

Finance Committee meeting 24th January 2023 at 19.00.

Present Brian Devlin (Chair), Mary Rose (Secretary), Fr. Allen, Deacon John Garvey.

The meeting opened with a prayer led by Fr Allen

1. **Minutes of last meeting.** Were agreed

2. **Matters arising**

Car Park. Fr Allen has met with a company with a view to erect cameras to monitor the use of the carpark. Those attending weekday services will have the use of the carpark for an hour. Where necessary (in cases of funerals etc) a QR code will be available to extend the permitted parking time. Those going over the hour for parking or not making legitimate use of carpark will be issued with a fine. The school will be asked for Reg nos of permitted users and again visitors will have benefit of the hour's parking and QR code facility. Fr will be able to have 3 fines a month cancelled if errors occur. The company concerned will deal with the admin side and there will be no charge to the parish for this service. There is an offer of £500.00 to the parish should we sign up before the end of January.

3. **Final 2022 Financial Report,** the financial report has been sent. Copies presented to the meeting. It was noted that the Church has a surplus while the Newman Centre is showing an acceptable level of deficit. The increase in non-Gift aided donations compared to last year is mainly through weekly collections at mass where mass attendances increased again following the pandemic. Church property maintenance has increased due to lighting and electrical inspection and replacements of fire alarm boards. House maintenance has also shown a slight increase; again, electrical inspection required and also the work of a tree surgeon. The Unit Trust investments are earning about 2 % p.a. and it was agreed monies from this could be used for future re-decoration of the church. An additional amount is to be transferred into the Unit Trust Scheme in February. It has proved difficult to get the necessary advice for replacing existing heating system – which is working well at present. It was agreed to defer any further conversation

until any professional advice was available. Some thought would be given to having more solar panels fitted.

3a. **50/50 Club,** showing a slight decrease in membership over the last year but of no great concern. Barclays required personnel ID checks. These were carried out over the summer months. Then before Christmas, a solicitor's signed and dated letter on headed note paper was requested. This has been provided with the help of the Diocesan Solicitor. Nothing has been heard from them since the letter was sent (via email 22.1 2.22.) so we are confident we can continue as before.

3b **Gift Aid and GASDS Claim 2021/22.** These claims will be submitted shortly, earning in the region of £5,400 and £2,000 respectively.

4. **Newman Centre.** As noted, this is showing a deficit. Rents have been slightly increased but to achieve a break-even situation increased usage of the centre will be required. Funding may be available for the Parish Sunday Friends and Art Groups this is being investigated. It was noted that at the time of the 'return' of the hall, the potential for conflict of interest regarding the regular cleaning arrangements was investigated and the situation approved. (Additional general handyman duties are undertaken as part of this arrangement which avoids expensive call out fees). The Hall is in a good condition and has a high standard of cleanliness. It was noted that some of the chairs had missing rubber bungs and may be damaging to floors, this matter will be examined more closely. Again, the lack of use by the parish was commented on.

5. **A.O.B.** There being no further business the meeting closed at 19.55.

6. **Date of next meeting** – 23.05. 2023.