

SS ALBAN AND STEPHEN RC CHURCH

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

MINUTES

MONDAY 9 MARCH 2015

Present: Fr Charles Sweeney, Fr Tom Hewitt, Sr Anita O'Leary, Sara Nash (PPC Chair), David Myles (PPC Vice-Chair), Ann Hill, Kate Baker, David Edwards, Anne Romain (J&P Group) and Steve Weaver (PPC Secretary)

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 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
4. 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. Apologies for absence

Action

Apologies were received from Fr Jimmy Stubbs, Deacon Steve Pickard, Richard Exact and James O'Hare.

2. Minutes 11 February 2015

The Minutes of the 11 February 2015 meeting were agreed as a correct record with the correction that David Edwards stated that he had not said there the Chairs in the Prayer Room needed replacing.

3. Matters arising from previous meeting:

Action for
Fr. Charles
James
O'Hare

The following matters were raised that were not otherwise to be discussed under the agenda:

- The Live Simple J&P Programme needs to be discussed at the next meeting when James O'Hare is present.

- David Myles will arrange a demonstration of the new parish database

4. **Parish Events**

4.1 **Lent & Easter**

4.2 **Lent Talks** - There were three talks to go in the Lent talks series – Wed 11 March – Rev Canon Kevin Walton ‘Suffering in the Old Testament’; Friday 20 March – Very Rev Dr Jeffrey John ‘Role of Suffering in the whole of Salvation History’. The events already passed had been well attended with 60 plus people.

Action for
Ann Hill

4.3 **Prayer Groups for Lent** had been held in the Parish Centre from 8pm – 9.30pm on Monday to Thursday evenings, except when the Lenten talks were held in the Hall. Sara Nash reported that the numbers attending had been low and suggested that next year some better and earlier publicity needs to be considered to try and promote this better

4.4 **Pre- Easter Liturgy Meeting** - It was felt that there would not be a need for a pre-Easter Liturgy meeting as all of the liturgical music leaders/groups had been agreed for the Easter Services:

Action for
Sara Nash

Holy Thursday – Mike Walsh

Good Friday – A Soprano Lead

Saturday Vigil – Julia

Sunday 9.30am – Peter & Krystina

Sunday 11.30am – Brendan

Sunday 12.00 noon – Tim Vellacott & young person identified by Sr Anita to lead on the piano

Penitential Service - Julia

4.5 **Easter card**

The Easter card would be available on a stall at the Market on 21 March and there would be a note in the bulletin asking for volunteers to help Eric.

4.6 **Stations of the Cross**

All dates for the Stations of the Cross had now been covered. Sara reported that these had been well attended with 30 plus. Sr Anita said that children from the schools chaplaincies had taken part.

4.7 **14/15 March Sion Community Parish Visit**. The Parish Mission Co-ordinator from Sion Community would be visiting the Parish to speak at all the Masses to start an awareness of the forthcoming Parish Mission. There will also be a meeting in the Church Hall on Sunday 15 March.

- 4.8 **'The Gift' – Life in the Spirit Seminar** – would be starting at 8pm on Monday 20 April and run for 7 weeks (excluding bank holidays). The Gift is a DVD talk produced by CaFE to help people discover more about the Holy Spirit, and would be led by Tim Stevens. Tim is recruiting people to be table leaders and is organising refreshments etc.

5. **Parish Mission**

- 5.1 Fr Tom reported that he was disappointed that it would not be possible to have the schools mission run concurrently with the parish mission. Sion Community Schools Mission group could only carry out the School mission on 5-9 October, which would leave a gap of 8 days to the general parish mission. The Schools team would be visiting SS Alban & Stephen Infant, SS Alban & Stephen Junior and St John Fisher.

- 5.2 A sheet inviting volunteers for the Parish Mission was circulated at the meeting. The forms would be available on pews at Mass and an announcement would be given inviting Parishioners to complete the form. The areas where volunteers were needed included prayer teams; hospitality; art work; home visits; accommodation; drivers; printing and youth.

It was suggested that a second volunteer evening may be required if the meeting on Mothering Sunday was not well attended.

As had been previously stated it was noted that the final theme and the overall Mission Co-ordinator had not yet been resolved.

