

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

Minutes of the Meeting held on Zoom on Thursday, February 4th 2021 at 7.30pm

PRESENT:

Fr Dwayne Bednar	
Madeleine Walters	Chair
Helga Evans	Secretary

Claudiu Bulai	Angela Jones
Christine Lewis	David Roblin
Gerry Lewis	

1. Opening Prayer

Madeleine led the Opening Prayer.

2. Welcome and Apologies

Madeleine welcomed Fr Dwayne and all present.

Apologies: Clare Loveluck, Paul Doherty, JR and Kathy Kirby.

Madeleine said that Kathy had let her know that she had decided to step down from the PAC because of family commitments.

3. Introductions

Madeleine asked everyone present to introduce themselves to Fr. Dwayne and explain how long they had been on the PAC over the years and what they did in the church.

Madeleine Walters - has been Chair of the PAC for over twenty years; she is a Eucharistic Minister and a Reader. Madeleine proof reads the parish newsletter every week. She is also Director of Evangelisation for the Archdiocese and is one of the two Scripture Champions for the Archdiocese.

Angela Jones - has attended Mass at St Teilo's for many years. She is a Eucharistic Minister and has prepared children for First Holy Communion over a number of years. She also leads the Children's Liturgy classes in more normal times.

Christine Lewis - after a few years of debating with herself, Christine became a Catholic twenty-three years ago. Christine is a Reader, a member of the cleaning group and for many years has looked after the garden.

Gerry Lewis - typed and printed the weekly Newsletter for many years. Gerry is a member of the Finance Committee and is the Parish Safeguarding Representative. He also looks after the Book of Remembrance and updates it every year.

Claudiu Bulai - is a Eucharistic Minister. He is involved with organising the Youth Ministry together with JR Diaz.

David Roblin - David is the parish Treasurer. He has looked after the Finances for many years and is a member of the Finance Committee. He has played the Organ in church for many, many years.

Helga Evans - was born in Germany and settled in Cardiff. She has been a parishioner at St Teilo's for nearly 40 years. She has been a Eucharistic Minister for many years and Secretary for the PAC for 20 years. Helga organised the Cleaning Group, typed and printed the weekly Newsletter for many years until Gerry Lewis

took over. In recent years, she has organised the annual trip to Belmont Abbey in May. She has been a key member of the Social Group. When Dick Dicketts sadly passed away, Helga took over.

Fr. Dwayne Bednar – Born in 1960, Fr. Dwayne is the youngest of his family's four children. His sisters are identical twins. Judy has four children and Joyce (RIP) has six. His brother, Jerry, is a priest serving as the Vice-Rector at St. Mary Seminary in Cleveland, Ohio, their birthplace. Their parents are deceased, having been the first generation born in the US of Polish immigrants.

After studying economics at Notre Dame in the US, Fr. Dwayne travelled to Cracow, Poland to participate in an introductory Polish language course and later entered the Diocesan Seminary in Lublin, Poland in 1986. His assignments have taken him to Lviv, Ukraine and back home to Cleveland, then to Westminster Cathedral in London and most recently, St. Anthony's Church in Lublin. Fr. Dwayne goes by the name of "Fr. Dwayne" or his Confirmation name "Francis" or, in Polish, "Franciszek."

4. Minutes – Matters arising

The Minutes of the last Meeting on January 27th 2020 were approved as a true record.
Agreed by David and seconded by Claudiu.

There were no matters arising.

5. Canon Isaac – Update from Fr Dwayne

Fr. Dwayne reported that Canon Isaac was fairly well. He has had his vaccination for Covid-19 and is now waiting to have a date for the operation. Canon is hoping that it will be at the beginning of March. There was some discussion about his welfare post operation.

6. Elections

Madeleine stated that it was time to hold an Election in the near future. This will be on the Agenda of the next meeting.

7. Safeguarding through the Pandemic

Paul Doherty, the Parish Safety Representative, was unable to attend the meeting. He did however send a report, which is attached.

8. The Sacraments

Preparation of the Sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation was on hold.

9. Lent, Holy Week and Easter

It was decided to do exactly as we had done last year. Some resources may be sent out to parishes as time goes on.

