



**Catholic Parish of
St Cuthbert Mayne, Launceston
St Peter's, Bude and
Our Lady of Victories, Callington**

Annual General Meeting

at St Cuthbert Mayne Church, Launceston
Charles Langdon Room (church hall)
On Sunday 14th May 2023

Minutes

Meeting Chaired by Fr John Deeny

Present: Fr John Deeny and twenty members of the parish.

In attendance: Clare Hartley-Mead (Parish Secretary), taking minutes
Welcome and opening prayer

Welcome and opening prayer

Fr John noted that this was the first AGM in five years and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The prayer Adsumus Sancte Spiritus was read, which has historically been used at Councils, Synods and other Church gatherings for hundreds of years.

Fr John gave a verbal report, which is available in full, at the end of these minutes.

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) Constitution

Fr John explained that presently there is no constitution of PPC. He introduced the new proposed constitution, which the outgoing PPC had approved and put forward for approval at this AGM.

Chris Carr (Bude) proposed the following amendment to section six:

6) Term of Office:

- a. The term of office for a parishioner appointed to or elected to the council shall be three years.
- b. The council will have the power to co-opt a parishioner to fill any vacancy arising on the council. The co-opted member will hold office for the remainder of the term of the current council.
- c. Officers of the Council namely the Chair and Vice-Chair will be selected at the Annual General Meeting to fill these two official positions, in rotation from the three churches comprising the parish; Bude, Callington and Launceston.
- d. The selected Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council may only hold these positions for one year and will stand down at the next Annual General



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Meeting, to be replaced by two parishioners from the next parish church in alphabetical order.

e. A parishioner cannot serve on two consecutive councils.

A discussion followed; key points raised were:

- This amendment was submitted at the last minute and that it means all six current parish representatives have to stand down at this meeting.
- There are member of the outgoing PPC who did not stand in the recent election as they believed that they did not need to. This is unfair to those members.
- There were concerns that one year is not long enough for the Chair as it can limit continuity of the work of the PPC and removes stability of the committee.

A vote was taken to accept the constitution with the amendment to section six (above).

Agreed by majority

It was **Also agreed** that because the constitution has only just been approved and adopted that **for this year only, PPC will choose the new chair and vice-chair at their first meeting.**

New PPC Members

In recent weeks nominations were opened up in each church to select two parish representatives for each Church. At Bude and Launceston there were two nominations, so elections were not needed, however elections were held at Callington.

The new PPC member are:

Bude:

- Chris Carr
- Monica Soby

Callington:

- Rob Cain
- Rita Taylor

Launceston:

John Ashdown

To be confirmed

Treasurer: Rita Edwards (Callington)

Catechist Representative: Pamela Boucher (Launceston)

Safeguarding Representative: Tom O'Sullivan (Bude)



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Fr John thanked the outgoing members of PPC for their hard work and dedication, especially Val Williams and Kevin Grant, who were Chair and Vice-Chair.

Parish Financial report

Rita Edwards gave a verbal report which is available in full at the end of this document. Key points were:

- At first glance there appears to be a large deficit in our account this year. However, when you break it down a large proportion of this is from works and events carrying over from the last financial year, where any grants to cover the cost were recorded.
- We have also put £30,000 into our investment fund, which is effectively the parish savings account.
- If you look at income and day to day expenditure we are where we should be.
- Going forward when budgeting for projects we will take the money from investments not out of the day to day account.
- Thank you for all your contributions, both financial and time and skills that people give. They both make a huge difference to the parish.

Rita clarified that for the levy calculations a headcount is carried out over three weeks at the end of September / start of October.

Fr John confirmed that the levy is paid to the diocese and pays for all their central services such as the health and safety team, safeguarding and Financial, including the new book keepers, which is a service we will be making use of.

Any Other Business

There was no other business. Fr John noted that if anyone has anything they would like to raise before the next AGM, PPC would be the place to do it.

Fr John closed the meeting with the Lords prayer.



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Fr Johns Report

Dear Parishioners,

It is a great joy to welcome you all to this year's annual general meeting. As your parish priest, I am honoured to serve God and His people in this parish and its three communities. Communities of prayer, worship, love and service.