The PPC discussed the legacy element of the mission. It was suggested that a good focus could be based around the Mission Prayer – 'make our parish more alive, welcoming and receptive to the transforming power of the Holy Spirit' Also being outward focused would be a good focus as well as inviting Town Centre Churches to attend.

6. **Reports from the Strategy Groups**

- 6.1 Notes from the following Strategy Groups were circulated prior to the meeting:

- Mission – 2 February 2015
- Youth - 25 February 2015
- Justice & Peace – 19 February 2015

6.2 **Parish Friends - Community Strategy Group**

- 6.2.1 No update so item deferred to the next meeting.

- 6.3 **Mission Strategy Group** - The PPC noted the written update.

6.3.1 A Pro Life Talk would be given in the Parish after Easter

6.3.2 The PPC discussed the Mission Strategy Group's suggestion that there should be a notice board outside the Church. The location and specific type were discussed. Fr Charles agreed to look into this.

Action for
Fr Charles

6.3.3 Fr Tom raised again the issue of whether the Parish should join forces with the 6 City Centre Churches on all Wednesdays and Saturdays in December to sell trade craft goods.

6.4 **Liturgy Strategy Group**

6.4.1 No update so item deferred to the next meeting.

6.5 **Justice and Peace Strategy Group** The PPC noted the written update.

6.5.1 **General Election** – The J&P Strategy Group would be writing to each of the Parliamentary Candidates asking them the four questions proposed by Caritas Social Action Network and CAFOD regarding (1) making work pay; (2) access to a genuinely affordable home; (3) speak out for the poor & vulnerable; and (4) tackling climate change to prevent it pushing people deeper into poverty. There would be a Hustings meeting at 8pm on 15 April.

6.5.2 **Shared Workshop with Tamworth** – potentially on Climate Change & Justice, date to be agreed.

6.6 **Youth Strategy Group** The PPC noted the written update.

6.6.1 Sr Anita updated the PPC on the following issues:

- 6.6.2
- The Flame event at Wembley on 7 March went very well and the Young People were excellent and a credit to the Parish and their families. It was a very large event with over 8,000 young people with lively music and talks. World Youth Day was promoted. An evaluation sheet would be provided to those who attended.
 - A lot of other activity was going on as detailed in the MST Summary

7 **Family Life Document**

7.1 Sara suggested that the PPC should provide feedback to the Diocese. The PPC discussed how the Parish could best gather a response. It was suggested that perhaps the best way would be to offer a number of ways for people to respond via completing a questionnaire, attending a meeting after a Mass and holding an afternoon meeting in the Parish Centre.

Action for
Sara Nash/Fr
Charles

8. Justice and Peace led programme – Live Simply

- 8.1 It was agreed that this item be deferred until the next meeting. It has been difficult co-ordinating with the Parish in Ware.

Action for
James
O'Hare

9. Priests Report

- 9.1 Fr Charles stated that the annual financial statement would be published in the next few weeks. As had been previously stated the Parish finances were in a good position. There was currently a loan with the Diocese for £163k but there was £108k in the bank.

- 9.2 The Collectors meeting and Social was held at on 27 February and it went very well.

- 9.3 The Marshallswick Mass Centre will have to be closed over the summer whilst the School roof is replaced.

- 9.4 Fr Charles stated that he would give some feedback on his South African Bakhita Village trip at the end of Mass in the future with some photos. Fr Charles would use the opportunity to take a collection to sponsor some of the Girls from the Orphanage to attend a private secondary school. Previously the SA Government had paid for 5 girls fees but would be reducing this to 2 so Fr Charles was looking for the parish to pay for the other 3 girls. An article would be put in the parish magazine.

Action for
Fr Charles

- 9.5 Decorating in the Presbytery has been delayed.

- 9.6 Feedback on Singing at the 6pm Saturday Mass – 98 responses. It was agreed that there should be a sung mass on some occasions, led by Peter Berners-Lee. Hymns used must be well known so people can join in.

- 9.7 Work was beginning on the microphones

10. Future Agenda Items

11. Any Other Business

- 11.1 Richard Exact to lead the prayer at the next meeting in May

Action for
Richard
Exact

Date of Next Meetings

Wednesday 13 May 2015 (*Deadline for agenda items to be circulated via email to all PPC Members is Wednesday 6 May 2015*)

10 June 2015

8 July 2015

Action for
All