

ST ALBANS CHURCH
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

4th July 2016

Present:- Fr Paul, Juan Carlos, Mark Booton, Louise Franik, David McArdle, Andy Brough, Nick Carberry, Sandra Endsor, Catherine Endsor, Cath Green, Linda McCauley, Carl Mendonca, Stuart Olivier, Jamie Roppa,

Apologies:- Jo Rowlands and Amanda Wilson

Welcome by Stuart Olivier - Chairman

Opening Prayer: led by Fr Paul

Previous Meeting's Minutes/matters arising – not read

Living Stones – One Priest/Mass times

A further consultation would need to take place in October

It was discussed at length that come September we would be down to one Priest for St Albans, St Hugh's and the Church on Oakwood. Fr Paul had spoken to Rev Peter Bates at Oakwood who has to speak to the Church Council tomorrow 5th July. Fran and Alan are both on the Church Council at Oakwood. It was put to him that there was the possibility of mass at Oakwood moving to 5pm on Saturday.

Fr Paul mentioned we had an excellent ecumenical partnership with the other denominations at Oakwood. We contribute one quarter to the upkeep of Oakwood. Sandra explained that in the past there were payments in on one side and payments out on the other and the four groups paid one quarter each of the shortfall but Oakwood was very well supported and the payments are fairly minimal. Presently we have done away with that and now make a contribution of £2,000+ per year which is paid out of the Oakwood collection.

It was thought that should it be decided to keep the Saturday evening mass at St Albans it would free up Sunday afternoons/evening to have evening prayer at Oakwood. There is a Wednesday evening prayer and mass once a month already.

Mark mentioned there were stalwarts who had built up St Albans over many years who came every Saturday evening to mass at St Albans who would not be happy if they lost their mass. This was discussed quite strongly at length.

JCV suggested having an open meeting of all parishioners but it was thought this would lead to arguments and it would be best to have separate meetings. This was discussed at length. And JCV offered to prepare a list of questions

to ask the parishioners on a card. It was thought several people needed to get together to prepare a questionnaire.

To summarise:-

It would seem there are two options:-

1 – 5pm Saturday at Oakwood or

2 – 5pm Saturday at St Albans

To replace the 5pm mass on Sunday at Oakwood

It was thought to appoint a sub-committee to prepare a questionnaire to be given to all parishioners at the begging of September for them to think about, complete and return the following week and then later in September when these have been collated there would be a meeting after each mass – Saturday evening, Sunday morning and Sunday evening for discussion. Fr Paul would then make a presentation to the Bishop who will have the ultimate say on which mass is to be dropped and what masses would remain.

The Sub-committee is to consist of Fr Paul, JCV, Stuart, Carl and Sandra and the meeting to be in the Presbytery at 7pm on Friday 22nd July.

Groups

All the different groups were discussed and PPC members were attached to groups to liaise and bring back suggestions etc. Stuart is to prepare an up to date list of groups, group leaders and Parish Councillor allocated to each group.

Events

First Communions and Confirmations had taken place and all were wonderful services.

This Sunday 10th July is Oakwood Gala Day and Oakwood Ecumenical Centre is providing refreshments. Outdoor ecumenical service at 11.45am ?

19th July the Youth Choir is performing in the Parish Centre

24th September Pilgrimage to St Albans Abbey

Sick and Retired Priest Fund charity ball is being arranged. Details later.

Suggestions

It was brought to Fr Paul's attention that there had been a complaint about the sponge in the holy water. This is to be removed and holy water changed every week.

Any other business

Cath mentioned the organ had been retuned and was working beautifully. There are a couple of people who have volunteers to play and perhaps it

would be best to include the children as more people would attend and possibly follow this with something in the Parish Centre to make an evening of it. It was thought this could be around harvest time.

Mark mentioned the weekday chapel is not really suitable for a PPC meeting and perhaps if the meeting was a Monday then make it after Weightwatchers was finished.

Grass cutting. There needs to be a rota for this and more liaison so it is cut every couple of weeks. The patio area needs to be looked at to make wheelchair access out into the garden and perhaps this could be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Next meeting Thursday 15th September at 7.30pm after evening mass.