

**SS ALBAN AND STEPHEN RC CHURCH
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 7th April 2014**

Persons Present: Fr Charles Sweeney, Fr Tom Hewitt, Rev Steve Pickard, Peter Berners Lee, Joanna Roche, Brendan Day, Mike White, James O'Hare, David Myers and Helen Bassill

Present for part of the meeting: Fr Jimmy Stubbs

Apologies received: Sr Anita O'Leary 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. Matters arising from previous meeting

No matters arising

2. Reports from Groups

Mission: Very successful 'Finding Silence' Day on Saturday 5th April; Worth Abbey very supportive of these parish Days.

RCIA group to be invited to the 'post Alpha' prayer group which is to be led by Tim Stevens.

Communications: there will be a meeting with Mike Walsh regarding the website after Easter. All 'key' users should attend so that Mike can fully understand what people want.

Magazine went on sale 5/6th April and went well. They have received £120 from advertising. It is planned to sell it again on the Easter Weekend. The print is not as good this time and David will ensure in future he gets a pre-print copy before the final run.

Justice and Peace: apologies for no written report.

The Scott Albrect presentation went extremely well and led to substantial donations. People were very moved both by his personal theology and the work he is doing on the farm.

On Thursday 10th April Bruce Kent is coming to the church to give a presentation. National Conference in May they are currently looking for representatives to attend. No one from the group wishes to attend this year.

The group were congratulated on their presentation of the Stations of the Cross on Saturday 5th April, everyone thought they were very powerful.

Parish Friends: nothing to add to their report.

Youth: nothing to add to their report.

Worship: Dominic Watts has been nominated to come on to the PPC as their representative.

Fr Charles' report with update on Assembly planning:

The sub committee has met and the following has been arranged for the Assembly so far:

Date of Assembly 14th June 10-4

Pre Assembly meetings: 5th June – Fr Dermot will do a presentation; 10th June still looking for a speaker.

In the newsletter for the four weeks before the Assembly Fr Tom will write a piece about our calling to be missionary disciples and putting it in the context of the Assembly.

The focus of preaching on all the three Sundays leading up to the Assembly will be on the Assembly.

Two Sundays before Brendan will do a presentation possibly along side Ausra Karaliute (who has not been asked yet).

On the Sunday before it has not been decided who will be asked to speak.

The Facilitator for the day will be Sr Anne O'Connor who is a St Paul Sister based in Birmingham, she will come down on 5th June and aim to speak to the PPC that night or the night before the Assembly.

A prayer card is being prepared for everyone to use during the two weeks leading up to the 14th June including at all masses.

A letter is being drawn up to invite all groups and organisations to the Assembly and ensure that they are represented.

Other Matters:

Both the Confirmation and the First Communion programmes are going well. There have been some issues on the Confirmation programme with the diversity of knowledge of the teenagers but the catechists are managing this well.

It is really important that all the Catechists on both programmes are properly thanked.

The Choir has started up again and they will sing at the 11.30 mass on Easter Sunday. Some children are also involved and they have put a minimum age on joining so as not to poach children from kid's choir.

Fr Vito from Fiji will be working in the parish for three months from the beginning of June.

Both St John Fisher and Ss Alban and Stephen Junior Schools are still searching for a head. Unfortunately there were no suitable applicants for either job, may have someone for SAS still looking for someone at SJF.

Finances are in a good position; paying back our loan to the diocese of £180,000 over seven years – a payment of £2,100 a month. Our Growing in Faith rebate should amount to £70,000 over the 5 years.

Awaiting quotes for insulating of the church, people are still complaining how cold it is in there.

The estimate to repair the organ is £11,000; no decision has been made yet whether to go ahead.

Fr Charles thanked the organisers of the lent talks, which were extremely successful. Bp John Arnold was full of praise for the parish when he came and how much was going on.

Date of next meeting: Monday 12th May 2014