

**SS ALBAN AND STEPHEN RC CHURCH
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 11th March 2013**

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

Apologies received: Fr Tom Hewitt, Fr Jimmy Stubbs, Steve Pickard, Mike Walsh, Joanna French and 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)

Fr Charles started the meeting with a reminder that the PPC's function was to act upon the fundamentals of the parish ie the direction the parish is focusing on, not its day to day running.

1. Election of new chairperson

Brendan Day was nominated by Peter Berners Lee and seconded by Helen Bassill. There were no other nominations and therefore he was elected chairperson.

It was agreed that a vice chair should be elected at the next meeting in April and everyone is invited to consider coming forward for this position.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

It was noted that Fr Jimmy had been accidentally noted as Fr Jimmy Sweeney not Fr Jimmy Stubbs, these were corrected.

Richard's meal is still outstanding – awaiting a date from him.

News items to be inserted in the bulletin must arrive with Gina on the Wednesday; if you wish to insert a full page in the bulletin or a large amount then ideally at least a week's notice should be given (preferably more).

3. Reports

Youth: Should anyone be in charge of the Mother and Toddler group? It was suggested that in case of incident then yes there should be someone to approach. Sheila Nesbit was suggested for this role and Helen agreed to approach her to ask her to do this.

Mission: Tim Stevens is to run a post alpha follow up course in the café style. Is there any other accommodation available during the summer?

Finding silence retreat – almost full

Cross procession – advertising in libraries, radio etc. Danielle to email information on tweeting, Herts advertiser etc to Mission group

Parish Friends:

Good attendance at the new parishioners' morning
Special needs mass on 5th May

Safeguarding: It looks likely they have found someone to take over as the lead representative from Cath White – Paul Carroll. Still need more support with the administration. It was suggested that they approach the mums at the M & T group to see if anyone would like to take on this role.

Justice and Peace: It was requested that the parish support two members to attend the national conference on 19/21 July. This is at a cost of £140 per person. Danielle to send link to discuss at next meeting.

Danielle is to become a 'Global Poverty Ambassador' an initiative supported by the Gates foundation and the Co-operative.

Communications: The role of the group needs to be discussed more fully following the resignation of Richard Belt.

Worship: Plans are in place for the Easter services.

4. Parish Pilgrimage to Iona

Dates: 16-20 September 2013

Travel by plane to Glasgow then bus and ferry to Iona. Four nights on Iona.

Full content of pilgrimage to be decided.

Cost approximately £340

The House of prayer is booked for seven people, £280 deposit needed now.

Bishops House (Anglican retreat centre) for the overflow.

5. Easter and Card

4000 cards have been printed, in 16 boxes.

Cath to email links asking them to take approximately ten.

6. Request from Archbishop

Archbishop has requested that we launch a fund campaign in the parish for the diocese called 'growing in faith'.

All communication to the parish must be positive

A third goes to the parish, a third to sick and retired priests, and a third to the education of seminarians.

This is a one off appeal being run over 5 years and hoping to raise approximately £32million.

7. Hall update

The plans are now out for tender. Hoping to close the hall down and work to begin from 10.5.13.