

PARISH OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

MINUTES ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 7th May, 2019, 8 pm.

AGENDA

1. The meeting was opened with a prayer.
2. Meeting was attended by 23 parishioners, including current council members. Apologies from Stephen Parker, Jacqueline Stacey.
3. The meeting focused mainly on the reports from each main area. The full reports can be read in the parish annual report. The minutes summarise only the core points emphasised in the meeting. The corresponding reports from each council area were available in hardcopy for attendees to browse before the meeting, and then attendees were given an opportunity to talk about each area in turn.
4. The chair Nick Neale gave a brief introduction on the current landscape and the past year, focussing on the Deanery re-organisation. In summary, the feared large scale changes have not occurred yet, aside from the need to reduce to one Sunday morning mass, which of course has been difficult for several parishioners. A suggestions box is being used to monitor parishioner views on the mass format begin used and these are considered by the parish council. Of course it is impossible to satisfy all people all the time and we do need to be undergoing constant renewal in our faith and spiritual practice; to stand still is not an option.
5. A **finance** report was given by Derek. The regularly weekly income is slightly down on the previous year (about £30 a week), although gift aid rebates have increased. The main outlier was repairs and maintenance where some heavy expenditure was needed. The basic surplus for year was about £9k which is comfortable.
6. **Liturgy and spirituality.** Father Kevin is very much at centre of life of the parish and we are very grateful to him. We should try to make more use of the requirement/opportunity to bring the previous 2 mass communities together and be a more cohesive parish. Also we are very grateful to music group, especially for their Taize evenings.
7. **Mission and evangelisation.** We have more helpers with first holy communion preparation which means overall far more parishioners are involved. The biggest news is the introduction of a new youth group. Other activities are listed in the report.
8. **Justice and peace.** There are two main threads of activities: overseas and local (eg food bank). Currently the group is giving more focus to appeals to help people's giving to be most useful. Also they are planning a creation celebration service in the autumn. They want NEW members and an appeal will be in the bulletin.
9. **Pastoral care.** Largely summarised what in the report. Wanted to emphasise the Hallam churches project and how well attended and supported the good Friday event was.
10. **Maintenance.** David gave a very detailed report. We note our thanks as David continues this role although not on the parish council.
11. **Communications .** Ideally we need more volunteers to help with the website, especially now it is in a new format which is very easy to edit. Perhaps we should target some specific people for this. Ideally a parish council member could manage relevant aspects. Richard Webster may be keen to be involved. We should give more visibility to the suggestions box and maybe should redo the survey in about a year once the new mass arrangement has settled? Should add a report on the original survey to the annual parish report. Richard Campbell will send.
12. **Youth ministry.** Youth was a big issue in the AGM of 2018 so Richard Webster and Lindsay (and Clare Bryne and Richard Bushell) have led on creating a youth group. Current meetings often focussed around a shared meal and some faith related discussion. Young people seem to

be responding well and using both as a foundation and confidence building for further involvement in parish activities and indeed beyond. We want to grow slowly and gradually investigate and support where the youth can and/or want to get involved.

13. **Liaison with St. Williams Parish.** Largely the two parishes are continuing as independent. A main change is efforts are made to ensure we share information on activities within each parish. Going forward we should focus on individual relationships, but as St. Williams do not have a council, it is not obvious how to do this. The Council role for this liaison should be smaller for the coming year and focus primarily on information sharing.
14. **Matters from the floor.**
 - Have we moved on the “in case of emergency” documentation, in the parish? Add to council agenda for a future meeting.
 - We had a thank you letter from the trainee priest we are sponsoring.
 - Thanks given to Stephen and Eva for their long service as they step down.
 - New members are needed. No volunteers at the meeting so we need to be proactive in gaining new members over the next few weeks.
15. Finished with a prayer

Dates of future Meetings. 10/7, 11/9, 13/11, 8/1, 11/3 @ 7pm and AGM 12/5 @ 8pm