

**SS ALBAN AND STEPHEN RC CHURCH  
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 13<sup>th</sup> January 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 Myles and Helen Bassill

**Apologies received:** Fr Jimmy Stubbs 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**

Opening of the Church more frequently.

At our previous meeting we asked people to go back to their groups and other parishioners and ask them if they would volunteer, or knew people who would volunteer to open up and man the church when open during the day.

Those who had asked advised that there had been no positive responses so far, there was concern about negative scenarios.

At present we are asking people for the early evenings, the hall entrance remains open all morning.

**2. Reports from groups**

**Mission** - Not met so far this year. Alpha starts Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2014.

**Justice and Peace** - request that as this coming weekend is Peace Sunday across the UK, could the Pope's message on peace go on the website for a couple of weeks. A small extract will be in the newsletter this weekend.

**Parish Friends** - Turkey and Tinsel lunch Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2014 was a great success. Suggested following concerns about drivers etc and visitors being able to be dropped close to the doors that the start time would in future be half an hour later and that there would be no baptisms in future on the same Sunday.

Neighbourhood links - there was some concern in Cath's report that some had withdrawn, we need to ask Cath for clarity on this and how we can help.

**Safeguarding** - no matters arising.

**Communications** - some concern over the website's scroll of current events. It does not work efficiently, a link to an events page would be better.

**Youth** – Sister Anita is arriving for work next Monday. Cath and Fr Charles are going to meet with her immediately and try and get her DBS form completed and to Westminster urgently so as not to delay her working.

### **3. Christmas Review**

Fr Charles thanked everyone involved with the services over Christmas and was particularly pleased with the way things had gone.

2.30pm Children's service he would like to see someone leading the hymns next year.

7pm vigil Mass was far too overcrowded and possibly therefore dangerous. Youth to itemise this as a discussion item for September.

### **4. Parish Assembly**

Please put the proposed date of 14<sup>th</sup> June in your diaries now.

Need to encourage people to come forward from each neighbourhood links group.

### **5. Mass Times**

Sunday mass will finish at Maryland in mid February.

Daily mass will continue to the end of February.

From 1<sup>st</sup> February 2014 there will be a weekly mass on Saturdays at 10am.

From 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2014 there will be an additional mass on Sundays at 8am.

During lent there will be a trial of a daily weekday mass at 7pm.

### **6. Fair Trade Products**

Wherever possible the parish will try to use Fair Trade products however we must be sensible as on occasion we are given boxes of items to use at an event. This policy should apply to Marshalswick Mass centre as well as the church.

James will contact Mike Walsh who does the Marshalswick rota to offer to supply the tea and coffee and biscuits from Cafod.

At both Marshalswick and the church when tea and coffee etc are served a donations box will be put out towards the cost of these, anything received above costs will be sent to Cafod as a donation.

### **7. Mass of thanksgiving for the service of the Sisters of Mercy**

Will take place on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2014 please encourage people to come.

If anyone has any suggestions for a way of acknowledging their work please forward them to Brendan. Suggestions so far: a plaque in the prayer room asking for prayers for the sisters, a picture of Catherine McCauley in the church or lobby area (Fr Charles said he would be happier with it hung in the lobby) with a plaque underneath.

### **8. Date of next meeting: Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2014**