**The Roman Catholic Parish of Ss. Peter & Michael**

 **Woolston in the Warrington and Widnes Deanery** 

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council**

**Monday 15th April 2024 at 7.15pm**

**Present**:

J L G (Chair); Fr. M D; J M (Vice Chair); M F (Secretary); T W (Treasurer); G A; C G; G T; V M; T O; M H 2; J W; M W; C W 2; I W; C H

**1 Welcome**

J L G welcomed everyone to the meeting which immediately followed the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council.

**2 Apologies**

M H 1; P D; J J G; C W 1; T F; T H; K L

**3 Chair Introduction and Matters Arising From Minutes**

The minutes from the meeting of the Parish Council held on 4th March 2024 was accepted by the Parish Council. The Legion of Mary PPC had been postponed due to unforeseen circumstances and Fr. M D said he would contact the Legion for clarification on how the matter that caused the postponement could be resolved. There were no other matters arising except those featured on the agenda.

**4 Liturgy**

J M said that the weekend Mass attendances in March 2024 were an average of 153 parishioners attending Mass, this was up 7% on February 2024 and it was up 18.1% on March 2023. J M said that it looked like people were coming back to church and these increases were being seen across the archdiocese.

J M said that two new Eucharistic ministers had now signed up for training and the Holy Week Services went well and thanked all those who put in a lot of work behind the scenes to make the Services a success.

**5 Children’s Liturgy**

J M said those parishioners who had agreed to help should now be asked to come forward to be ready to start and have their DBS checks carried out. A note would be put in the church bulletin making this request. G T confirmed that there was already a note about this on the church website. The liturgy should now be put in place ready for the start of the children’s liturgy and he hoped that families will come and support this initiative.

**6 Progress on ‘Reaching Out’**

J L G said the ‘reaching out’ initiative was ongoing and it could be linked to the Families of Parishes Events by encouraging parishioners from other parishes to attend events at St Peter’s.

The next social event agreed by the Parish Council would be a Summer Fayre. This event would again raise funds for charity and include games for the children in the church garden, a bar and barbecue.

**6 Progress on ‘Reaching Out’ (Cont)**

The event would be for a full afternoon aimed primarily at families with children at St. Peter’s School. The date would have to be decided on but could link to grandparent’s day in July, but must avoid school event days and school holidays. The ‘With Love, Steph’ charity would again help with running the event. The event would be publicised with leaflets, on the church Facebook page, church website and in the church bulletin.

J L G said encouraging the families of the children at St. Peter’s school back to church could also be achieved through the Sacramental programme, particularly with holding as many of the Sacramental programme lessons as possible in church. J L G would ask H L the head teacher to ask her if she would allow more of these lessons to be held in church. The enthusiasm shown by the pupils in church when they attended the school carol service and Stations of the Cross was very encouraging.

**7 Families of Parishes Events**

M H 2 said that the second Families of Parishes event would be a walk from St Oswald’s to St Peter’s on Sunday, 12th May 2024. The walk would start with liturgy at St Oswald’s. During the walk there would be a pause for a talk about the works at the weir and would finish at St Peter’s with a presentation on the history of St Peter’s, a liturgy and refreshments with tea and cakes. There would be no refreshments after Sunday Mass on that day.

For the next event, Fr. D H suggested a joint project for all the parishes in East Warrington and this would be discussed at the next meeting of the Synodal Deanery Council.

**8 Parish Trip to Lourdes**

G A confirmed that they were going ahead with the Parish Trip to Lourdes with the small number of parishioners who had put their names down for the trip. The contribution from Woolston Parish council towards the trip, which had been requested by G A, had not yet been received.

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**9 AOB**

Maintenance Issues

T H had sent a message to confirm that he had sent an email to the surveyor at LACE regarding the possibility of subsidence in the church buildings and problems with the garden wall adjacent to the Memorial Garden. He was awaiting a date when the surveyors can attend to look at these issues.

M W volunteered to have a look in the void under the church floor for signs of subsidence whilst awaiting the visit of the surveyors. Fr. M D said that the building is very old and it should be no surprise that these kinds of issues can arise with it, however as it is a listed building there may be grants available which could be applied for in the event that significant repairs are needed.

Gift Aid

G T said that he had received gift aid forms for 2023/24 and T W said that these should be forwarded to him for completion.

**10 Date of Next meeting**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in the Millennium Room on Monday, 13th May 2024 at 7.00pm. The Agenda will be circulated before the meeting.

**11 Close**

The meeting closed at 8.20pm with a prayer led by J L G.