

Parish of St Francis of Assisi, Llay and Christ the King, Rossett
Minutes of the Parish Advisory Meeting
20 October 2016 at 7.45 pm
Parish Hall of St Francis of Assisi

Present: Canon DB Lordan, Parish Priest; Geraldine Downing, Parish Secretary; Don Downing; Alan McDonald; Barrie Williams; Carol Williams; Oonagh Thompson

Item 1 - Opening Prayer

Canon Lordan opened the meeting with prayer.

Item 2 – Apologies

Apologies were received from
Roger & Eileen Chandler; John Fernee; Ashley Rogers; Helen Zammit-Willson

Item 3 – Approval of Minutes from the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting on 30 June 2016 were accepted as a true record.

Item 4 - Action points from last meeting

Item 10 – A small group of parishioners have met with the Bishop regarding the future of the parish, the content and outcome of which was reported at the AGM on 18 September 2016.

Item 5 – Action points from AGM

Since the AGM, Helen has been in touch with the Bishop regarding the appraisal of the parish. Helen advised the Bishop that the parishioners were pleased to learn that no final decision had been made and that a professional appraisal would be commissioned to inform any decision. He was also advised that the parishioners would like the opportunity to arrange a meeting with the company who are to undertake the appraisal so that they could voice the areas they felt were important to take into account, such as travel issues, potential reuse of current buildings etc. With this in mind, it was requested that the parish is kept informed of the progress that is being made on this issue together with an estimate of when it is thought that the an appraisal company will be appointed.

Item 6 – 100 Club Update

Roger was unable to attend the meeting but wrote to advise that he and his wife are moving away from the area, probably in December, and consequently moving from the parish. Attendees thanked Roger for all his work in raising the profile of the Club within the parish and introducing new initiatives to increase interest and consequently the amount raised to increase parish funds. We further extend our best wishes to him and his wife, Eileen, for their future.

It was announced that Peter Burke, a parishioner from Rossett, has volunteered to take over the helm, so we look forward to meeting him, we thank him for taking over the running of the 100 Club and we wish him well.

100 Club Update at 15 October 2016:

Membership	86
Membership Receipts	£1125
Christmas Gift Receipts 2015	£180
Total Receipts	£1305

Prizes Awarded	£420
Prize Money for November 2016 to April 2017	£420
Total Expenditure	£840

Expected minimum donation to Parish 2016/17 (Assumes further membership Christmas 2016)	£465
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Item 7 – Social and Fund Raising Update

The parish trip to Llandudno in August was enjoyed by those who went along. Trippers were charged a nominal £5 which helped to defray the costs to the parish.

Christmas Draw – the annual Christmas draw will take place on Sunday 18th December after 11am Mass in Llay. We thank Lorraine Pizey for organising this popular event. All proceeds will be split equally between the Wednesday Club and the parish conference of the SVP.

Item 8 – Advent and Christmas Preparations

Sumy Soup Supper – Will take place on Friday 2 December in the parish hall in Llay.

Ecumenical Advent Service – We will not be having this service this year.

Reconciliation Service – Will be held on Thursday 8 December, at St Francis of Assisi, beginning at 7pm

Christmas Mass Times – As Christmas Day falls on a Sunday this year, the Mass times will remain the same as those each weekend throughout the year. The first Mass of Christmas therefore will be Saturday 24th December at 6pm at St Francis of Assisi. It was noted that Christmas Masses at this time are increasingly popular in parishes throughout the country. Our parishioners have also been requesting this for a couple of years now, and so this year, it was felt that this was an opportune time to trial it here in our own parish.

The subject of Midnight Mass was discussed and it was felt that to have one would be too much for the parish priest and that attendance could well be reduced due to the 6pm Mass. Additionally, there is the availability of Midnight Mass at the Cathedral in Wrexham for those who wish to avail of it. The decision was made therefore **not to have a Midnight Mass this year.**

Christmas Carol Service – This was very popular last year, so we have decided to repeat it again this year. Wednesday 28th December 2016 at 2.30pm in St Francis of Assisi. Light seasonal refreshments will be available afterwards.

Outdoor Crib – Widely appreciated, this will be erected once more near the roadside in Llay.

Flower Collection – As there is sufficient parish funds, there will not be a collection for flowers. Anyone wishing to make a donation may do so in the normal weekly offertory collection.

Item 9 – AOB

Next year, 2017, sees the 100th Anniversary of the Apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima. We may wish to consider for the next meeting what, as a parish and individuals, we would like to do to celebrate this event.

Item 10 – Closing Prayer

Canon closed the meeting with prayer.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 23 February 2017 after the 7.00pm Mass in Llay, about 7.45pm