

Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church Parish Advisory Committee

MINUTES

Tuesday 11th February 2025 6.30 pm

PRESENT Canon Lordan, Helen Zammit-Willson (Chair) Anna Holmes
Lorraine Pizzey, Geraldine Downing, Don Downing, Eileen Evans

1. Canon Lordan opened the meeting with a prayer
2. **APOLOGIES** Christopher Graffius, John Dyne, Carol Williams, Barrie Williams,
Kathy Home, Anna Frank-Keyes
3. **ITEMS FOR ANY OTHER BUSINESS (see below)**
4. **MATTERS ARISING FROM MEETING HELD MONDAY 28th OCTOBER 2024**

The Property Group as it stands was discussed and a review to be made at the AGM in June.

Kathy asked regarding the minus clergy welfare item on the Levy statement, Anna explained the minus applied because the cost was already covered by a donation or reimbursement from a care home. The 'donation' was split between the parishes therefore the cost for retired clergy was covered.

Thanks given to Geraldine Downing for arranging the Advent service

Thanks given to Don and Geraldine Downing for arranging the signage board etc and to Geraldine, Don and Kay McDonald for the Christmas decorations

The suggestion of a Christmas Gift Tree was looked into by Anna Holmes. The Cathedral have this in hand but the organisation "Family and Friends in Wrexham" welcome donations for under privileged children - preferably of gift cards from parishioners. Eileen Evans suggested she would prefer approaching local schools for suggestions of children who needed help – and it was also preferred that Christmas gifts are bought rather than gift cards as this gave the initiative more meaning. Geraldine suggested the local councillor Rob Walsh be contacted as he had experience in this area. Eileen agreed that investigating this would be taken on by the SVP who would come back to parishioners with a proposal at the AGM.

ACTION EILEEN EVANS

Eileen reported on behalf of Anna Frank-Keyes that she had spoken to John Dyne regarding Health and Safety, he was unfortunately unable to take on the role. It was suggested the Diocese be contacted to find out if the parish required someone in this role, what was expected of that person and if any training would be provided, so that a volunteer could be sought via the parish bulletin. Also what would happen should no volunteer be forthcoming.

ACTION HELEN ZAMMIT -WILLSON

Mary's Meals is still on Geraldine's things to do list. She has some concern because of the current cost of living crisis and asking for donations. This action was carried forward to the AGM.

ACTION GERALDINE DOWNING

CTS stand at rear of church, no offer to run has yet been received.

We now have new parish Mass books

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a) Property Group - there was no report provided by the Property Group. Canon stated that the Property Group should review the parish buildings and grounds on a regular basis – 2 or 3 times a year, to identify any maintenance issues. As discussed earlier in the meeting this would be raised at the AGM.
- b) Finance Committee - an account statement was handed to all attending.

Insurance has been paid for the year at a cost of £5,000

At the last Finance meeting in November 2024 it was decided to invest a further £10,000 in the Diocesan Internal Deposit scheme.

PARISH ACCOUNT £33,771.34 DIDs £150,000 PETTY CASH £11.35

Balance as at 05/02/2025 TOTAL FINANCIAL BALANCE £183,782.69

LIABILITIES

Collections - the latest collection was SPUC White Flower Appeal paid out 10/02/2025
Christmas offerings still to be counted and paid out.

Canon Lordan Priest allowances paid up to date, but he has yet to claim for mileage/other expenses since year end 2019 to date.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) Discussion took place on the Easter Vigil Mass and whether to join with another parish because of depleted numbers. Geraldine suggested it may help to take pressure from Canon. Although he felt it should be in the parish he would give it some thought - the consensus was this was for Canon to decide.

Helen is organising a Readers' meeting for 18 March 2025 to discuss organising readers for Palm Sunday and Easter Triduum and unless Canon says otherwise she would seek volunteers for the Easter Vigil Mass. **ACTION HELEN ZAMMIT-WILLSON**

- b) Geraldine spoke of Oonagh's concern at the lack of organists. She suggested a notice be put in the Clarion, as there maybe an organist from another parish who enjoys playing but doesn't always have the opportunity. Canon asked that Derek and Charlotte Hannaby be consulted but that a very good idea. **ACTION GERALDINE DOWNING**

- c) Geraldine brought up the subject of the number of second collections given the current cost of living and if in any way possible these could be reduced. It was discussed many were mandatory and others for very good causes. Eileen suggested that given the money in parish accounts perhaps that might be used to reduce the need for parishioners. It was explained that this is basically illegal as monies from weekly collection is given to the parish and therefore cannot be used to donate to other charities.

Canon would ensure that he emphasises when there is a second collection that parishioners should not feel obliged to contribute if they could not afford to do so.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING WILL BE SUNDAY 22nd JUNE 2025 11.30 AM - THIS WILL BE THE AGM

Canon Lordan closed the meeting with a prayer at 7.34pm