

**SS ALBAN AND STEPHEN RC CHURCH
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 9th December 2013**

Persons Present: Fr Charles Sweeney, Fr Tom Hewitt, Fr Jimmy Stubbs, Rev Steve Pickard, Peter Berners-Lee, Joanna Roche, Brendan Day, Mike White, David Myles, Helen Bassill, and Cath White

Apologies received: James O'Hare

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. Matters arising from previous meeting

Minutes accepted.

Worship Group – Fr Jimmy has been to several meetings so in the absence of a PPC rep he will ask if they need any extra support and for the time being will continue to maintain a link between the Worship Group and the PPC.

2. Reports from Groups

Worship – Fr Jimmy reported that the main activities of the group have been:

- proposal for a Sacred Heart Mass on the 1st Friday of the month
- discussion of options for an alternative Mass centre in the Maryland area, but as yet no proposals

Communications – Fr Charles and members of the PPC thanked David Myles for the parish magazine and all the work he has done with the Communications group.

David reported that so far we have sold 360 copies of the magazine and need to sell 420 to break even.

Justice & Peace - the PPC were reminded about the talk on the "Living Room" tomorrow evening. This is one of a series of joint events organised with the Mission Group to promote awareness of the charities supported by the Growing in Faith initiative.

Youth Report – St John Fisher have set up a Chaplaincy team with a lot of support from volunteers. They are planning to meet up with the Ss Alban & Stephen Chaplaincy team to share ideas.

Mission Group – the main focus has been planning for the Lenten talks. Bishop John Arnold will be speaking on the Wed 26th March on Evangelii Gaudium. We also have Fr David Williamson and Jack Dominion (Catholic theologian and psychiatrist) to speak on Marriage and Family. David and some other parishioners are meeting with Jack Dominion after Christmas to discuss plans for the talk. Ausra Karaliute has also agreed to give a talk and lead a discussion on some aspect of family life. Also planning to make it an ecumenical event. Publicity needs to include a profile for each of the speakers.

Market stall - the Kids Choir will be there from 1.00 – 2.00pm
Carols by Candlelight – needs to be publicised.

Parish Friends Community Group – no items for discussion

3. **Parish Priest's Report**

Fr Charles recognised the work done to produce the Magazine and the benefits for the parish. He also encouraged the Mission Group with their planning.

The new Parish Hall facilities are good but where possible groups should make use of the meeting rooms.

Fr Charles is in discussion with the builders and architects about some issues with the new facilities:

- the gents toilets downstairs are not working – appears to be a design fault. It was also noted by PPC members that several of the toilets do not appear to flush properly
- the heating in the church is not working because the water tanks were inadvertently removed during the building works.

Other issues with the new facilities:

- Lockable toilet roll holders are also needed as new toilet rolls are being removed.
- taps have been left running in the toilets
- a fridge has been order for the refreshments area downstairs
- baby changing facilities are only available downstairs in the disabled toilet.

4. **Christmas Mass**

Welcomers and helpers at Christmas Masses in the main church:

7:00pm	Brendan and Joanna Roche
12:00am	Helen Basill, David & Anne Myles
8:00am	James O'Hare
9:30am	Chris and Espé (to be asked)

11:00am Sara Nash (to be asked)

Marshalswick and Maryland have their own arrangements.

5. Lenten Plans

Mission Group talks (see above)

Easter Card – Mission Group will start on this in January

6. Another Other Business

Opening of the church

Helen reported that some parishioners have asked the PPC to consider having the church open to visitors more frequently. This was discussed and it was agreed that we would give it a try.

Actions:

- a) all to personally ask people e.g. from our groups, to consider volunteering an hour or so of their time to be present in the church/refreshments area. Please give names of volunteers and times available to Helen Bassill. It was also suggested that volunteers could provide refreshments whilst the church is open.
- b) Cath White our Safeguarding Representative will draft some guidelines for the volunteers.
- c) points of access to be decided as Fr Charles would prefer the front doors of the church to be open but there are also advantages of restricting access via the refreshments area.

Refreshments after Mass

The discussion on opening the church also touched on the provision of refreshments after Masses. Volunteers will also be needed for this.

Christmas Card

The Neighbourhood Link representatives collected cards at the NL meeting and will be delivering them to roads in their areas

Peter will take cards to the Maryland Mass Centre

Mike will take cards to the Marshalswick Mass Centre

Cards will also be available at the back of church

Announcements at all Masses and an insert in the Bulletin are needed to invited people to take a few cards for their neighbours.

Philippines

Conditions are still very bad in the Philippines, so Fr Tom would like to contact a representative of the Filipino community in our parish.

Note about Mass/Carols by Candlelight for the Philippines to go in bulletin

Other ideas to support those in the Philippines:

- Proposal to twin with a parish in the Philippines

- Sacramental programs could have a project each year to raise money for a parish in the Philippines.
- Filipino night early next year

Brendan agreed to contact someone who knows a member of the Filipino community. We can then discuss the best ways of providing support.

7. Date of next meeting

Monday 13th January 2014, Mike White to lead the opening prayer.