

Minutes for the Chapel Parish Pastoral Council Meeting 30th November 2023

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

Present: Fr. Gerry, Don Lavery, Jacqui Lavery, Peter Barnes, Barbara Hindley, Anne Lomas, Anne Parker (Chair), Lucia McClean, Sue Thornhill

- 1.) Opening prayer – Deacon Don led the prayer and short readings, and we remembered parishioners who are no longer able to attend services in church and others in need of our prayers.
- 2.) Apologies for absence – Pat, Joan and Frank
- 3.) Minutes of last meeting – were approved. In matters arising it was noted that: the fee for the Quinquennial report has been paid to the diocese, meetings will be arranged for welcomers, readers and eucharistic ministers after Christmas, dates to be decided at the next PPC meeting, the parish will not be purchasing new hymn books.
- 4.) Finance – Peter reported that:
Reconciled balance 31.10.23 is £18896
Insurance premium, £1770 went out in November and Father's wages for the year (our 1/3rd share is approximately £3600 including expenses) are also due. It is proposed to start paying Father in instalments rather than a single annual payment. No parish should keep more than £5000 in their current account. Money in excess of this total should be kept in a Set Off Account held by the diocese. Peter will contact the diocese to set this up.

Ukrainian accounting 1 July to 31 October 2023:

Restricted Income		£
Government thank you	3 x 350	1050.00
Derbyshire CC	3 x 150	450.00
Income		1500.00
Expenditure		277.69
(travel 16.83, repairs/renewals 192.79, electricity 5.99, water 38.18, gas 23.90)		
Excess of income over expenditure		1222.31

It was noted that the Government payments are currently only guaranteed until end of March 2024 and that DCC will only be making statutory payments from April 2024 but have upped the amount we receive till then to £700 a month. PPC agreed that this money is only to be used for this purpose (Peter will confirm that the Thank you payments are indeed restricted income) and the extra can/should be used to spread the funding for a further 6 months.

Tamila and Father are to sign a 6 month tenancy agreement after today's PPC meeting, this will then be sent to the diocese to sign as Trustees of the property. This will enable Tamila to access Government help under Homes for Ukrainians scheme.

5.) Safeguarding – Sue reported:

Grainne's DBS is progressing, volunteer registration forms have been sent to the safeguarding office, we have been sent a Parish Safeguarding Self Audit to be completed by the end of December. Sue will arrange a meeting with Don to do this.

6.) Progress of sacristy –

Considerable progress has been made in the sacristy with new doors, sink unit and cupboards. The PPC wish to thank Peter Nadin for all his work to date and present him with a token of our appreciation. The joiner has billed for the doors and will be asked to provide an estimate for completing the remaining work.

7.) Update on Quinquennial report –

Don presented a sheet with a table of jobs from the report including their priority, cost and focus of the work and an indication of which have been completed. Good progress has been made, with many of the jobs on the A list (highest priority) completed or being investigated/obtaining estimates.

8.) Alienation (sale) of Tideswell Church –

During Mass on Saturday 25th November Fr. Gerry reported that the Diocese no longer wished to convert the church at Tideswell to a residential dwelling but planned to sell it. He reminded parishioners that the church had actually closed 5 years ago, and its closure was confirmed in Canon Law by Bishop Patrick a year ago, with the diocese intending to investigate the possibility of renovating the building. He then invited parishioners with any comments or concerns about this to see either himself or Don before Thursday's PPC meeting. No parishioners have expressed any comments/concerns. All members of the PPC present at the meeting were unanimous in approving the sale of the church, as was Frank Frost in his email apology for absence from the meeting due to illness.

9.) Churches together –

In Pat's absence Lucia informed us that volunteers from our parish continue to help at the Mustard Seed but attendance is mostly the volunteers themselves. Fr suggested that this initiative may need evaluating.

Fr also asked whether a service was planned for Church Unity week in January. Don did not know of one but will find out.

10.) Any other business–

The Race Night on 10th November was a big success both socially and financially with £1145 raised.

Fr reminded us that the Bishop will be holding a healing service at Buxton and we are all invited.

The Christmas services this year will be similar to last year with a Vigil mass at Chapel on Christmas Eve and an early, 9a.m. Mass at Chapel on Christmas Morning. The popularity of the early Mass will be evaluated as there were not many parishioners attending last year.

The parish will buy a Morrison's voucher and a plant or flowers for Tamila and Vlad for Christmas.

- 11.) Date of next meeting – Thursday 25th January 2024