

St Anne Line Catholic Church

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 15th October 2024 – 7.40pm – St Anne Line Parish Hall

Attendees:

Patrick Shiel – Chairperson

Fr Barto

Tina Marrai

Jacinta Balchin – Minute Secretary

Juliette Balchin

Damian O'Connor

Andreas Calle-Rodriguez

Mike Eggleton (Visitor)

1. Opening Prayer and a moment's silence in memory of Robert Kirby.
2. Apologies: Rev Alan, Paddy Frew, Greg Eglin, Noreen Payton.
Patrick welcomed Juliette to the meeting.
3. Minutes of last meeting held on 4th June 2024 were noted and agreed.
4. Matters arising are covered in the committee reports below.
 - a. Finance – Patrick circulated a review of the accounts for the 5 months ending 5th September 2024.
 - i. For the 5 months ending 5 September 2024 there was a deficit of £376 for the parish's general fund compared to a deficit of £2,371 (excluding legacies) for the same period the year before.
 - ii. Total income was £44,889 compared to £45,137 (excluding legacies) for the previous year. Increases were seen in items such as offertory income and donations. Other income was also a little higher than over the comparative period.
 - iii. Gift aid refunds have only partially been refunded and more is awaited.
 - iv. Total expenditure was £45,275 compared with £47,508 last year with rises in items such as pastoral personnel costs which included Fr Barto's pilgrimage to Lourdes, and higher liturgical costs with the purchase of new banners and hymn books. Premise costs included the purchase of the parish defibrillator as well as new windows and front door for the presbytery and comparatively higher utility bills.
 - b. Youth Update – Andreas and Juliette provided a brief update on the 18+ group.
 - i. The group has been going for a year now but more recently there has been a decline in numbers. The group is made up of a number of couples and so this makes a bigger impact when a couple cannot attend.
 - ii. It was noted that the Parish is small and therefore makes attendance more difficult when the group is not an obligation, as well as engaging with potential attendees.

The Council discussed the possibility of putting a message on the Parish Christmas cards for the next session. This prompted a further discussion about using e-cards instead of the traditional paper Christmas cards, as we have about 300 parishioner e-mails now. It was agreed that for the time being, paper cards (using recycled paper) were favoured.

Jacinta provided an update on the secondary school Youth activities.

- iii. Due to exceptionally small number in Year 10 from St Anne Line this year, it was decided to not have a confirmation programme this year. Although this is disappointing, it seemed unfair on the single potential applicant to not experience more of a group setting. The option to join next year or to go to St Thomas of Canterbury were given if they want to specifically do it this year. From the school applications, next year's intake looks much better for numbers.
- iv. After the summer break, the SVP Youth Group had opportunities to support the community with litter picking in Wanstead and supporting the Redbridge Food Bank at the local supermarkets on collection days.
- v. Members of the group that were confirmed in June also recently enjoyed a celebration day out volunteering at the Southend SVP kindness centre. This was followed by lunch and spending a few hours at the local theme park. Yet again, we had the sun shining on the day despite it being October.
- vi. Future events ahead include supporting the Parish Christmas events, notably the Christmas bazaar and the nativity as well as a Christmas Craft session and festive ice skating in November.
- vii. A Parish Food Bank collection for Advent is planned as well as the group will be volunteering on 7th November to put together the Christmas boxes at the food bank for the most needy in the community.

It was noted that there was slow progress with Youth and young adult collaboration with the Parish of Our Lady of Lourdes. Fr Barto confirmed that Fr Martin wanted time to settle in before any new discussions.

- c. Fr Barto provided a brief update to the Council.
 - i. The FHC course starts this Sunday with eleven children. Earlier this year, thirteen children celebrated their First Holy Communion in the Parish.
 - ii. The RCIA course currently has three people signed up.
 - iii. Fr Barto travelled to Fatima as part of a pilgrimage with Steve and Anna from the Parish and their parents. A total of 111km was walked culminating with Holy mass in the Basilica. Following this, Steve and Anna suggested that for the following 9 months, a pilgrimage of Our Lady takes place within the

Parish and on 1st of every month devotions to the Immaculate heart of Mary is celebrated. This will start from next month.

