

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting 26th January 2023

St John Fisher & St Thomas More, Chapel-en-le-Frith

AGENDA

- 1.) Opening prayer
- 2.) Apologies for absence
- 3.) Minutes of last meeting (matters arising not covered below)
- 4.) Health and safety report for Chapel (for information and discussion)
- 5.) Valuation report for Tideswell (and covering letter)
- 6.) Finance
- 7.) Safeguarding (recheck outcomes, parish list, paperwork updates and Safeguarding Sunday)
- 8.) Housekeeping (and cards at back of church)
- 9.) Any other business
- 10.) Date of next meeting

PRESENT

Fr. Gerry Murphy, Don Lavery, Peter Barnes, Pat Dawson, Hugh Doherty, Frank Frost, Barbara Hindley, Jacqui Lavery, Anne Lomas, Joan Matthews, Anne Parker, Sue Thornhill

MINUTES

- 1.) The meeting opened with a prayer. The committee remembered recently deceased parishioners, especially Marie Lawton and Dermot Carroll and were invited to name other parishioners we wished to pray for.
- 2.) Apology for absence was received from Lucia who has had her hip operation which has apparently gone well.
- 3.) Don having pointed out that the Constitution is a working document, it was agreed to amend it to record that the date will be announced in the bulletin 2 weeks before each PPC meeting and agenda items requested in the following week, to finalise the agenda the weekend before the meeting.
- 4.) The Health and Safety report was discussed, it was noted that the 6 action points were all medium status, none was high or critical. Action points include:
 - I) Investigate whether we have parishioners who have medical or first aid training and who would be prepared to be designated first aiders in church or consider training.
 - II) Don will review the fire evacuation plan, obtain 2 luminous signs for the fire exits, devise personal evacuation plans for parishioners who need them, brief stewards on the

evacuation plans and provide torches for their use, ensure fire extinguishers have been checked and schedule a fire drill for a Wednesday.

III) PAT testing will be carried out for appliances in the church and presbytery.

IV) Resurfacing of the drive to ensure it is free of trip hazards will be costed.

- 5.) Tideswell Church is now canonically closed i.e., no longer a church. The graveyard remains the responsibility of the parish (and is currently maintained at the expense of a parishioner) and the Parish still pays insurance.

The diocesan valuation report gives a value of £107,250 in its current condition. Owing to the presence of the graveyard, the diocesan Building and Sites Committee wishes to explore the option of residential conversion of the church for use by a retired priest or residential/holiday let. The diocese proposes to obtain a quote from an architect for design, pre-planning application advice and application for full planning permission followed by tendering for the work. Subject to a successful planning application and conversion costs and fees being approved, the diocese proposes to negotiate suitable financial settlement with the parish.

The PPC unanimously agreed that they would prefer settlement prior to this process, at 50% of the current value, and proposed that the views of the parish be sought via the bulletin and announcement from the altar.

- 6.) Peter reported that finances had been reconciled to the end of October 2022 but he is still awaiting information from the fuel supplier to complete to the end of the year. Father Gerry expressed concern at the increase in fuel prices, more than threefold in Buxton when December 2021 is compared with December 2022. Moving Chapel's Wednesday mass to the presbytery has been suggested to reduce heating costs.
- 7.) Safeguarding- Sue read through and updated the parish list of people who require safeguarding checks and when re-checking is scheduled to return to the Safeguarding Office. She reported that the safeguarding paperwork, forms etc are being updated on the website and more forms will be completed electronically from 10th February. A training strategy is now in place, Father Gerry confirmed that local clergy will receive training in early March with Safeguarding Representatives to follow. In addition the Safeguarding Co-ordinator Rachael has been invited to give a talk at Buxton. A date has been confirmed for Safeguarding Sunday on 14th May.
- 8.) Housekeeper – A person will be required to carry out Marie's roles. Anne Parker will approach a lady who attends mass to see if she is interested in the paid role. Other jobs are continuing to be done by those who took them over voluntarily.
- 9.) A.O.B. – Anne Lomas asked about flowers for Marie's funeral on 10th February. A retiring collection will be taken at mass on Saturday.
- 10.) Date of next meeting 30th March 2023 at 4.00p.m.