

## **St Werburgh's Parish Council – Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

Present: Fr Paul, Fr Neill, Marie Broadhurst, Judith Done, Barbara Graves, Denise Jones, Syd Jones (Parish Secretary), Bernice Meredith, Caroline Palmer, Anne Proctor, Gerry Tighe, Paula Wszolek

### **Opening Prayer and Welcome**

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2019 were reviewed and approved.

### **Arising**

#### **Primary School**

Fr Paul reported further his work with the Primary School and arrangements for school Masses for the Autumn Term following the arrival of Fr William and Fr James to look after the combined St Columba's and St Theresa's Parish.

### **Chester Parishes Together**

Fr Paul and Gerry reported back following the most recent meeting of Chester Parishes Together. Although still early days there was clearly some potential in working together on shared initiatives.

### **Confirmation**

Fr Paul, Anne, Marie and Gerry reported on the start of the Confirmation programme which had held its first meeting with the candidates. There were 43 candidates, including some adults, participating in the programme prepared by Isobel Arbones. Things were going extremely well.

### **Finance Update: April to August 2019**

Fr Paul and Syd reported the headline income and expenditure on the Parish Account for the period April to August 2019.

A full report on the half year position would be presented to the next Parish Council meeting

### **OMT: Minor Works and major project**

Parish Council again considered the minor works identified by the Parish as part of the OMT funding initiative. Minor works matters discussed included:

**Altar Cloths:** Gerry reminded Parish Council that a new white altar cloth was being woven at Stanbrook Abbey and on discussions with Hayes and Finch to provide red, green and purple altar cloths. The cloths were £250 each and £650 for the three.

**It was agreed:** to proceed with the purchase of 1 altar cloth (purple) from Hayes and Finch to check for quality and durability.

**Defibrillator:** Cost in the region of £1000. Several volunteers would need to be recruited to receive training.

**It was agreed:** To proceed with the purchase and Fr Paul, via the newsletter, to seek volunteers to undertake basic training.

**Dining Room Chairs:** Fr Paul reported that the upholstery of the dining room chairs was underway and the first had been completed. Work would continue based on one chair per month and he intended to keep the chairs "under wraps" until all had been completed

**Church Silverware:** Gerry reported that the church and altar bells were with Hayes and Finch for repair and refurbishment at a total cost in the region of £600. Also, that Hayes and Finch were able to supply a wall bracket for the Sanctuary lamp at a cost of £150. Gerry also reported that Hayes and Finch had kindly provided 40 prongs for the penny candles at no charge.

**Handrails to house door:** Fr Paul reported the handrails would be fixed in place tomorrow and the work had been done at no cost due to the generosity of a parishioner undertaking the work.

**Church kneelers:** Repairs were underway, again at no cost to the Parish due to the generosity of a parishioner undertaking the work.

**Lectionaries:** Rebinding of all three would cost in the region of £500 - £600

**It was agreed:** To proceed with the rebinding of the lectionaries

**Grand Piano and Sacristy floor:**

**It was agreed:** That the purchase of a grand piano and work to the sacristy floor should not proceed during the current financial year.

**Major project: the remodelling of the outside of the front of church.**

Fr Paul reported that the architects had completed their preliminary survey works and the cost was now estimated to be in the region of £100,000, still within our budget and OMT resources.

Proposals would be presented to the Parish by the architect in the next couple of months.

## **Options for the future use of the Day Chapel.**

As requested by Parish Council, Anne and Judith presented a preliminary report identifying basic work needed to bring the Day Chapel into productive use, whatever that use turned out to be.

Areas identified were

- Cleaning and storage
- Power, lighting and heating
- Decoration
- Carpeting

**It was agreed:** That Anne and Judith should continue to develop the work so far with a view to presenting to Parish options for the potential future use of the day chapel.

## **Altar Servers**

Gerry updated Parish Council on arrangements for the National Altar Servers Mass at Liverpool Cathedral and generally on Altar servers' matters including that Nicholas Canfield and Pranika Ross were both starting university in the autumn but would still wish to serve when time permits.

## **Renewing Parish Ministries**

Fr Paul updated generally on the need to renew Parish Ministries and encourage more younger people and particularly the need for additional sacristans to support the day Masses.

## **Repository**

Bernice reported that the repository would be reopened Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October with all the Christmas stock available.

## **Confidential Matters**

Parish Council considered one confidential matter.

**Next Meeting** – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019