

St James & St William of York
Parish Finance Committee

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday, 3rd March 2010 at 8pm

Present: Christine Gordon
Graham Johnson
Tom Nickson Chair
Canon John O'Shea Parish priest
Helen Roberton
Jackie Welton Minutes Secretary

1. Opening Prayer

The meeting began with prayer led by Fr John.

2. Apologies

There were no apologies.

3. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th January 2010 having been circulated were accepted as a true and accurate record.

4. Matters arising

St William of York footpath paving: Although a quote was accepted last summer the work hasn't started and so it was thought that the best option would be to contact a small works company to do the job. Fr John suggested asking English Martyrs if they used someone local. Graham Johnson also mentioned some loose slabs by the side entrance of St Williams which need to be looked at.

Housekeeper arrangements: Following the retirement of Fr Dominic's housekeeper, Fr John has employed someone to do his cooking, cleaning and shopping. She works from 9.30am - 2.30pm on Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays.

5. Accounts update

Although the parish current account is at the present time slightly overdrawn the Diocesan Finance Office is aware of the reasons.

6. Significant finance and property concerns

Works complete:

- St Williams annex roof: The damaged roof on top of the kitchen at St Williams has been replaced. A tree just inside the car park which was damaged by the snow earlier in the year has been removed.

Works ongoing:

- St James boundary wall: Fr John has been meeting with Sean Hayes, the Diocesan Surveyor and representatives of Reading Borough Council to discuss the re building of the boundary wall at St James. Because of the various consents needed it's likely that it will be some time before the work commences. The cost will be split 50/50 with Reading Borough Council.
- St Williams kitchen: Work has commenced on the disability access and kitchen and is progressing well. It is hoped that it will be completed in 4 weeks. The builders have been asked for a quote to decorate the small side room but the committee suggested that a small team of parishioners could do it.

Works proposed:

- CCTV Church and Presbytery: As the church is open all day Fr John would like to have CCTV cameras installed. A monitor would be placed in the parish office and a smaller one in Fr John's study enabling us to keep an eye on what is going on in church. He also proposed a camera over the presbytery front door making it possible to see who is there before opening the door. There was a suggestion was that a monitor be placed at the entrance of the church so that anyone entering knows that they are being filmed. Fr John is to obtain a couple of quotes for the work.
- Temporary Baptismal Pool for Easter/Pentecost: Fr John has been in consultation with Baptistry UK about the possibility of obtaining a Baptismal Pool in time for Easter. The pool would be placed in front of the altar between Easter and Pentecost and folds up for storage the rest of the year. The cost of hiring one is £160 - £165 and the cost of buying one is £1,100 - £1,300. The committee thought the best option is to hire one this year and if it is successful to consider buying one for next year.
- New garage: Fr John was asked what his thoughts were on having the garage replaced and said it wasn't a priority for him. It was decided to defer this until a later date.

7. Living Our Faith

Fr John has met with the Living Our Faith team and they've decided to enlarge the team. A letter of invitation has been sent to 20 people inviting them to a meeting on Friday, 5th March. he hopes to recruit 5 - 10 more people from the group. Our parish has been given a target of £155,000 and the parish receives back 25% of the amount raised. If the target is exceeded 80% comes back to the parish. The initiative has 3 phases: the quiet phase, the public phase and a final blitz on the last Sunday. The diocese has a target of £7,000,000 and the money raise will be used to train students for the priesthood, for the training of lay people, and for a fund from which parishes can borrow money for building projects. It suggested that more mention be made of the fact that the Diocesan accounts are available on the Diocesan website.

8. Any other business

Graham Johnson asked if it would be possible to have a tour of the church sites as there are many areas he is unfamiliar with. It was suggested this take place later in the year.

Christine Gordon asked Fr John if he felt there was anything he felt needed doing in the house. He said that he had purchased a filing cabinet and new phone system.

Helen Robertson asked about the leaking window at St Williams. The Reading Stained Glass Company has been asked to come and fix it.

10. Concluding Prayer by Fr John. The meeting finished at 10pm.

11. Next meeting: Date: Wednesday 2nd June, 8pm, St James Presbytery.