

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

Persons Present: Fr Charles Sweeney, Fr Tom Hewitt, Fr Jim Sweeney, Steve Pickard, Peter Berners Lee, Joanna French, Mike White, James O'Hare, Joanna Roche, Brendan Day and Cath White

Apologies received: Mike Walsh and Helen Bassill,

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 form previous meeting

These will be dealt with in the course of the meeting.

Minutes accepted.

2. Reports from groups

Parish Friends – there will be a neighbourhood links meeting before Christmas.

Safeguarding – the group has two new members, Nicola Vellacot and Basia. The plan is that over the next twelve months Nicola will shadow Cath and take over the role of Safeguarding officer from January 2014.

CRB forms have been replaced by DBS forms. Each volunteer receives their copy of the DBS Certificate and they then have to send it on to Peter Turner; only when he has received it will the volunteer be given the go ahead to work in the parish. They must not begin without this authorisation.

Volunteer can register their certificate and then it can be accessed by other groups with a passcode.

Mission – Home mission Sunday is this weekend. Group meeting on Thursday and anything arising e.g. plans for the weekend, will be circulated immediately.

Youth – group were praised for their new website.

No further questions.

Communications – a lot of work going on.

Printing of the magazine is estimated to cost £500, plan is to charge £1 a copy and to get businesses to advertise. PPC suggested they went ahead with the first addition and reviewed costs and income afterwards before spending this amount again.

Justice and Peace

12 months ago the group brought to the PPC an initiative being encouraged by the church called 'Live Simply'. At that time the group thought it too onerous to adopt however even the smallest thing each person does can make a big difference. The J and P group would like to put things regularly in the bulletin about things people can do. PPC in favour of this. It was suggested that a long article was written for the parish magazine about the initiative.

The New Universal Credit is likely to affect people, James is putting together a leaflet about it and where people can seek assistance.

The Mission Group and Justice and Peace are putting together a series of talks, the dates are yet to be finalised but the plan is as follows:

November – Roma Mills

December – someone from Centre 33

January – someone from the Living Well

February – Scott Albrect from the Catholic Workers Farm

It was suggested that after the hall was completed that it could be opened up a couple of times a week to provide advice and assistance. Also it may become a collection point and distribution centre depending on space.

3. Priests Report

Growing in Faith was very successful with £409,000 pledged (including gift aid). Thank you to everyone who helped as volunteers and made the priests' lives a little easier. A lot of positives have come out of it. PPC to write a thank you note (JR to organise).

Joanna French leaving at the end of October. Her replacement will be Sister Anita who has been working in Africa on youth aid programmes. She will commence her position in January.

Mass will be celebrated on Saturday 19th October for the intentions of Joanna. This will be instead of a goodbye party as the hall will still not be available.

The Parish primary schools had excellent results this year, however St John Fisher is still struggling to get the numbers to attend the school. Loreto's results were also very good.

The head at Nicholas Breakspeare school resigned at the end of last term due to ill health, Clive Matthews who is head of John Henry Newman school is to be the executive head for the time being.

Nicholas Breakspeare will be celebrating their 50th anniversary this week with Archbishop Vincent Nicholls celebrating mass in the church on Thursday 12th September.

First Communion sessions have been planned using Nicholas Breakspeare and Loreto. Neither school will accept payment.

It has been decided that there will be no Christmas Fair this year, due to the amount of fundraising already done during this year.

Plans are beginning to be made for an opening celebration of the hall. Fr Charles is contacting the Bishop to see if he could come on 7th December, from his availability we can then proceed with the organisation.

Fr Charles urged the PPC to think as a PPC and consider plans accordingly not just from the point of view of their group. We must all help and support each other.

4. Hall update

The rebuilding work was due to finish on 18th October but the builders are running a little behind schedule and the revised date is currently 5th November.

The Parish Friends group had put together a job description for managing the hall. However there is no money available for this at present. Fr Charles has therefore asked JR if she will lead a team to oversee the management of the hall.

We then had a discussion about how we want to use the hall. Do we want to use it as a commercial venture and rent it out regularly to organisations? We would have to charge proper market rates. Nothing was decided at the meeting. Groups were asked to go back and draw up their plans for the next 10 months until the end of July showing clearly when they are likely to want to use the hall (exact dates not needed), approximate numbers attending and what for. It is to be remembered that the downstairs will now have a good meeting room able to hold approximately 30 people. When drawing up your plans please liaise with satellite groups.

5. Any other Business

Fr Tom brought up an issue which he felt he needed assistance with. He has been approached in the past for advice from immigrants and has struggled to respond or point them in the right direction. Does anyone know of someone who might be able to help in these situations?

6. Date of next meeting

Monday 14th October 2013, Helen to lead the opening prayer.