

# All Saints Parish Council Meeting

## Minutes

**Date of Meeting :** 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2022

**Meeting Venue:**

Benedict Room, All Saints

**Meeting Hosted by:** Fr. Gordon

**Meeting Attendees:**

Fr. Gordon  
Elizabeth Casey  
Linda Morris  
Kevin Jones  
Jackie Leonard

**Apologies:**

Angela Holmes  
Peter Cook  
Anna Charnock  
Pat Dodson  
Gill Hamilton

<b>Item</b>	<b>Actions</b>
1.0	<b>Fr. Gordon opened the meeting with prayers</b>
2.0	<b>The Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.</b>
2.1	<b>There were just a few matters arising from the previous meeting.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Item 5 – we asked for donations of unwanted gifts and toys for Christmas and we got quite a lot of items. We donated some to the charity Compassion in Action and we made up some gift bags with toys and chocolates etc... as a present for those who came to the foodbank for the two weeks before Christmas.</li><li>• Item 10 – All Saints Social Centre – we have decided that we will no longer allow the NHS Blood Donation staff to access the club for their blood drives. Someone from the NHS came and approved the club for use, the donation team came and then promptly left saying some of the seats were marked with mould although everything had been cleaned and approved. They left without informing anyone and the club and gates were left open and unattended all day.</li><li>• AOB – The sash window at St. Lewis has now been fixed; update needed from Peter Coon re: the Priests Board for St. Catherine's and the new notice board at St. Lewis</li></ul>
3.0	<b>Return to Normality</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We are now having tea and coffee regularly at both churches after Sunday masses.</li><li>• Both the Tuesday afternoon club and the Mercy Associates are back to having regular meetings at All Saints and the SVP are now meeting regularly at St. Lewis.</li><li>• Kevin asked if it was possible to go down to two Welcomers for Sunday morning mass instead of the four as people are now starting to go on holiday and so we don't always have four available. We should be able to manage with just two teams of two. Fr. Gordon agreed. Elizabeth will do a new rota.</li><li>• Fr. Gordon would like parishioners to continue to wear masks in mass but is thinking about not having masks at Baptisms or Funerals.</li></ul>

#### 4.0

##### **Gill sent in an update on St. Lewis SVP**

- The Christmas 2<sup>nd</sup> collection gave us over £600, this allowed us to fund 21 family Christmas food hampers which were distributed as follows: 9 through St. Lewis' School, 5 through St. Catherine's School, 5 through All Saints School and 2 to families already on our list in Lowton.
- We were also able to make up some smaller bags of food items which were given to All Saints School to distribute at their discretion as we felt that there was an additional need there. The hampers were gratefully received by everyone.
- We approached Tesco at Irlam for assistance in shopping for the items and they were extremely helpful by having all of the shopping ready in trolleys for us to collect. They also donated £20 to our funds. The conference members met up at the parish rooms to pack the hampers and deliver them.
- In addition to hampers, our members made 15 doorstep visits to some of our more senior parishioners, wishing them a Merry Christmas and leaving them with a card and a box of biscuits. Unfortunately, we are still being urged not to enter people's homes but we felt the doorstep visits were worthwhile and we were all very well received by each person we visited. Several people wrote to say how touched they were that they were being thought of at Christmas time.
- The position of Treasurer has now been filled by John Blears who is attempting to get our bank account up and running! A delay at SVP Finance Office and at the bank has slowed things down and losing our treasurer during the process did not help. Hopefully all will be sorted soon. Yet to receive cheque book and paying in books.
- It was discussed that as much of the need in the parish is in the Golborne area, and as most of our members are from St. Lewis' Parish, we need to attract members from All Saints church to join the group. Someone with local knowledge of Golborne and its particular problems would be a huge asset to our conference and we will look into recruiting members from the area.
- A second collection for the SVP after Masses on 6<sup>th</sup> February this year at both churches resulted in almost £470 being raised which will help to replenish our funds after the spending over Christmas.
- As always, please do contact us if you know of anyone who might appreciate any form of assistance from the SVP.

#### 5.0

##### **Elizabeth gave an update on the Food Bank**

- We have been up and running for 7 months
- We have helped 122 individuals and 92 children, which equates to approx. 133 bags of food.
- 11 agencies have used us up to now and have given us 99 referrals
- We had an excess of Baby Food – we liaised with Sandra Russell the Pastoral/Safeguarding Manager at All Saints school and she donated it to several families who are in need.

- We have also liaised with the schools re: their breakfast clubs and any additional bread we have on Fridays or when we have cereal that is getting near to its best before date we will donate it to the schools.
- We are now receiving a few monthly monetary donations, we also had £250.00 through the door at Christmas as a gift to those in need and we have received a £40.00 from a family who asked for donations rather than flowers at a funeral.
- In addition to receiving donations from the customers at Asda Golborne, the Coop at Lowton has nominated our Food Bank as their charity and is collecting food from their customers also.

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

- The cutting of the hedges on the right side of the cemetery at All Saints has now been finished. We discovered a fence that was within the hedges, this have been removed. We have also had more hedges planted to fill the gaps and because of the tidying of the area there is the potential for approximately 16 more grave plots on that side and approximately 20 on the left side.
- There will not be the option to buy plots in advance.

7.0 **Schools: Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.**

- The schools are doing the preparation for Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.
- Once again we have received calls from parents who would like their children Baptised so that they can received their First Holy communion with their classes.
- In addition to the children in our schools there are two children who go to non-Parish schools and they are being instructed separately and will make the communion at a Saturday evening mass.

8.0 **Wigan & Leigh Deanery**

- There will be a meeting for all deanery priests on 31<sup>st</sup> March. Fr Gordon to meet with all the Deanery Deacons 3<sup>rd</sup> March. We will look to have a joint Priests/Deacons Deanery meeting hopefully in May. These meetings will happen twice a year with the aim of bringing priests and Deacons together.
- In the deanery there are 14 priest of which 2 are retired and 11 deacons
- In addition, all the Deans will meet with the Archbishop for an overnight stay 6th April.

9.0

**Synod Pastoral Plan**

- One of the items that came out of the pastoral plan was *'Becoming an Archdiocese who cares for its Priests'* which Fr. Grant Maddocks has been tasked with managing.
- Danny Curtain has been employed as a consultant who will meet for an hour on a one to one basis with all priests in the archdiocese, currently 75 out of 103 priests have organised a meeting with Danny.
- There will be a Deanery Pastoral Council for which Linda Morris has accepted the Chairs role and will be appointed by the Archbishop. Linda will be given training and support.

10.0

**Confirmations**

- Children from Y8 and upwards need to register online.
- Content is being given in schools through lessons
- Deanery will contact the catechists – there will be 4 sessions with the children.

11.0

**Columban Missionary Appeal**

- There will be an appeal at all masses the weekend of 19/20th of March – Fr. Gordon is away that weekend and the Columban Fr. will celebrate mass.

12.0

**Good Friday**

- There will be 2 services one at each church
- Fr. Gordon be at St. Lewis'
- Derek is away, so Fr. John Butchard will be at All Saints.

13.0

**Any Other Business**

- Fr. Gordon brought up the subject of the bell being rung during mass by the readers as we currently have no Altar Servers.
- Daniel and Olivia will potentially be available to serve at 5pm mass on Saturdays.
- Kevin asked Fr. if he had any update of Fr. Strowridge. Fr. Gordon said Fr. Strowbridge is ok and was at the last deanery meeting, and as far as he knows is continuing to celebrate mass in St John Rigby parish.

**Fr. Gordon ended the meeting with a prayer.**

**The next meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

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