

PARISH AGM – ST. LAWRENCE CHURCH, SIDCUP

Minutes of the Parish AGM, 30th March 2023. Fr. Paul welcomed everyone to the meeting and started the meeting with a prayer.

St. Peter Chanel Primary School update by Mrs Gower – Headteacher

Mrs Gower said that the school's current intake of catholic children is only 30% and asked parishioners for suggestions on how this could be improved. **Action:** The school proposes to be more visibly present in the parish.

St. Lawrence Charitable Trust update by Teresa Haverty

SLCF is a separate charity from the parish. The referrals come from the SW/Mental Health team at Bexley Council, with 15-20 - requests for help/month, mostly in terms of household equipment as they don't give out money directly. The monthly spend is around £4 - £5k.

Finance update by Chris Lang Finance Chair - The monthly income is marginally above monthly expenses. The largest income is from the standing orders. CL thanked Nick Wells for all his hard work in raising the gift aid percentage by over 15%. The utilities are likely to go up from 7% to 21% of annual expenditure due to fuel price rises. **Action:** A drive to increase the SO's to be held next year. **Action:** Once the Parish Council is established, welcome packs to be prepared for new parishioners – these should contain info about the parish, school and gift aid sign up forms.

Parish Estate Plans update by Fr. Paul Kyne - The aim for the development of the flat at 1 Hamilton Road is to generate income for the parish. The cost of the paving and ramps will be approx. £30k, it is hoped this cost will be reduced by applying for a £10k grant as the work is for disabled access. The area will receive security provisions. The planning does not insist on a tenant's car park space but cycle storage and separate bins is a requirement.

Parish Organisation Chart - The organisation areas include:

Communications – Website, Social Media and Newsletter. Tony Slonecki is looking into the redesigning of the website as it is outdated. The website will need to be done professionally, easy to navigate and serve the needs of the parish.

Works of Charity – Rosie Desbruslais is leading this area with support from Caritas Southwark. The aim is to listen to people/provide a place for support in the parish where parishioners can turn to for help. **Action:** Prayer Request book to be set up in the Church.

Evangelisation – Fr. Allan will be leading a course on 'The Mass' after Easter.

Entertainment – Events to bring the community together and raise money for the parish.

Parish Liaison/New Initiatives – Led by Marie O'Grady-Hills and Geoff Prendergast.

Maintenance – Last year a lot of money was spent on works in the hall, church and office to repair and replace equipment so we met the H&S requirements.

Action: The PO Chart to be displayed with photos of who's doing what. A sign-up Sunday to be held so parishioners can sign up to volunteer for various roles.

Hall – Fr. Paul said that we cannot afford a caretaker for the hall and currently there are no plans to refurbish the hall. **Action:** If there are enough volunteers the lunch club could start small as a Friday Café serving a soup lunch.

Fr. Paul closed the meeting with a prayer and thanked everyone for their commitment and energy and everyone who contributed to the AGM.