

**St. Teilo's with Our Lady of Lourdes**  
Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, April 4th 2022  
At 7:00pm in the Parish Hall

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**PRESENT**

Canon John Griffiths - President  
Carole Burns - Chair  
Anthony Evans. - Secretary

Christine Searle Marcia Fortner  
Clare Gallagher Peter Searle  
Madeleine Walters. Angela Jones  
Jo Hudson. Claudiu Bulai  
Gill Kane

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**ACTIONS**

**Agreed Actions:**

Angela: Children's Liturgy to commence after Easter  
Fr John/Carole: Meet with Fr. Matthew - Baptisms joint work  
Jo / Carole - Activity concerning parish walks/activities  
Carole - Bereavement Group setup  
Peter - Cashless Machine update previous action not discussed  
Marcia - Feedback on Christmas preparations (Tree / Crib)  
Carole - Updates on Collaborations (Food banks / Churches etc)  
Peter/Carole - Paul Gough - Approach for help with Website

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**1. Welcome and Apologies**

Canon John welcomed the attendees to the meeting and introduced Gill Kane, the Parish Synod Representative, who will be joining the team with a view to continuing the Synodal work within the parish.

Fr. John announced that Madeleine would be taking a lead on Evangelisation within the parish, as in her time at St Teilo's previously she had not been given the opportunity to do this work.

Fr. John made the team aware that Mgr. Bob Reardon, (who will be moving into Our Lady of Lourdes Presbytery shortly), would be offering his guidance in relation to parish life. Fr. John was very pleased that the new parish council was now complete and he emphasised that his desire was for members to work together for the benefit of the parish.

Fr. John encouraged everyone within the council to be merciful, open and show charity to each other. Everyone should feel welcome and we must treat others with extreme charity.

Apologies Received: Gerry Lewis, David Roblin

**2. Opening Prayer**

Canon John led the opening prayer for the meeting.

**3. Outline of Meeting**

Carole welcomed everyone to the meeting with particular emphasis on acknowledging Angela, and Claude who were not able to attend the previous and 1st council meeting following the elections.

#### **4. Nomination / Election for Parish Council Vice Chair**

Carole requested that nominations for Council Vice Chair be submitted. Jo submitted a nomination for Clare Gallagher. Supporting votes were offered. With no other nominations presented, the Parish Council acknowledged Clare as the elected Vice Chair. Carole congratulated and confirmed Clare's appointment.

#### **5. Ratification of Parish Minutes - March 2022**

Carole asked members if all were agreed on the minutes and additions from the previous meeting. No further edits were expressed. Carole confirmed the minutes as complete for the record.

#### **6. Matters Arising from - March 2022**

Carole asked members for any matters requiring attention. No matters were raised.

#### **7. Financial Report – In absence of David Robin Peter gave brief report**

Peter asked if the Finance minutes of the Finance Committee had been received by Carole. submitted to Carole had been distributed. Carole confirmed that the members had been sent the minutes by email.

Carole asked if the Finance Minutes could be made available to the parishioners. Peter advised that financial updates were made quarterly by the Parish Treasurer. The minutes of the Finance Committee were not necessarily circulated in full but the annual detailed Financial Report were put up on notice board within the Church when approved by the Finance Committee.

Peter advised the meeting that an in-depth review of our properties in Gabalfa and Whitchurch was to be undertaken and the Finance Committee anticipated working with an experienced Building Consultant, so that planned expenditure would be targeted in the most efficient way

#### **8. Synodal Report Updates and Discussions on Activities**

Gill expressed her thanks to all who assisted with the Synod work. She said that it was an impressive response, although 76 responses overall (out of the 118 Total) was a small number when considering a parish of our size. Gill mentioned that the report identified that a call for change was needed as reflected in many of the emerging themes. Gill commented that now wasn't the time but we would unpack the themes moving forward as we continue the work of the Synod.

Gill said that the parish had an opportunity for everyone to have a voice. Some parishioners were affronted by the report, others were positive. Central to the journey was one of listening and discerning the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Being open to the themes; communion, participation and mission

Dr Phillips was referred to, emphasising that the synod journey could not be accomplished without addressing the three themes (community, participation, mission). Also referring to 'Sensus Fidei' - 'Be led by the Holy Spirit' - 'Let it be done in all simplicity' - with co-responsibility where everyone shares and has a part to play (co-responsibility)

Gill re-emphasised that our parish priest Fr. John was very engaged from the start, and that from the report many themes were discovered and that there was plenty of work to be done. The mission of the council now was to build from the ground up, to sit with the council members, and work together to get volunteers for the next steps. Gill also reminded the members that good fruit takes patience and time and as we progress with the work to follow, new strands will come to light.

