

Minutes of AGM of Blessed Hugh Faringdon, Wednesday 13th October at 7pm

This meeting was held in the church and was made available to parishioners via Zoom.

Meeting was chaired by Audrey Curnock

Meeting opened with a prayer led by Father Dominic Adeiza

Our parish mission statements were read out by Audrey: they were first generated during the pandemic and were initiated by Father Dominic in 2020. This year the Parish Pastoral Council amended some of them.

Each group within the parish was then invited to introduce themselves and to give a short account of what they do.

Liturgy Group – Mairead Boyce.

Produce the rota's for all the parish ministries e.g.; readers, welcomers, refreshments, flowers etc....

Close alignment with the Music Group to plan all the main liturgical feasts – Easter, Christmas etc....

Liaise with Churches Together in Faringdon to host and organize the Advent Ecumenical Service this is a joint service and Tony Fecher and Sjoerd are involved in the ceremony with readers from all churches and music organized by Sjoerd. Unfortunately this service will not take place this year.

Justice and Peace – Karen Vogt

Representative for Fair Trade and is involve with Churches Together in Faringdon.

Runs a monthly Fair-Trade event in the Parish

Organizes special events leading up to Christmas

Previously controlled which charities the 50% of planned giving was allocated to.

Future involvement in Pax Christi and CAFOD events

Karen is suggesting that in future the church needs to ensure that all products purchased for use on the premises (tea, coffee, biscuits) are Fair Trade and people should be more aware of their purchasing choices. She is making a special effort this Christmas to increase the number of Christmas Cards and Fair Trade hampers sold.

Main contact for matters relating to the Mustard Seed shop in Faringdon

Music – Sjoerd Vogt

Leads the choir and congregational singing

Decides the music for the Mass for the Liturgical Year

Coordinates the Hymn choices for all services.

Organizes the Rota for the Psalmist.

Sjoerd is conscious that parishioners want to resume singing and have the choir back in the body of the church, however because of the technical equipment needed to Zoom the mass, space is difficult and safety is a concern.

He reminded the meeting that the rules state that we must still wear masks in church and therefore is aware that congregational singing is difficult.

Finance & Gift Aid – Andrew Chell & Jack Thornton

The members of the current Finance Committee are: - Andrew Chell, Tony Fecher, Mary Elizabeth Shewry and Father Claro.

Andrew presented the Financial Report to the meeting and handed out copies, he pointed out several items and explained where the income had reduced this last year due to Covid measures.

It was noted that the Hall Rent is currently £8 for parishioners and £12-£13.20 per hour to non-parishioners which is very low, Sue Cole is taking bookings again for the Hall, it was suggested the Finance committee review the rent, with a view to updating it perhaps in the New Year. We now have Broadband with Internet access which might be used as a reason.

Churches Together in Faringdon – Mairead Boyce & Maureen Courtney

Both of the main representatives for the Parish are very involved in the running of the Food Bank. Organizing and hosting the annual Advent service for all the churches, this is a very popular and well attended event, which unfortunately won't take place this year.

Children's Liturgy – Clare Cottingham

There are 7 catechists involved in the Children's Liturgy each Sunday, 2 must be present at each session and must have a DBS check.

All children age 5-11 are invited to attend. They read the same Gospel and have a child focused discussion on the content, using drama, role play, drawing. When they come back into the church the leader tells the congregation what they have discussed and often shows the results of their work, the children sometimes tell us what the session has meant to them.

First Holy Communion preparation takes place every 2 years, the 6 sessions take place after Mass.

Confirmation preparation is usually shared with Lambourne Church as there are fewer teenagers, the ceremony takes place in a larger church in the area.

Buildings & Maintenance – Audrey Curnock, Andrew Chell, Tony Fecher, Father Claro

There are certain legal inspections which have to take place on a regular basis.

Quinquennial inspection- takes place on church, hall and presbytery buildings every 5 years, a report is given to the parish about what works need to be done.

