

All Saints Parish Council Meeting

Minutes

Date of Meeting : 27th October 2021

Meeting Venue:

Benedict Room, All Saints

Meeting Hosted by: Fr. Gordon

Meeting Attendees:

Fr. Gordon
Elizabeth Casey
Anna Charnock
Peter Coon
Gill Hamilton
Pat Dodson
Linda Morris
Kevin Jones

Apologies:

Angela Holmes
Kevin Jones
Derek Morris

Item		Actions
1.0	Fr. Gordon opened the meeting with prayers	
2.0	The Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and there were no matters arising.	
3.0	Elizabeth gave an update on the foodbank <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We have been up and running for 3 months• Open Fridays 10-12, but will do emergencies• 10 volunteers – 5 teams of 2• We have registered the Food Bank with Wigan Councils Food Hygiene department and Elizabeth completed a Level 2 Food Hygiene Course, both have allowed us to be part of FareShare and have signed an agreement with them which allows us access to any goods that Asda Golborne customers donate and any fresh food Asda donate.• We have helped 57 individuals and 46 children, which equates to approx. 70 bags of food.• 10 agencies have used us up to now and have given us 36 referrals	
4.0	Gill gave an update on St. Lewis SVP <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SVP have now resumed meeting in person.• We are planning ahead regarding visits and fundraising and have received 2 anonymous donations from parishioners and continue to sell books during Tea and Coffee morning after Sunday Mass. There will also be a second collection at both churches on the weekend of Sunday 7th November.• We have received several requests for help, which they have responded to.	

- Some members have taken advantage of the online training through the SVP hub.
- St. Lewis are not receiving many food donations, but this seems to be because people are taking it directly to the Quench Café.
- We have spoken to the Head at St. Lewis School to discuss the distribution of family Christmas Hampers and will use the money received from the second collection to buy food then we can control what is needed.
- St. Lewis have offered to hold a fundraising event and the Head will ask Year 6 to come up with ideas for organising something with a view to helping the SVP. This will not only raise funds but will also raise awareness amongst pupils and parents.
- Martyn Griffiths has left as treasurer. We have found a suitable candidate who is just gathering information about the role.
- We have made a list of parishioners who are known to us who we can keep in mind to contact to see if there is any help we can give to them but would ask if anyone knows anyone who may need help or a friendly ear to let us know. We have also put this in the newsletter.
- We have decided to send each person a Christmas card from the SVP with a short message and contact details so it is available to them if they ever need us.
- Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 3rd November.

5.0 **Christmas Gifts and Toys**

- Linda explained that we usually ask for good quality unwanted gifts and toys for a stall at the Christmas Fayre, but as we are not having a Fayre this year we could appeal for these items and then donate them to either the Asylum Seekers through Heath St. Methodist and/or Compassion in Action.
- Everyone agreed that this would be a good thing to do and so initially Linda will contact Compassion in Action to see if they accept these types of donations.

6.0 **Cemetery's at both SCAS & SL**

- Work has been completed on the trees at both churches, this has allowed a lot more daylight in.
- Around 6 trees in each cemetery have been cut back to the trunk to promote the growth. Some trees that had self-seeded have been taken out.
- At All Saints, the scrubland to the left towards the brook has been cleared and treated with weed killer and we are exploring the possibility of there being room for graves and ashes plots.
- We would like to create some edging to establish the end of the graves, however the length is around 90 yards and so a wooden fence would be too expensive.
- Linda explained that the Woodland Trust give away free trees and she would speak to them to see what the process is and how many we could get.

- Pat suggested to help with the cost we could ask if anyone would like to make a donation to buy a tree in memory of a loved one who is buried at All Saints.
- Fr. Gordon explained that the ideal time for planting would be November.

7.0 **Thank You's**

- Fr. Gordon explained that he would like to publicly thank the following people who have helped with specific projects throughout the pandemic:
 - Vincent Quinn, for fixing the fire door which saved a lot of money and helping to fix all the shelving in the foodbank room which allowed us to get the foodbank up and running and for fixing the Benedict room doors.
 - Stephen Walton for sorting out the sensor lighting around St. Lewis church and grounds and for arranging the Tree surgeon and the fixing of the drains at St. Lewis'.
 - Oliver Bolger, who helped Fr. Gordon with the Cemetery and grounds at All Saints through lockdown and has continued to do so.

