# St. Mary's Parish Council & Finance Committee Meeting September 18th 2024 at 7pm St. Mary's Church Hall Minutes

**Present:** Veronica H, Anne S, Sue F, Peter T, Sean H, Kate E, Pauline L, Jane M, Malcolm T, Simon R, Joanne T

1.	Apologies for Absence: Received from Larry C	ACTION
2.	Opening Prayer: Led by Fr Sean	
3.	<ul> <li>Minutes of Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July</li> <li>i) Minutes agreed</li> <li>ii) Communion from Chalice – another bottle of hand sanitizer required on the left side of alter – Joanne T to facilitate</li> <li>Ministers can still distribute communion even if they choose not to receive from the chalice. At Saturday vigil, only Fr Sean distributes</li> </ul>	JT
	hosts, so only 'chalice eucharistic ministers' required.  Thank you to the Cardozo Family for the beautiful flowers in the church and the delicious food in the hall on Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> September.  A very fitting way to remember Sammy at the time of his birthday.  Two sisters who have recently joined the church and are working towards confirmation expressed an interest in organising future social events. Their details have been shared with Larry.  Joanne T to check food hygiene requirements for such events.  V) Hot water boiler in church hall – is fixed! (see below).	JT
4.	Parish Constitution Simon R provided amended copies of the old parish constitution with proposed updates. These were seconded and adopted. Joanne T to reference in newsletter and print copies for the hall with meeting minutes. Thank you to Simon for his work. Fr Sean intends to share draft with St Aidan's Parish Council.	JT
5.	Finance & Buildings Update  Current balance is a little under £15K  Three quarters of diocesan levy is outstanding. Should this be paid in three separate payments across the remaining financial year or as a lump sum in October? Council voted to pay lump sum in October - £5,555.90  Trees around property have been cut back and inspected as per health and safety requirements. Five year Electrical Testing has been completed (H&S Requirement) Small repairs addressed including new sockets in church hall kitchen for hot water boiler and dishwasher / security light outside back door.	JT

Windows and gutters have been cleaned. As has church carpet.

Men's toilets have been repaired.

Brown door has been painted and cladding has been replaced.

# Items from Fr Sean not on the agenda

Fr Sean and members of the Jesmond St Mary's Partnership have met with Jesuits with a view to realising and tackling some of the local challenges faced by our churches. Termed 'sustainably spirituality' they are looking at ways faith and spirituality can be supported with fewer priests and less opportunities for traditional engagement. We all need to consider how this can be met going forward.

Peter T welcomed the very proactive approach and thanked Fr Sean for facing the issue head on, again encouraging the group to engage the parish and share ideas. Peter referenced some free catechist training he and Trisha were doing and suggested it may be something for others to look into.

ALL

### Musicians Rota (Peter T)

St Mary's musicians all have access to online rota via the St Mary's website. Can everyone please ensure names are entered against dates you are playing and selected hymns are emailed to Joanne T by the Wednesday.

This will ensure any gaps are covered with adequate time to rehearse and decks are prepared for the weekend.

Note: VOH do not perform in August due to holidays

Joanne thanked Sue F who steps in (across the weekend) as vocals lead when there is no musical accompaniment.

Simon thanked Peter for his work encouraging the parish children to get involved with end of mass hymns.

### 8. Safeguarding Update

The diocese has circulated the final report from the CSSA relating to their interim review which took place in May 2024. It shows 'vastly improved' safeguarding commitments. Full statement can be viewed on diocese website.

# 9. AOB

First Holy Communions 2025 - Joanne T

Programme will be led again by Pauline, Stefania, Joanne and Joanne Gartland (head of RE at primary school). Sessions will be on a Sunday before mass. Noise Levels – Malcolm T

We need to remind the congregation to observe a short silence before mass begins on a Sunday morning. Noise and chatter is becoming too common. Fr Sean will step up to lectern to remind people for next few weeks and then perhaps Reader of the day will be responsible going forward.

**Date of next meeting** - Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm Joanne T to print off invite slips previously used by council to encourage new members to attend next meeting.

JT

Fr Sean concluded meeting with a final prayer.