqui said that she had unfortunately missed much of the discussion from the meeting as she could not hear some of the speakers from her position in the hall. Frank extended his apologies to Jacqui and pointed out that David Townsend had offered to set up the sound system for the meeting but had to send his apologies. This was noted for future AGM meetings.
- Frank said that any suggestions or points for the Live Simply project should be put forward. The consultation is now running until beginning of February. The Synodal consultation will begin shortly.

Frank thanked Fr Brett for his guidance and support and extended thanks to the representatives on the Parish Council.

Fr Brett thanks everyone for their support and contributions in many different ways.

Frank extended thanks to all for attending and the meeting closed at 8pm with a prayer and blessing.