

ST ALBANS CHURCH
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

2nd May 2013

Present:- Fr Paul, Deacon John, Mark Booton, Maria Neads, Clare Cox, Geoff Rowlands, Jessica Daykin, James Kissane, Mary Keogh, Eileen Rees, Kevin Boyle, Cath Green

Apologies: - Jo Rowlands, Fran Wickes

Opening Prayer – led by Deacon John

Parish Accounts – Diane presented the parish accounts. All seems to be in good order with two particular points of note. The loan is nearly paid off with £5,795 outstanding as of the end of March 2013 – this is expected to be paid by the end of June. The Wetherby Group will no longer be using the parish hall from the end of May, which will reduce annual income by approximately £15,000. The accounts will be made available to the parish later this year. It was agreed to set up a finance committee to include Fr Paul, Diane, Mark Booton, James Kissane and Steve Endsor.

Sick & Retired Priests' Appeal – following the letter read out at Masses recently, it was discussed how to approach the fundraising. James is heading this up and one of the parishioners, John Murphy, has offered his support. We discussed options of second collections, taking unwanted clothes to clothes banks and a duck race. Maybe have a progress thermometer in the entrance.

Parish Constitution – we read through the parish constitution. An annual meeting needs to be arranged to discuss with the parishioners the plans for the coming year and what has been done over the previous 12 months. The constitution is to be distributed among the council members for comments and suggestions.

Parish Council Elections – these are now due. Article to be put in the newsletter asking for nominations. James to explain the process at masses over the weekend 11/12 May. James to organise nomination forms. Nominations to be returned by 25/26 May.

Living Stones – two meetings have been held to discuss the potential changes – these have been open to all parishioners. The parish meeting in January was attended by 25 people. This was followed by another meeting in February which was attended by 50 people – all comments were recorded and passed up to diocesan level. The diocesan meeting was attended by 75 people. We also had a meeting with the parish council from St Hugh's to

discuss the emotions and impact of change based on their recent experiences.

Council Communication – Jo will be stepping down from the parish council.

A parishioner has asked what is being done about the Coalition For Marriage and if an article can be placed in the newsletter.

Some parishioners have asked if the Food Bank can be continued throughout the year, not just for Lent. Items can be given via the school.

Report From Oakwood – in January, there was a Christian Unity service. The other denominations were invited to the Ash Wednesday service at St Albans – feedback very positive. The Harvest Celebration this year will have music from The Saxophonics. Local schools are to make figures for the crib set for Advent.

Peace Garden – developing beautifully. Things to do – external electric supply, plants & water feature. Thank you very much to all the hard work put in by the team.

Recent Events – Oscott trip – 75 people went – all greatly enjoyed it. All Lenten and Easter events went very well. First Reconciliation for the 1st Communion children.

Upcoming Events –

18/19 May - 1st Communion

11 May - Pentecost Service – 11 May – led by Spirituality Group

7 May – Bingobury

21 June – Circus Day

23 June – St Albans Day

13 July – John's Ordination

3/4 August – John leading Mass

22 August – Holy Land trip

AOB – volunteers for cleaning the Church required – one group is stepping down.

St Joseph's have a new church hall – funeral directors funded the furniture – can we do something like this?

Need to arrange more days out

A young man who has a previous offending history is looking for a family to mentor him on the straight and narrow

Future Meetings –

6 June

18 July

Closing Prayer – led by Fr Paul