8.0 **Sacraments**

- Children usually make their First Holy Communion when they are in Year 4 but due to the pandemic the children made their FHC in Year 5. Fr. Gordon has decided that going forward FHC's will continue to be made in Year 5.
- Catechist are usually given instructions in church with their families, Fr. Gordon has asked all 3 schools to now take on the FHC instructions. All Saints will do this as an After School club.
- FHC - There will be 3 sessions before Lent. Reconciliation – there will be 2 sessions after Easter and then FHC's will be made in May.
- There are 2 children who are not in our schools and they will be given instruction in church which will start in the new year.
- Confirmations are now being done at Deanery level and not locally by individual churches.
- There is a gentleman who Fr. Gordon is meeting with who would like to become a catholic. Fr. asked us to keep him in our prayers.

9.0 **Schools**

- Fr. Gordon will start to visit the school children at All Saints and they will also come into church again. He has asked the schools what is needed.
- Years 4 & 5 will look at confirmation and marriage
- Year 6 will look at vocations
- And Years 2 & 3 will learn about Baptism. The children will bring a doll into church and they have been asked to choose 2 parents and 4 godparents from their classmates and will go through a baptism service.

- 10.0 **All Saints Social Centre**
- The boiler which heats the function room has stopped working. We got someone out to it...but he wasn't sure about the specific boiler. It is now in the hands of the archdiocese to see if the boiler is still under warranty.
 - The heating not working has created mildew on the carpets which unfortunately caused an issue for the NHS Blood transfusion team who use the club. Once the boiler has been fixed, the carpets will need to be cleaned.
- 11.0 **Deaneries**
- There has been a change in the deanery area's we were in the Leigh deanery which has now joined Wigan, to create the Leigh & Wigan Deanery which consists of 15 churches.
- 12.0 **Synod Report**
- The Pastoral Plan will be discussed with all Clergy between 17th – 19th November 2021 and the plan will be published on 1st Sunday of Advent.
- 13.0 **School Governors**
- Phil Hart has retired as a governor which has created a vacancy at St. Catherine's School.
- 14.0 **Christmas Masses**
- Fr. Gordon explained that we will await advice from the Archdiocese as to whether we will go back to the booking system for Christmas eve and Christmas day masses.
 - The mass will need to remain as short as possible and due to the increase in numbers that we expect for Christmas there will be no choir.
 - Mass times are likely to be: Christmas Eve 7pm at All Saints and 9pm at St. Lewis. Christmas Day 9am at St. Lewis and 10:30 at All Saints.
 - As Christmas Day fall on Saturday this year, the Sunday masses (which will be boxing day) will be as normal.
- 15.0 **Christmas Fayre**
- Fr. Gordon explained that there will be no Christmas Fayre this year as we don't yet know what the Winter Covid figures will look like.
- 16.0 **Grave Pots**
- Linda explained that the flower arrangement team usually make 200 grave pots for sale at the Christmas Fayre. This year they will make 100. They have everything they need apart from small leaf foliage, holly and conifers.

- 17.0
- Linda confirmed with Fr. Gordon that he requires 2 wreaths for each church for 14th November which is Remembrance Sunday.

18.0 **Eucharistic Services**

- Fr. Gordon is away before Advent and he explained that we will have Eucharistic services both at both churches at the weekend and during the week.
- He also explained that it is important to be served from within and so parishioners will conduct these services.

Any other Business

- Gill asked if Brian Flynn was repairing the sash window in the presbytery at St. Lewis'. Fr. Gordon confirmed that he is but work hasn't started yet.
- Elizabeth mentioned that we still need to find someone to make a priest board for the Priest who served at St. Catherine's to be displayed alongside the Priests who have served at All Saints. Peter Coon offered to help to find someone and also offered help in any other way that he can. Fr. asked him to sort a new Notice board for outside of St. Lewis.

Fr. Gordon ended the meeting with a prayer.

The next meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday 23rd February 2022