First and foremost, I would like to express my great thanks to God for his grace, and then to every one of you for your dedication to the parish.

The fact that you are here today, is an indication of your interest in the life of the parish and your wanting to develop and grow, as God's Church. We are three relatively small communities. It has its advantages, small is beautiful, we can know each other better. Challenges, being small, and with limited resources in terms of numbers of people, does especially require everyone to do their bit, in order for these communities to be vibrant places of faith. Thankfully, you parishioners give of your time and talents, and treasure, very generously.

Like everyone else, we were seriously knocked back for at least two years due to Covid, even having to cancel our tri-annual pilgrimage in honour of St Cuthbert Mayne. It took longer than expected for things to get back to normal, to get confidence back. However, thank God, in recent times parishioners have returned to Church, and new parishioners have arrived, and we are delighted to see them, welcome them and delighted that some are getting involved and shoeing initiative which is a sign of the Holy Spirit present and active.

There is a lot more to be done. In the pipeline here at Launceston is the Children's Liturgy, and possible development of Taizé gatherings. Perhaps some short pilgrimages for the whole parish. Callington has a number of devotions and social gatherings. Bude is a particularly welcoming community, especially to visitors, which I expect has been a core part of the community's ministry over the years, and rightly so. There will be much more I am sure.

I am very grateful for the presence and ministry of Fr Kevin, especially at Bude, but sometimes in the rest of the parish. I know his presence, preaching and visiting are much appreciated. With his help we have been able to maintain regular weekday Masses in all churches, as well as convenient times for holyday Masses, like the Ascension on Thursday for example. The attendance on holydays is excellent in this parish.



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We often hear that the Church is about God and People, not about buildings. But the churches are houses of God, and spiritual dwellings, and our halls and other facilities are there to serve the people. They help parishioners, and others, to meet for prayer, charity and social events. There has been a lot of work and emphasis on Launceston buildings recently which have been in great need of upgrading and repair. But we can now turn our attention to the other churches.

Having said that the church is not about buildings, it is about mission. We are rightly called missionary disciples. We are disciples in being nurtured and formed by Christ, through the Sacraments, prayer and learning etc. We are also missionaries, in looking outwards, to love others, help those in need, and share our faith.

We were delighted to welcome new **receptions** into the Church and adult confirmations and Easter. WE have a good number of children in the parish preparing for First Communion, and many thanks to the catechists who prepare them and their parents, and also prepared those adults for Confirmation. We hope to start preparation for Confirmation for youngsters next September / October time.

We run occasional courses for adult formation here in Launceston, often with the help of videos shown on the TV. Fr Kevin runs a monthly question and answer session at Bude.

It is great that we have an SVP group, that a Legion of Mary is soon to start up.

This is a very generous parish in supporting all kinds of needs, and charities, and supporting me, your priest, financially, but even **more importantly** in your prayers and your all-round support. It is very edifying to be prayer for on occasion in the bidding prayers. So, thank you. The prayers for your priests are essential.

We continue to pray for vocations, and that intention to become an integral part of our Rosary on a Saturday once a month, and frequent Mass intention. I cannot over emphasise how prayer for vocations is essential if our communities throughout the diocese are going to continue to have the service of a priest.

Looking ahead, we want to set out sights on continuing to build a strong, vibrant parish that is grounded in faith in Jesus Christ, where the Holy Spirit is clearly present and active and we are dedicated to helping others. Please remember that we don't have to do everything in the parish. There are a lot



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of events in the deanery and diocese. Please look out in the newsletter. For small communities like ours it is good to use the resources available to us. Just next week we have a day at Sclerder Abbey on Care for God's Creation. We are also planning a day for Catechists for the Cornwall deanery in Bodmin in July.

With a new Parish Council and new Constitution, we have a new spur going forward, and new opportunities arise. Please take note of your new PPC members. They are your representatives.

