**Present** Fr Allen (Chair), Mary Rose (Secretary), Brian Devlin, Deacon John Garvey, Ian Pocock, Brian Tomlinson , and Andrew Jones (observer)

1. **The Financial Report 2020.** Unsurprisingly there has been a drop in income over the year. The Repository has remained shut and there is a decrease in non-Gift Aid offerings. Heating costs remain much the same as (having taken advice) the church has been heated at usual times however lighting was not used when the church was closed, therefore there may be some reduction in electricity. There are no changes to other reserves. Monies held for Churches Together and Second collections due to the Diocese should be collected by respective bodies by the end of this month.

The increase in personnel wages is for the organist at the 9.00 and salary for the caretaker of the Carpenters Arms. Clergy allowance had not yet been taken but was agreed that it should be. Fr Allen thanked the Committee for this. He advised as he is now receiving some additional income because of his work as a bank Chaplain at Good Hope he will in future deduct this sum from the annual Clergy allowance.

Major outgoings in 2019 was for building work carried out that year. Expenses in 2020 includes extra expenditure for cleaning products etc. but this had flattened out over the year.

The project for decorating of the interior of the church will get under way when COVID restrictions have relaxed sufficiently to more easily begin the consultation and fund raising.

A low-key appeal for Gift Aid; use of Standing Orders and the 50/50 club has been presented in the newsletter and to date there has been increased interest in these ways of assisting the parish.

It was confirmed that Brian Devlin would be the Chair of the Finance Committee going forward from this meeting.

1. **Gift Aid.** Is holding up and the 20/21 claim would be made after 5th April. Brian Tomlinson was thanked for his careful oversight of the Gift Aid work.
2. **50/50 Club.** Has had a reduction in membership over the past 3 years so prize money has been reduced and this means a reduction in income for the parish. Mary Rose was thanked for all her careful work with the 50/50 club.
3. **Update on return of *Carpenter’s Arms*.** The lease on the building was returned to St Nicholas parish in October and has remained closed during much of the time, under the watchful careful of Kaye O’Keefe (Hall Manager). Some of the operational expenses incurred during November, December and January have been off-set by the Government furlough scheme.

The Centre has been used during the last two weeks by a local school and prior to the latest lockdown the level of usage by local groups was sufficient to demonstrate that the Centre will not prove a drain on parish resources but will hopefully provide some income to the parish.

Work will be required on both the entrance from the Church car park and that on Boldmere Road.

The time of handover was not helpful with regard to consultation with the parish and others about the future use of the Centre. It is now hoped to begin that process during Easter with a series of meetings looking at how Community Centres can serve community health and cohesion. Councillor Rob Pocock is happy to be a keynote speaker to launch the process.. Fr A has spoken with a number of community groups and has contacts with others to begin to put together a programme. John G suggested Fr Michael from Tamworth might be offer a useful perspective.

1. **Proposed Admin Group**. Fr A proposed an alternative organisation to assist with parish admin and the life of the parish more generally. The present structure is linked to Finance Committee, Health and Safety, and there is no regular other forum for discussing other and broader issues. There was interest in setting up a group to respond to the challenge of the Archdiocesan draft Environmental Policy (to which subject Andrew spoke).

The new group would bring together those parishioners who share in responsibilities either through membership of the Finance committee, or having oversight of Health and Safety, Environment and also those responsible for the *Newman Community Centre* (the soon to be confirmed new name for the *Carpenter’s Arms*). Other areas could include Outreach; Young Families; Catechesis and Continuing Formation.

The expectation would be that each group would do their work separate to the meetings of the*PAG* but briefly report on their work to those meetings, which would be a forum for oversight of general parish matters.

Members agreed with Andrew’s suggestion that a better name for this new group would be *Parish Engagement Group*.

Fr A will prepare a presentation for the parish on what is proposed, and invite comments.

1. ***Environment***

Andrew has offered to work on the Environment this will possibly be accompanied by another parishioner who has shown an interest. It was felt that the young people of the Parish as well as those attending local schools will wish to get involved with projects to do with the Environment.

1. ***Health and Safety***

Ian will continue to work on Health and Safety aspects for the church and community centre, in preparation for the required submission to the Archdiocese now due in June 2021.

It was agreed that it was important that any new initiatives needed to be headed by more than one person, so that there was less risk of volunteers getting discouraged, or overwhelmed by the challenge of trying to get their initiative off the ground.

Fr A. will send a request via the Parish newsletter for any with specific skills and expertise in H&S and Environmental work to join the new groups, or be available to assist with particular works.

1. **Minutes**. It was agreed that the minutes of the Finance Committee (and the future Parish Engagement Group) would be published on the parish website.
2. **Proposed dates for future meetings** will be emailed in due course.
3. There being no other business the meeting closed with a prayer at 21.00.