Electrical Safety – takes place every 5 years, report produced

Fire extinguishers safety – takes place every year by Red Box

First Aid equipment – should be checked on a regular basis by Health and Safety rep

Church Boiler service check – every year

Presbytery boiler service check – every year

We have been given a grant of £30,000 from Historic Churches to repair the large cracks which have appeared in the church. This was time/date dependent but due to Covid delays we have been given an extension, the Diocese is overseeing this and keeping us informed on progress.

A Structural engineering team inspected the church on Wednesday 13th Oct to try and determine the underlying cause, possibly subsidence or 'roof spread' they will produce a report and if accepted by the diocese will proceed with repairs.

Church Hall Lettings – Sue Cole

Income has reduced during Covid, but prior to that we were taking almost £6,000 per year in rent. Sue has started to get enquiries for bookings and has suggested perhaps we should revise the current rental of £8 per hour for parishioners and £12-£13.20 per hour to non-parishioners. We have kitchen facilities, Broadband, Internet access and safe parking. Some hall rentals in the area charge more, some make a separate charge for use of kitchen facilities.

Technical Advisor/Webmaster – Neill Taylor

Neill gave us a report on the website which has been updated throughout the covid crisis to deal with changing requirements. Zoom masses which started with Father Dominic in the presbytery have now moved to the church and have proved very popular in keeping the congregation together during the pandemic. Zoom is still being used by sick, elderly and vulnerable parishioners. Broadband and Wi-Fi have been installed in the church. We have purchased a new sound system and have increased the number of microphones. We now need to install speakers and a 'Loop' in the church to complete the upgrade.

Newsletter – Maria Cupitt

The newsletter has continued to be produced each week and has proved a lifeline to keep everyone updated with what is going on in the Parish. Maria edits the newsletter each Friday having received input from various people and groups and then Neil loads in onto the Parish website each Saturday, it has changed design from time to time.

Evangelization and outreach – Tony Fecher and Father Claro

Father Claro has been holding House Masses in the villages surrounding Faringdon and has met not only parishioners but also some Catholics who do not come to our church, more of these house masses are planned. Father Claro has been visiting various church groups, coffee mornings, rosary groups, not just in Faringdon but in the surrounding areas and getting to meet and greet people. Tony Fecher suggests we find ways to find out who the newcomers are in our wider area and find ways of reaching out and welcoming them.

Altar Servers – Denise Coquerel

Altar linens – Jenny Tierney

As Jenny is moving Mary Anne Poole has volunteered to take over the organization of the Rota dealing with this responsibility.

Red Mission Box – Jenny Tierney

Jenny is moving and has requested that someone volunteer to run this scheme collecting the red boxes. The Pastoral Council are currently investigating a new way of collecting money for the missions, which will be discussed with the participating members in due course.

Health and Safety – Paul Brame

Safeguarding – Mary Hughes

Mary briefly described what is involved in Safeguarding for Children and Vulnerable Adults.

Everyone who has a role in the church ministries, Catechists, Altar servers, Eucharistic Ministers who take communion to peoples homes have to have a DBS check. If you volunteer for one of the jobs that involve dealing with children and /or visiting people you will be approached by Mary to have a check done.

FUTURE ASPIRATIONS

Father Claro would like more volunteers for tea & coffee after Mass, driving people to Mass, starting rosary groups, he would like more people to volunteer and involve themselves in the ministries of the church

Maureen Courtney would like to see the Social Committee resurrected, perhaps some of the new members of our parish could volunteer to be responsible for this aspect of Parish life.

Emily Norton would like to provide something for the youth of the parish but would need volunteers to help with this

More volunteers to give lifts to people who would like to come to church but can't.

It was suggested that the Justice and Peace group be re started

Reminders

There will be a shared lunch in the hall on the feast of Christ the King 21st November

Comments on the document which has been issued are due back on 22nd October.

Several people would like longer to read the document and to comment on it.

Parish Council -The current members of the Parish Council are as followather Claro Conde, Audrey Curnock, Kathleen Thomas, Lorraine Brabin, Mary Hughes, Andrew Chell, Tony Fecher, Emmanuel Boakye, Paul Brame, Clare Cottingham