

**SS ALBAN AND STEPHEN RC CHURCH  
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 11<sup>th</sup> February 2013**

**Persons Present:** Fr Charles Sweeney, Fr Tom Hewitt, Fr Jim Sweeney, Peter Berners Lee, Helen Bassill, Joanna French, Mike White, Joanna Roche, Danielle Porteous, Brendan Day and Cath White

**Apologies received:** Mike Walsh

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. Correspondence**

Richard Belt has resigned from the PPC due to increased family and work commitments. JR to write and thank Richard for all his hard work and to invite him out for a meal to say thank you.

Danelle raised a point which the J and P group have been experiencing of submitting items for the bulletin. They had asked for items in the bulletin for a specific date and for a bidding prayer to be included that weekend, unfortunately this did not happen. Fr C to speak with Gina to contact and explain if no room. If it happens again then contact Fr C direct to discuss.

### **2. Reports from Groups**

#### **Mission**

The group has been looking into the cost of running a pilgrimage to Iona some time between June and September. It was agreed they need to now canvas opinion of what people want.

#### **Communications**

Group now nearly non-existent with the departure of Richard. Chris and Mike now the only ones involved. It was set up as a priority area by the Assembly – are there other ways the work of the Communications group can continue?

### **Parish Friends**

Fr C very pleased with the way the Parish Links Groups are progressing, thank you for all the hard work.

### **Safeguarding**

Urgently looking for more members – does anyone know anyone suitable?

### **Justice and Peace**

A new Hertfordshire J and P group to be set up and having first meeting at Our Lady of Apostles on March 23<sup>rd</sup> from 10 – 3.30

JF asked if it would be possible to send Confirmation candidates

### **Live Simply**

Danielle would very much like the parish to become a 'Live Simply' Parish. However it is a big challenge to meet all the initiatives set by the organisation. Need to take the Parish with you if it is going to work. A working group needs to be formed to make it work – this might be a good thing to work with Neighbourhood links.

### **Charitable Giving**

J and P raised the possibility of the Parish committing to raise funds annually for 3/4 charities so that they could budget with these pledges in mind. On the whole it was felt that this was too prescriptive.

## **3. Christmas**

Nothing further than the reports already given was raised.

Fr Charles thanked everyone for their hard work.

## **4. Easter**

Easter Card needs to be ready early in lent so that it can start to go out early March.

## **5. Priest's Report**

Fr Charles thanked everyone for the celebration which was prepared for his 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination, a particular thank you to Richard and Tom.

Thank you to all those involved in the Christmas Day dinner and the Turkey and Tinsel.

Special weekend on the Sacrament of Reconciliation has been prepared finishing in a penitential service on 5<sup>th</sup> March.

Jeantette who has been organising the team for the interfaith sports day has had to stand down due to health reasons, does anyone know of someone who would be willing to take on this role.

The hall project is still progressing we have about £380,000 available towards it. Before going out to tender the hall committee will meet with the finance group.

If anyone knows someone that could be encouraged to become a Eucharistic Minister please let Fr Charles have their name so that he can invite them

The lock to the prayer room is going to be replaced with a code to avoid the expense of keys.

#### **6. PPC Chairman**

The role of PPC chairman needs to be sorted, our ppc has now had 3 resignations since it was formed 18 months ago. Each group is asked to go away and discuss people to be nominated to sit on the PPC.

#### **6. Any other business**

**CTSA** – looking for new members and representatives from Catholic Church.

23<sup>rd</sup> March 2013 **Mercy Associates** are having a celebration. It is hoped many will attend.