10. The Year of the God Who Speaks – update

Madeleine said that she was meeting regularly with Kate Duffin, the other Scripture Champion. Kate sends out the Quote of the Week and Madeleine sends out to parishes, resources that come in from the Year of the God Who Speaks team. She said that Haydn was very good at putting these in the newsletter.

11. Financial update – David Roblin

David Roblin stated that the last Finance meeting had been held on March 31st 2020. He pointed out that the income is not as regular and generous as in pre-pandemic times due to the attendance numbers being low or non-existent. Gerry advised the Council to hold on with reporting figures until the end of the financial year. Claudiu thanked David for all his important work. David did make the point that donating via Direct Debit is the easiest and most regular income for the parish. He said that more people are now paying by this method.

12. Youth Ministry

Madeleine asked whether there had been any outreach to the young people of the parish. Claudiu said there had not been. He thought that contacting young people was prevented by Data Protection Regulations. He would find out what other parishes were doing.

13. Fr. Dwayne's points

Fr. Dwayne advised keeping one step ahead for when the lockdown is eased. He recommended looking ahead with an optimistic eye and suggested a summer picnic if people were comfortable.

14. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

15. Concluding Prayer

Fr. Dwayne said the concluding prayer and gave a blessing.

16. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday, March 4th via Zoom at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Safeguarding through the Pandemic

Just a brief summary of the item 'safeguarding the Church' as requested, which I read as regarding the activities of 'Private Prayer' also 'Public Worship'

Private Prayer was an opportunity for those who wished to attend freely during occasions when the Church Saint Teilo's was opened and when we, as a Parish, were able to provide adequate Stewarding in order to maintain a cordoned, 'controlled' environment with regards to safe number capacity, while observing Social Distancing, Sanitizing and hygiene protocols in line with Guidance and Regulation from the Welsh Government and Health Authorities.

I was ably assisted in this, in the first instance by Dr. Liam Hanaway; a Parishioner, for Professional Medical advice and supported in an Administrative (and morale support) capacity by Haydn Blacky, our Parish Administration person.

I would also wish to thank Father Dwayne Bednar for his support since his arrival at Saint Teilo's, as he has actively sought and worked with all advice provided, offering a constructive outlook with attention to and in line with Canon Isaac's views.

After consultation with Canon Isaac the next step was to invite Members of the Parish to offer their time and energies in volunteering to act as Stewards. The response was immediate but, I have to say limited to a small dedicated group of individuals who then attended a familiarisation and training session run and organised; with the help of Mel Hopkins and Carole Burns, by myself.

Without whom; all the afore mentioned, I am sincerely grateful to and wish to extend my deepest Thanks and without whom the Church would have remained closed since the initial 'Lockdown' in March 2020

The sessions went well with Worshippers complying with Steward guidance while in Church. Numbers attending the Open Prayer sessions were consistent but small, with regular attendees. On then deciding to offer public Mass for the Parish again a stricter regime had to be adopted but the Stewarding Team led by Mel and Carole were more than capable to the task.

Together with managing the permitted numbers regulated by our ability to accommodate a 'Socially Distanced' congregation, this presented a different challenge: specifically the distribution of the Blessed Sacrament at Holy Communion. However with the compliance of the worshippers attending and the guidance of the Stewarding Team, service was maintained in good order.

This all now again disrupted by the resurgence in cases of infection by the SARS-CoV2 virus (the coronavirus that causes COVID-19) and it's mutated strains as first identified in the South East of England, Kent and other strains evident in South Africa, Brazil and now as close to Cardiff as in Bristol, has led to the recently re-imposed nationwide 'Lockdown' and Wales moving into 'Alert Level 4' we see the status of the Pandemic leading to increasing concerns over transmission in spite of the heroic efforts of Health Service workers and the Scientific community to 'combat' the spread of COVID- 19.

Hope is a reality and when the vaccine programme nears completion, I am sure we will be able to move about the community more freely but until then I will continue to advise caution in our Parish as to how we as Parishioners are able to actively mitigate the risk of infection.

I would urge us all in our small corner of the World community to continue in Prayer seeking God's help and fortitude to remain strong, following the current guidance of "Stay at Home, Protect the NHS, Save lives" and remember "Hands, Face, Space"

Paul Doherty
Parish Safety Representative