

Minutes of Joint Parish Life Group Meeting for Holy Rood & Our Lady & St James

Held in Holy Rood Presbytery on 17th April 2024 @ 7.00pm

Present

Fr D Humphries, Deacon Paul Green, 10 Parishioners from Holy Rood, 4 Parishioners from Our Lady's

Apologies

Mrs Emily Vickers, Mr Edward & Mrs Christine Hawley, Mr Alan Fairbanks.

The meeting opened with a prayer.

Minutes

The minutes were read and passed.

Matters arising

Fr Damian stated that the the Polish & Syro Malabar communities have begun celebrating their Masses on alternate Sundays. They contribute £60 per service for the use of the church.

HEALTH & SAFETY/SAFEGUARDING

Holy Rood H&S covering February 2024 - April 2024

Emma Green reported that she is expecting training for her role as Health & Safety Rep for Holy Rood to take place shortly.

Safety Tool Box - Emma also said that she will also be undertaking Diocesan training for Safety Toolbox compliance procedures.

Fire Drill - A fire drill for the Syro Malabar community will take place at the next Syro Malabar Mass. Emma stated that she will also be arranging a Fire Drill Practise for the Polish Community Mass.

The six week premises checks are being undertaken regularly.

Fixed Wire Testing - This has taken place and the remedial work required is being costed by Mr J Clarke the Diocesan H&S Officer.

Prams - A discussion took place in regard to the issue of prams being parked in the side aisles. Emma agreed to investigate different approaches to try to solve the problem.

****See attached report** - for a more detailed update

Our Lady's H&S covering January 2024 - April 2024

Safety Toolbox Compliance Currently: No red flags.

Mr Andrew Shepherd has sent details of the proposed safety rails for the bell tower steps.

****See attached report** - for a more detailed update

Safeguarding

A report from Mrs Emily Vickers stated that 2 DBS checks had been completed for Holy Rood Parish and 1 DBS check completed for Our Lady's. Emily also stated that she has had no further training for her role at Holy Rood. Emily also stated that Our Lady's Safeguarding Rep role has now been filled.

****See attached report** - for a more detailed update

FINANCE

Quarterly Planned Giving figures were provided by Mrs Sue K-D

**** See attached report - for a more detailed update**

<u>Holy Rood</u>	Current Account £21,044.89 As at 1 st April 2024	Deposit Account - £156936.75 As at 1 st January 2024
<u>Our Lady's</u>	Current Account £2,290.85 As at 1 st April 2024	Deposit Account £115,905.09 As at 1 st April 2024

Deacon Paul stated that in some churches single Gift Aid donation envelopes are available. Sue K-D said that there had only been 1 request for a single envelope, but that she would investigate further.

**** See attached report**

Fr Damian stated that the Church Hall Hire Rental would be increased to offset the rising energy costs. the new rate will be £22.50 per hour, with the discounted rate being £17.50 per hour.

All 3 boilers replaced.

Financial summary sheets for both churches were provided by Fr Damian.

FABRIC

Holy Rood - In Mr Alan Fairbanks absence Fr Damian gave the Fabric report :- he said that revised plans for the work on the portico are being undertaken. The redecorating of the church doors has not begun.

The tidying of the shrubbery in the car park is taking place on 13th May at a cost of £780.00.

The Lady Chapel roof needs replacing. Water is regularly leaking into the church. The lead from the roof has been stolen twice in the past.

Our Lady's - Fr Damian stated that the some of the double glazed windows and the glass in the exterior door in the meeting room had blown and need replacing. Redecorating the church would not be undertaken at this time.

Holy Rood & Our Lady's - Quinquennial Inspection will take place shortly at a cost of £3-4,000.

SOCIAL

Holy Rood - Sharon Clarke stated that the joint Lenten prayer meetings with Our Lady's had been largely successful, and people seemed to enjoy them. The proposed flower arrangement class had been cancelled.

A discussion took place in regard to the arrangements to celebrate the Jubilee in 2025. Deacon Paul stated that further information will be forthcoming from the Diocese on 9th May. He and Sharon Clarke agreed to meet to discuss future arrangements, among a few possible ideas for discussion were. An Irish Dancing Event, a Choral event etc.

A U.C.M. outing is being planned.

Our Lady's - A possible summer event, such as a Hog roast or similar may take place later in the year.

CATECHESIS/PASTORAL CARE

Holy Rood - Mr Lee Redhead agreed to design a sign-in sheet/booklet to be used for First Communion candidates. First Communion Date - Saturday June 15th 2024 at 10:00am.

Sharon Clarke said that Children's Liturgy at 11:00am Mass continues to be generally well attended. The children seem to enjoy their special Liturgy.

Confirmation - Classes continue with approximately 12 candidates taking part. Confirmation will take place on June 12th at 7:00pm.

The Polish Priest has stated that he is happy for his congregation to continue their catechetical instruction with Holy Rood Catechists.

R.C.I.A - Mrs Christine O'Sullivan stated that all the meetings had been completed, and that she would like to retire from her role. Fr Damian thanked her for all her work and Deacon Paul agreed to take over the catechesis for R.C.I.A replacing Christine and Sue K-D.

May Procession - The May procession will take place at Holy Rood on Sunday 5th May. A request may be made for people to bring flowers to Mass.

Baptism - The next Baptism course will be on Sunday 19th of May at 2:00pm at Our Lady's. with the enrolment ceremony taking place at Holy Rood at the 9:30am Mass at Holy Rood on 26th of May 2024.

A.O.B

Parish Statistics

Fr Damian stated that since the difficult days of the Covid pandemic (2020) congregation numbers in both churches have gradually increased.

At Holy Rood last weekend 363 people attended Mass, the highest figure since before 2016. There are young Altar Servers assisting at Mass, as well as young readers, vocalists and children's liturgy attendees, which is a very positive sign for the Parish.

Lent & Easter Reviews

Lent and Easter Services were well attended. Appreciation was expressed to Fr Damian and Deacon Paul for all their hard work.

Barnsley Youth Choir had expressed an interest in using the church. Mr Patrick Logan & Fr Damian had discussions with BYC regarding the various requirements needed to host such events. BYC decided against using the church at this time. Fr Damian asked the meeting what their opinions were regarding any future booking of the church and/or any possible restrictions about such use. It was agreed that a 'short paragraph' explaining 'Terms of Use' be composed and used for future bookings. This to include a note to the effect that refreshments are not to be made available in church as this is a 'sacred space'.

Dates of Next Meeting: 11th September 2024