

Minutes of Meeting of Parish Advisory Committee, 27th April 2023

In attendance:

Fr Patrick; Tim Naylor; Mary Pillon; Mary Wilson; Bernadette Eakin; Mike Seales.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting proper, Parish Treasurer, Chris Griffin, gave us an update on parish finances.

Chris explained that parish finances were in a healthy state, there being an accounting surplus. It had not been necessary to undertake any significant works for a few years. The transferring of financial responsibilities from Downside to Belmont has proved rather a convoluted process. Once this process is complete, it should be possible to earn interest on at least part of our bank deposits. Tim N mentioned the potential virtues of ISA's and Chris explained that it will be for Belmont to decide how any parish surplus is allocated for interest bearing purposes. Any spending plans which exceed £5000 also require Belmont approval. Chris expressed optimism regarding the future finances of the parish, but added that there were some cost pressures, not least escalating energy costs.

The meeting continued as follows:-

1. The minutes of the meeting of 23rd March were accepted as a true record.
2. Matters Arising from the minutes of the last meeting.
 - (a) It was agreed that a card reader could be purchased.
 - (b) The issue of appropriate terms and conditions applying to the hire of the Parish Hall would be revisited at the next meeting.
 - (c) There was support for the idea of offering financial support to a school in Uganda. June Stallard to provide further information via Mary P. Funds could be raised, for example, through second collections. Surpluses arising from social events might also be used in this way. We would need to be clear about how such monies were to be spent, establishing lines of accountability.
3. Reinstatement of Holy Communion in both kinds and the recruitment of additional Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers. Fr Patrick explained that in accordance with the direction of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales it was time to reintroduce this practice. In order to establish the number of parishioners likely to take both forms, he would ask for a show of hands at Mass.

With regard to the recruitment of Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers, Mary Wilson agreed to gather the names of potential volunteers at the end of Sunday Mass. Fr Patrick stated that training would be given to those newly recruited and a refresher course to those already serving the church in this way.

4. Mike S asked whether the publishing of an occasional Parish Magazine was a good idea. In the absence of dissenting voices, he agreed to do what he could to progress this idea.

5. AOB. In light of her resignation, the committee expressed our thanks to Mary Verdult for her wonderful contribution to parish music at Wulstan's and indeed her contribution to the PAC. Hope was expressed that Wulstan's may have the further benefit of her gifts at some future time.

It was agreed that a small celebration of the King's coronation take place in the Parish Hall after the 10.30 Mass on Sunday, 7th May.

6. Date of next meeting: Thursday, 13th July, 6.30pm in the Parish Room.