**NOTES FROM THE P C C MEETING**

**HELD ON 21st NOVEMBER 2024**

**NURSERY SCHOOL** - The Nursery School had paid for the new metal fence recently installed around the Community Garden which replaced the former wooden picket fence. This still allowed access to the garden but made the area more secure for the Nursery School children.

**NEW HYMN BOOKS** – Fr Michael thanked Doreen McIntosh for inserting bnook-plates into the new hymn books.

**BUDGET 2025** – The budget and Indicative Offer to the Diocese (formerly known as the Parish Share or Quota) was AGREED.

**OUTREACH** – Fr Michael said that the **Light Café** (31st October) had been a great success and was now a regular feature in the lives of a number of families. Over 170 people had attended, leading to useful and fruitful conversations. This was a missional event, reaching out across the generations. He thanked Amy for all the cakes she had baked.

Other outreach work was also undertaken: at home the annual Crib & Christingle service and abroad, the Romanian shoebox appeal and financial support for the Diocese of Bo (Sierra Leone) and Hope Gardens (South India).

**BLACK HISTORY ASSOCIATION** – Fr Michael said that he had been made an honorary member of the local branch of this Association and it was AGREED that we should support the efforts of the Association and reach out especially to Global Majority Heritage families.

**SAFEGUARDING -** Fr Michael thanked Janet for all her work on safeguarding. He added that he had attended a Diocesan meeting regarding Safer Recruitment: our procedures were in place although we had no direct employees at present.

**THE MAKIN REPORT-** This recently published report by the Church of England related to the appalling abuse carried out on boys and young men by a John Smyth over several decades and in several countries. Fr Michael said he would be happy to talk to anyone who was concerned about the contents of the report. This report was a timely opportunity to reconsider how we protect the young and the vulnerable (including the elderly), resisting evil and promoting love. St Aidan’s took safeguarding extremely seriously and we needed to maintain this with constant vigilance & strength and we were fortunate to have Janet Trevor to assist the PCC is discharging our church’s responsibilities. Nothing should be taken for granted.

John Smyth seemed a happily married man (and was also a barrister and QC) yet never faced the rigours of the law in his lifetime because **no one** was curious **enough**. If **anything** didn't seem right about someone's behaviour or attitude then this should be reported **immediately** to Janet, or to Fr Michael, or to the Diocesan Safeguarding Team, as seemed most appropriate in the circumstances. Support could then be put in place.

Janet added that the Safeguarding training being provided was extremely useful in raising awareness.

**WORSHIP & MINISTRY**

**a) Lesley Caswell** – Fr Michael said that Lesley was now a server and on the Chalice Assistant’s rota. A question was raised as to some in the congregation may be unsure of what these roles consisted?

**b) Book of Common Prayer** – Fr Michael said he would use the BCP on Sundays about 6 times a year for a trial period of a year.

**c) Placement Student** – Fr Michael said that a student at St Augustine’s College wished to have a placement at St Aidan’s for a short period. It was AGREED that this would be acceptable.

**FABRIC**

**a) Porches** – Quotes for the porches to be removed and possibly replaced with much smaller, sloping, projections were being obtained and a faculty would need to be obtained..

**b) Hall Floor** – Quotes for a new floor covering the existing floor (including the Ladies toilet area) had been received. A Lottery grant had been applied for.

**c) Lightning Conductor** – The latest report said much as last year’s, As the existing installation was adequate to meet insurance requirements it was AGREED that we need take no further action.

**d) Electrical Work** – Remedial work had been undertaken to the smoke alarms in the vestibule and to the ceiling-mounted alarm in the computer room, and defective fluorescent tubes in the Hall had been replaced..

**MEETING DATES** - The PCC would have 4 main meetings in 2025; the Standing Committee would meet three times.

**OTHER BUSINESS
a) Youth Club** – The possibility was suggested of the church starting a Youth Club. One of the problems would be in finding & retaining leaders: Fr Michael was, however, open to suggestions.

28/11/2024