- iv. Last Saturday, training took place in Billericay with 6 members of the Parish to foster more engagement with parishioners and pastoral support.
- v. On Saturday 23rd November there will be a Day of Reconciliation and Recollection with the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal until 4pm. There will be a collection on the Sunday and masses throughout the week as part of the Parish Advent mission.
- vi. The Year of Jubilee will start on 24th December 2024 and run to 6th January 2026. The opening of the Holy door at St Peters will take place on 24th December 2024. Plans for Parish events to celebrate the year are now being discussed.
- vii. There will be a celebration for the feast of St Anne Line on Saturday 1st February with an international themed meal. On 27th February, the day St Anne Line was executed, Holy mass has also been arranged at Tyburn Convent for all to attend.
- viii. A diocesan pilgrimage to Walsingham is planned for Saturday 24th May.
- ix. In September 2025, a mission of the Parish will be held for the Redemptorists.
- x. A number of work items have also now been completed which include the lights in the Parish Hall, lights around the church which had shorted, and the defibrillator fitted into place.
- xi. A question from the Council related to the recent omission of the Hail Mary after the bidding prayers at Sunday mass. Fr Barto noted this and said that it would be reinstated.

The Council discussed the possibility of renovating the porch area, such as squaring it off. Fr Barto welcomed the Council's thoughts on this, and comments should be sent to Anne in the office.

- d. Parish Social – Tina provided an update. It has been a busy period.
 - i. Current plans include:
 - Bazaar – 17th November
 - Nativity Play – 21st December followed by mince pies and refreshments.
 - Nothing currently planned for January.
 - 3rd Feb – Feast of St Anne Line – international themed event on Saturday 1st.
 - Quiz – March 2025 (St Patricks weekend)
 - ii. Afternoon club still strong with 26 recently attending a lunch. Normally the group has 14-15 minimum in the afternoons which alternates with the coffee mornings at OLOL. An outing in January is also planned.
- e. Buildings maintenance Health and safety – Damian circulated a maintenance and grounds tracker to cover the status of key items since the last meeting.
 - i. Items of note include a fourth contractor identified to quote for the car park resurfacing works from the Diocesan list of approved contractors. The aim is to appoint a contractor asap.

- ii. The new raised bed now needs new plants – shrubs at the front are currently maintained by Shirley Reynolds. The topsoil delivered has been moved with the help of Parishioners.
- iii. A bench and plaque for Tony remain to be sourced.
- iv. An architect has provided a quote to Fr Barto to consider for the potential extension of the presbytery.
- v. It is not clear whether another broken windowpane in the Parish Hall is vandalism or something else.

It was agreed that checking CCTV and the padlocks on the gates should be the first step in dealing with this.

- vi. It was noted that there is only 1 microphone in the choir loft. Other comments from the Parish included the request for more familiar hymns and for the speed variation between organ and flute/guitar to be considered when Francisco returns on 28th October.
- vii. It is also difficult for the choir to hear the congregation singing in the loft.
- viii. There is currently a Health and Safety concern about the cables in the choir loft.

It was agreed that the Health & Safety officer should check that the cables are adequately fixed so as not to be a trip hazard or make suggestions as to what is needed.

- f. SVP
 - i. It was confirmed that support was provided predominantly from referrals and ongoing individual visits.

AOB

- Mike has drafted a social media policy to cover the Parish website, Facebook pages and X. It also covers the storage, management and taking of photos.
- How to move forward with Laudato Sí was discussed. A Parish picnic was suggested and further information is to be circulated to the Parish to help continued engagement with this important initiative.

5. Concluding Prayer

6. Dates for next meetings – 25th February 2025 at 7.40pm

Meeting concluded at 10.30pm