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

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

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

**Monday 4th September 2023 at 7.00pm**

**Present**:

J L G (Chair); Fr. M D; M F (Secretary); C G; M H 1; T H; G A; T O; J W; K L; G T; R H

**1 Welcome and Opening Prayer**

J L G welcomed everyone to the meeting and Fr. M D led the opening prayer.

**2 Apologies**

T F; M H 2; T W; J M; J J G; C W; V M; P D

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

The minutes from the meeting of the Parish Council held on 10th July 2023 was accepted by the Parish Council. There were no matters arising except those featured on the agenda.

**4 Liturgy**

J M had sent a note that said that weekend Mass attendances in July 2023 were an average of 134 parishioners attending Mass, about the same as June 2023 but down 6.3% on July 2022. In the note J M said the attendances were only about 70% of pre Covid-19 levels.

J M added that weekend Mass attendances in August 2023 were an average of 137 parishioners attending Mass, slightly up on July 2023 but down 12.5% on August 2022. In the note J M said the attendances were only about 66.5% of pre Covid-19 levels

Also in his note J M added that our four new Eucharistic Ministers are now visiting the sick unaccompanied. The Parish Council wish them well in their ministry.

There will be another training day for Eucharistic Ministers in Liverpool on Saturday, 30th September 2023. J M has submitted three names for those Eucharistic Ministers wishing to attend, G L, C W and M P. P D and R H would also like to attend, but are not available on that date. They may well be included at a later date.

M H 1 advised the Parish Council that Fr. D H said there was a meeting about confirmations on Friday, 8th September 2023 and that she would be attending this meeting on behalf of the Parish.

J L G said that the Grandparents’ Day Service went really well and he had retained this year’s Grandparents’ Day resources so that the parish can build on this year’s success next year. The Lourdes trip was also a great success and hopefully can be built on next year. The dates for the Archdiocese trip to Lourdes next year will be 19th July 2024 to 26th July 2024.

**4** **Liturgy (Continued)**

Fr. M D said that the Parish Council needed to progress the resumption of the Children’s Liturgy. This could also help increase the numbers of families returning to Mass.

A request would be made for volunteers to run the little church in the church bulletin and on the website. M H 1 suggested inviting the second and third years at St Peter’s School to get involved as they prepare to start their Eucharistic Programme. The Parish Council agreed to start the Children’s liturgy in the next few weeks.

Fr. M D also confirmed that St Peter’s School would hold a children’s Mass on Friday, 22nd September 2023 at 9.30am, the Advent Mass for the school would be on 1st December 2024 and the First Holy Communion service next year would be held on 18th May 2024.

**5 Parish Trip to Thicket Priory**

The trip would take place on 4th November 2023 and had proved very popular with parishioners this year as in previous years. The cost would be limited to the cost of the coach trip.

**6 Bonfire and Fireworks**

Fr. M D confirmed that H L, St Peter’s School Headteacher, had said that the school would like to hold the Fireworks at the school this year probably on Tuesday, 7th November 2023. This would still be a parish and school event.

As an alternative for an event to be held at the church, J L G suggested the parish hold an Autumn/Winter Parish Event similar to a Christmas Market Event. The event could be called ‘Winter Wonderland’. The Parish Council agreed to add this item to the agenda for the next meeting on 9th October 2023 to finalise the details of the event.

**7 Season of Creation 2023**

The Symbol for the Season of Creation 2023 is the river of Justice and Peace. The Season of Creation is now underway as planned. G T said that M H 2 had suggested that as last year a soup kitchen event could be arranged to mark the end of the Season of Creation. The Parish council agreed to hold this on the same basis as last year after Mass on Sunday, 8th October 2023.

**8 AOB**

Church Maintenance

The further quotes for changes to the kitchen in the church house have still proved too high for Fr. M D to give them the go ahead. T H agreed to draw up some plans to modernise the existing kitchen and provide a new private dining area for Fr. M D in a more cost effective way. Fr. M D could then review the plans once they have been prepared to take this matter forward.

Church Rotas

The Parish Council agreed to continue with the welcome rota and M H 1 said she would prepare the parish rota for the Eucharistic Ministers. The Parish Council also agreed to recommence tea and toast in the millennium room on a weekly basis from October 2023.

**9 Date of Next meeting**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in the Millennium Room on Monday, 9th October 2023 at 7.00pm. The Agenda will be circulated before the meeting.

**10 Close**

The meeting closed at 8.05pm with a prayer led by Fr. M D.