

**SS ALBAN AND STEPHEN RC CHURCH
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 8th April 2013**

Persons Present: Fr Charles Sweeney, Fr Jimmy Stubbs, Fr Tom Hewitt, Steve Pickard, James O'Hare, Brendan Day, Peter Berners Lee, Helen Bassill, Mike White, Joanna Roche and Danielle Porteous.

Apologies received: Mike Walsh, Joanna French and Cath White

Parish Assembly and Pastoral Council Objectives:

1. To make the Church more alive and open to the Spirit and to further the spread of the Kingdom of God;
2. To provide a structure for constructive dialogue with the Parish Community and thus serve as a means of consultation and communication in the Parish;
3. To ensure an ongoing assessment of the spiritual, social and human needs of the Parish and to foster ways to meet these needs; and

To draw out, draw together, and draw upon the talents and gifts of the Christian Community in the Parish. "As each one has received a gift use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace." (1 Peter 4:10)

1. Minutes of the last meeting

Matters arising:

Sheila Naisbitt will be the representative for the Mothers and Toddlers, however she asked for an appeal for more people to help run it please. Fr Charles will talk to people.

Joanna Roche to speak to Richard Belt again about taking him for a meal.

Brendan to approach Mike Larmer about joining the PPC.

2. Reports

Worship: The new hymn books have been ordered. Julia White is in charge of fundraising for these, the suggestion is that £5 will be charged to personalise them. The PPC felt this figure was a little low considering the amount of administration etc involved and suggested that £10 should be the figure, and if possible this should be gift aided. Brendan to approach Mike Walsh to see how the figure was arrived at.

Mission: Concerned that with the work on the hall that the earliest another Alpha Course could be run is after Christmas. It was suggested that if they want to run a course they could approach the schools but there may be some cost involved. When the next one is run they will need to have more volunteers helping.

Small Communities – the current RCIA are to set up a new group.

Parish Friends: nothing arose out of their report

Justice and Peace: Mary Corbett has advised that the Vineyard is going to be lead distribution centre for the local Food Bank. A question arose as to how we want to be involved. Could be a

collection point, but may be need to wait until building works complete. Further information will be available after their meeting in May.

The Justice and Peace Conference is taking place mid July of this year. Would you like to go? Please put out an invitation to your groups and in the newsletter. The parish has agreed to fund two places.

Communications: Brendan met with Chris Moran following Richard and Mike's resignations. He too had been thinking of resigning.

This was formed as a result of the assembly two years ago, members considered communication to be a priority development area. Do we need to re establish it? Or do we need to up our game in the groups to communicate? There was a general consensus that the group is needed.

Peter advised that David Myers (an RCIA candidate) would be open to be involved in this area.

Peter to pass on his details to Brendan, who will then approach him.

There is a lot to consider as to how the group should work – should it be writing a magazine, keeping an eye on the porch, sending out messages to parishioners (possibly through a parentmail type system).

For the moment groups need to communicate better and to go back to each group putting an item of what they have been doing in the newsletter once every six weeks. Joanna to draw up rota and copy Gina in on this.

Porch still outstanding, Richard Belt still working on this.

Youth: nothing arose.

3. Growing in Faith/parish report

As mentioned at the last meeting the Archbishop has requested that we carry out this fundraiser over the next five years. Our parish has been given the target of £400,000 to raise; 40% will go to a fund for sick and retired priests, 30% towards the education of future priests/students, 20% can come back to the parish for specific projects and 10% towards the RCDOW charity Caritas. The Charity Caritas is willing to support charities in our local area if we put in a bid for the money.

The appeal kicks off the weekends of the 13/14 and 20/21 April with a census of the parish being taken (volunteers are requested to help at all masses with this to hand out forms at the end of the homily).

The weekend of 4/5 May sees the launch of the appeal with a letter being read from the Archbishop. Following this Fr Charles will approach people with the help of Harvey (from the appeal company) inviting them to be involved and make a donation or to get others involved. The Parish Priest writes to all parishioners to invite them to consider contributing.

We then discussed what we would like to use our 20% for.

Suggestions were made that it should go towards local causes and not on the hall financing of which has already been worked out (e.g. living room, women's refuge, counselling support for marriage breakup etc)

The parish needs to be involved in this and to be openly discussing it.

4. Date of next meeting – 13th May 2013

Volunteers were invited to lead the opening prayer, as no one came forward Joanna offered to do a rota.