Gill thanked Carole for the invitation to speak and concluded with a quote from Pope Francis.

Madeleine provided Synodal feedback from a Diocesan perspective. She advised the council that St. Teilo's along with 30 other reports were received and the Diocesan Team had completed the work of synthesising the feedback.

41 Parishes, a university and the Chaplaincy had been included within the reports received. Madeleine advised the council that she had met with the Archbishop to review the report and a further meeting was arranged to deliver the final report on the following Wednesday. Madeleine mentioned that the Archbishop had read a part of the report which referred to feedback indicating that the responses revealed a need to see more of the Archbishop.

### **Students and Young people**

Jo asked Madeleine about the students responses from the Chaplaincy, she said that she was interested to know about the student views.

Madeleine highlighted that there was some feedback about going back to the 2nd Vatican Council, referring to the Old Mass.

Peter mentioned that another Parish (St Albans) had a Solemn Sung Latin High Mass each Sunday at 11.15am and 60% those attending were under the age of 45. There was also solemn Benediction every Sunday afternoon

Madeleine referred to a greater need and depth of Catechesis to enable greater formation

Peter mentioned that that if we were to reach out to all our parishioner's proper provision must be made to those who cannot (or who do not want to access the internet) more information needs to be available, and that we keep forgetting people who cannot access information over the internet. He stressed that many Catholics were simply not getting information, and that this was a challenge that needs to be addressed. The Cardiff People is now only available on-line.  
How many of our parishioners even if that have internet bother to print it off?

Fr. John mentioned that he was in Chaplaincy for many years and that he was use to dealing with young people. He mentioned how difficult it is to encourage / find ways for young people to become involved. In particular within our church recently, he was surprised that not one confirmation candidate responded to his request to get involved. All had been provided with strong supportive materials including Bibles and YouCat.

Fr. John mentioned that the reality is that about 90% of students don't go to church, many have left home and the Church. It is very difficult to evangelise them and bring them back.  
The 1962 - Old Mass going against the Spirit of the new Mass

Fr John referred to a community which used to operate and encouraged young people ( St Cassians) . He asked Clare to share her experience as she attended meetings.

Clare discussed her experience at the community and mentioned that it was for young people between 13-18 years old. She attended through St Joseph's in Newport. Included lots of mixing with events for young people and included lots of sharing by young people with different ideas and backgrounds

Fr. John expressed his disappointment with the revelations of abuse where two priests had been jailed within the Diocese. This adversely affected his outlook when visiting schools and the events made it very difficult to be around children. It changed the whole dynamic of working with children.

Fr. John made the council aware of the difficulties that Priest's face as a result of the abuses committed.

Gill high-lighted that there have been many requests for projects which include children.

Marcia commented that her girls benefited a lot from the children's liturgy referring to 'little angels liturgy' - Marcia also suggested that they or others may be willing to step in and help. Also, other teenagers might want to step in and get involved.

Clare mentioned that she was involved in Catechism at 14-15 Years Old.

Marcia commented about the importance of having young people get involved; focusing on a few simple things would be a good start

Angela said that we are very fortunate to have a big team of Catechists and they would have enough to start Liturgy for young disciples after Easter.

There are currently 4 Leaders & 4 Helpers

Angela also mentioned that Children's Liturgy does not operate during the school holidays (May-July)

Marcia commented that without early involvement from children it is quite hard and very difficult to get them engaged in later years.

Angela advised that the girls (Marcia's children would be welcome to get involved with the Children's Liturgy.

Jo suggested that maybe we appoint a youth leader within the parish

Madeleine mentioned that there were many requests within the Synod Reporting for Youth Representatives, hopefully there might be an opportunity to seek someone that can have a focus on parish youth.

