

Present:

Father Michael Weymes - Parish Priest
J. Shepherd - Chair
S. Stoddart- Minutes

1. Opening Prayer

Father Michael opened the meeting with a prayer.

2. Minutes of Meeting April 27th, 2023

These were agreed as a correct record.

3. Safeguarding Update

Jo outlined the guidelines received regarding safeguarding issues that would affect the parish in the future. Discussion ensued regarding the guidelines affecting the use of the hall and POSH productions. Jo also confirmed that the register of parishioners with DBS certificates was currently up to date.

4. Finance Report

It was confirmed that the parish finances were not in the best of health and had never recovered from Covid. The absence of cash usage was also having a detrimental effect on finances. There are also considerable maintenance issues in the church buildings and grounds that require urgent attention soon. It was confirmed that an appeal at masses would be made in near the future. The Parish Treasurer was thanked for his exemplary accounting of the parish finances.

5. Justice and Peace

A ceilidh has been arranged for November 24th in the Parish Hall to raise funds for the local food bank and CAFOD. Anyone with further fundraising ideas for this event please contact the organisers.

6. Spiritual and Liturgical Activities

Deacon John outlined current spiritual and liturgical activities in the parish:

- Regarding the First Holy Communion Programme, a focus was to increase the young children's participation in the services and to concentrate on frequent child friendly masses throughout the year.
- The parish synodal meetings are well established and increasing in attendance.
- Advent themes are being covered in the Sycamore course at St Charles.
- The Book Group St Charles / Sacred Heart continues. The Quiet Girl, is the current book.
- The GIFT group continues online.
- Confirmations are scheduled for next July; the programme commences in January.
- A query was raised re Children's Liturgy. Previous catechists will be contacted to ascertain whether we can re-start the sessions. The diocese is running a refresher course on Oct 30th and 6th Nov.

- The development of services/prayer for the survivors of abuse was drawn to peoples' attention. It was agreed that the service which was held in the parish would become an annual event.

6. Future Events

- 15th December: Christmas Concert
A Christmas Concert will be held with singers from the VoiceMale Choir and involvement from the Northumbrian Pipers. All monies raised would go to supporting the Toy Appeal.
- The Christmas Mulled Wine event after Sunday morning Mass and the usual Easter Activities would go ahead as usual.
Proceeds raised would support a local Refuge.

7. Future Operation of the Parish Council

It was agreed that the open format was the best way forward for parish meetings.

8. Any other Business

- Toy Appeal
Reminder that NEW toys were required. During the current economic crisis, it was even more crucial this year to support struggling families.
- Gardens
It was confirmed that more volunteers are desperately needed to maintain the gardens. Please contact Muriel McKenna if you able to help or you know anyone interested.
A plan for the children to plant bulbs in the grounds, ready for next Spring ,was agreed.
- Parish Website
It was confirmed that the website would be uploaded in the very near future.
- New Families
Discussion ensued regarding encouraging new families into the parish community.
- Sunday morning tea and coffee
Father Michael agreed to reiterate on Sunday mornings that tea and coffee was provided in the hall.

9. Closing Prayer

Father Michael closed the meeting with a prayer.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday January 11th, 2024