Can I take this opportunity to thank the PPC members who are now standing down. The constitution is still to be discussed, but it is likely that the PPC will be very new. I think most of the present members have served for a considerable time, so thank you very much for this service to your parish.

I encourage each one of you to get involved in our parish activities, to share your ideas and talents, and to lend a helping hand whenever possible. Together, we can build a community that is truly faith-filled, willing to learn, inclusive and compassionate.

In closing, I would like to express my gratitude once again to all of you for your unwavering support and dedication to the parish. I can't mention all the different ministries without us being here until nightfall, but you know who you are and what you do. I look forward to working alongside you all in the coming year, as we continue to build up our Church that is grounded in faith and dedicated to serving others.

May God bless you all abundantly.

Thank you



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Treasurers Report

Hopefully, you will have had an opportunity to look at the Accounts on the website, the link was in this week's newsletter. We did not want to print a lot of copies out as this is felt to be a waste of resources

As you can see from the Receipts and payment report for this year, we have a significant shortfall from Income v Expenses in this year's figures. There are numerous reasons for this. If we disregard the extraordinary costs that came out of our income, rather than being covered by grants or from our investments, we are not doing quite as badly as we look at first glance. We also need to remember that we transferred £30K into our Investment Account earlier this year.

In the first half of the year, we had legacy costs to finish the building Project, having had our grant funding in the previous year. As with many building projects, they take longer to complete than anticipated costs exceeded the initial forecast. We still have some costs to finish the Hall, I'm sure you'll agree this has been worth it. We also have work to undertake at Callington & Bude to meet the requirements from the Quinquennial and Health & safety reports Just looking at a few of our costs...

It may look like clergy costs have risen but actually they are broadly similar than previous years, what has made a difference is in the level of support received from collections at Christmas / Easter, mass offerings / baptisms etc. Traditionally they would be given to the Parish Priest to support him in the year. As Father John now has an allowance, these monies are now returned to parish funds when Diocese do their EOY adjustments, but the value of these collections fell from £9988, the previous year to £5822 last year, so less money to offset against costs

We also had the costs of our Creation event at St Mellion incurred this year, and the lottery funding for the event was received last year and income was included in last year's figures

The levy that we have to pay to Diocese, has increased from £9582.89 the previous year to £16,644.87 for last year. The levy bill is higher in 2022/23 because the rate used to calculate it is higher, the headcount rate is higher and our assessable income for 2021/22 was higher than the previous year. As with most households, our parish energy costs have dramatically increased, which has also added to our costs. Hopefully moving in to the summer months we can reduce these costs a little



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If we look back at previous years, our income was boosted with legacies, which are unexpected but for which we are very grateful. These have been added to our Investment Fund, which at the end of December 2022, stood at £554,885, plus we have added £30,000 to this, in January this year. Our bank accounts totalled £69,534.23 at the end of March, so we do have money available to us if needed.

Diocese have now appointed a book keeper, Lisa Johnson, working across Cornwall Parishes. It is hoped that Lisa will be able to take some of the financial administration burden away from Clare, as her workload has greatly increased in the last few years.

On the Finance Committee, we have realised that we need to try to formulate a more accurate budget this year, with better forward planning and anticipating predicted activity and costs, then manage that budget accordingly. Last year we underestimated our costs particularly in some areas, such as costs of gardening works, Costs of the hall works and the supply and installation of the shed, we had a new boiler installed. etc This may mean that some things that we would like to do in the parish may need to be held over to next year or we may need to consider using money from our investment funds to pay for new projects, so that these costs are not taken from our general income, just the general running costs of the parish.

Whilst we fully understand that this is a very difficult economic time for everyone, if you are not already making a regular contribution and are able to do so, it would be much appreciated if you could set up a standing order. Possibly some people may feel able to increase their regular giving. Remember too, if you are a UK tax payer you can gift aid your donation which increases your donation by 25% at no additional cost to you. If you would like to do this, please speak to Beth Philp our Gift Aid Coordinator. We would just like to thank everyone for their contributions throughout the year, without the regular income we could not manage the running costs of the parish. Thank you too, for all those who help in the parish covering activities that we would otherwise need to pay for.