Fr. John mentioned that one of his previous parishes (Caerphilly) had a very active youth group. However by 2003 14-15 year olds no longer wanted to participate. They preferred other activities. Fr mentioned that a good mix of young people is required to sustain a thriving community, also youth workers would be a good idea, Fr John also mentioned that previously young people had worked within the Diocese ( Daniel Jackson) although they have moved on since. Fr. John also referred to the good work that JR was undertaking within the parish and the school, and that if it were up to him, he would consider JR as a Diocesan Youth Worker.

Claude mentioned that maybe Fr John should suggest JR as a candidate. Fr. John suggested that we leave the subject of Youth Workers to Madeleine at Diocese level.

Clare asked Fr. John how integrated the parish was with the Welsh and the Polish communities

Fr. John mentioned that because these communities are spread throughout the Diocese it is a difficult area.

Madeleine mentioned that there is little welsh integration within the faith.

Fr. John mentioned that numbers are very low to be a large focus. Fr. Also mentioned that Dialogue is difficult because of the low numbers that speak welsh.

Clare said that it may be worth looking at advertising to welsh schools

Fr. John asked if any members on the Council spoke the welsh language - There were no welsh speakers present.

Fr. John suggested that the team reach-out to Claire Lovelock (Previous Councillor) she currently works at a welsh school and may be able to provide some insights.

### **Additional Activity Undertaken - Response to Synod**

Carole made members aware of other activity that had commenced in response to the Synod findings:

Discussions were being made with:

- Rainbow of Hope - A Catholic homeless food service in Cardiff
- St. Marys - Discussions about co-working on initiatives
- 3 Churches - Joint Bereavement initiative Hopefully in place before Easter
- Ecumenical - Christine Lewis is speaking with contacts ( Asylum Seekers / Refugees and other initiatives
- St. Bridget's - Food Market - Exploring how to get involved

Fr. John informed the members that he was looking to connect with other parishes on certain initiatives, for example he is currently speaking with Canon Matthew to look at sharing some of the Baptism preparation work. He and Carole were looking to conduct a meeting to further explore how this could work.

## **9. Any Other Business**

### **Christmas Tree / Crib Preparations**

Madeleine advised the members that Gail who had been preparing the Easter display and the Christmas Crib for many years was now looking to hand over the Christmas Crib and Tree preparations to someone else as it was beginning to get difficult for her.

Marcia said that it is something that her family might be able to help with, she will speak to the family and report back.

Fr. John mentioned that the Crib typically goes up 3 weeks before Christmas.

Madeleine mentioned that Gail is currently storing the equipment in her garage, and so we would have to think about how we store this.

### **Spring Summer Fitness/Activity**

Jo and Carole and a parishioner (Liam) had been looking at some activity to help the community with fitness. Further information will be provided when available

Clare mentioned a walk that she once did to Penrhys which was really well received. It was a spiritual walk and they stopped for reflections.

Carole - Maybe a gentle walk in the park for some

### **Parish Soup Lunches**

Christine suggested a soup lunch with bread rolls in the church hall

Fr. John responded that this may be good for Lent

Peter proposed that a lunch time soup may raise money for the church.

Fr. John queried the feasibility for soup or meals and asked the question about the need for council permission or hygiene certification. Fr. John mentioned that this was a requirement when he had enquired for facilities at another parish

Peter suggested that using catering urns to re-heat already cooked soup might be a solution

Gill mentioned that they were already doing this successfully at St. Mary's in Canton.

### **Parish Website**

Carole mentioned that certain updates had not been completed on the parish website. She has queried this with Haydn, and he is working on the updates.

Peter suggested that Carole have a word with Paul Gough about updating the parish website

### **Notice Boards - Require Updating**

Carole mentioned that efforts were being made to update the notice boards

Peter advised the meeting that he was working with Fr John to improve/replace the external noticeboard.

### **Ukraine**

Marcia updated members about the Ukraine Prayer Evening, this would be continued until Easter. Marcia asked Fr. John about the possibility of having a parish postcard printed. One which could be completed by parishioners with a message to Putting to stop the war activity. This was already being carried out by another parish and it was well received. They could be left at the back of the Church - Maybe it is something we can look at? Information to be provided.

### **10. Next Council Meeting**

Carole suggested the next meeting at the end May. A recommended date was agree and confirmed - Next council meeting 24th May 2022: 7:00pm

Carol announced the conclusion of the meeting and invited Fr. John to say a final prayer.

### **11. Concluding Prayer Fr. John**